

We are at Laing O'Rourke's head office to demand that they immediately drop out of the bidding for Kingsnorth, and never get involved with any new coal projects.

Laing O'Rourke are the UK's largest private construction firm. They are bidding for the contract to build a new coal power station at Kingsnorth in Kent, for the giant power company E.ON. This would be the first new UK coal power station for 30 years.

Kingsnorth must not be built, because:

Coal kills: Coal is the dirtiest fuel there is. A new Kingsnorth power station would produce around 7 million tonnes of CO₂ per year, equivalent to the entire emissions of a country like Ghana¹. Climate change – caused by burning fossil fuels like coal – is already killing 300,000 people per year, and will get much worse if we don't take urgent action now².

Failed target: The UK has already committed to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, and scientists say we need even steeper cuts to avoid climate catastrophe³. We have no hope of meeting any of these targets if new coal power stations are pumping out CO₂ for the next 40 years.

Global shame: The nations of the world are currently arguing over how to cut greenhouse gas emissions. If the UK goes ahead with Kingsnorth, it will make it much harder to persuade other countries to stop using coal.

No need!: There's no need to build coal power stations at all – if we stopped wasting energy then we could meet all our needs using sustainable sources such as the wind, sun and tide, creating employment in a modern, environmentally friendly way.

The "Carbon Capture" Con

Government says that it's OK to build Kingsnorth because it will use "carbon capture and storage" (CCS) to catch 25% of its emissions and store them underground. But, this unproven technology is still being tested, won't be available until at least 2020 (too late to prevent climate disaster) and might not work at all. Even if Kingsnorth's emissions *were* reduced by a quarter, it would still be more polluting than a gas power station!

Building a coal power station **contradicts Laing O'Rourke's stated commitment** to "have confidence in our people to respond to the reality of unprecedented commercial, social and environmental challenges"⁴, and would directly harm the future of its employees and their families. If climate change continues to worsen, the South East of England will be particularly vulnerable to increased floods and storms⁵.

We need to make a **just and fair transition** to a low carbon society, actively involving workers from industry in the process. New coal power would take us in **exactly the wrong direction**.

Kingsnorth is the **most controversial power project in the UK**. Thousands of people have already **pledged to take direct action** against it, backed by a huge wave of public opposition. Today's action shows how people are ready to act on their words. If construction begins, there will be blockades and disruption on the scale of the road protests of the 1990s, which **cost contractors millions of pounds** and prevented many proposed road projects from going ahead.

¹ Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center: <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/>

² Global Humanitarian Forum: <http://www.ghf-geneva.org/>

³ Tyndall Centre: <http://tinyurl.com/mxu3y3> (PDF)

⁴ Laing O'Rourke website: <http://www.laingorourke.com>

⁵ UK Climate Impacts Programme: <http://www.ukcip.org.uk>

Don't Build Kingsnorth

Part of the E.ON Face Off, supported by the Camp for Climate Action



www.e-onf-off.org.uk
www.climatecamp.org.uk