

Decarbonise Now, We Run Out of Oil

Transport, Architecture Technology, Engineering, Energy use and Low Carbon Technologies are at the heart of our roadmap to decarbonise our economy. SEBE has an extraordinary opportunity to contribute to this life changing challenge but there is a reason to move forward that is sometime going under the radar.

There is a lot of legitimate talks about the need to reduce CO₂ emissions to keep climate change below 2°C before the end of the century (for 1.5°C... it is a bit late). The problem is global, the effort must be global. Some see that as a source of discouragement. What is the point of making efforts if:

- (i) Others don't / do less
- (ii) This has an impact on the competitiveness of businesses.

In the UK and Europe, this reduction in CO₂ emissions is not just a question of climate change, it is a question of survival. In a few years (3, 5, 10, 25?), Europe will be one of the first exposed to oil supply shortage as it is surrounded by depleting oil/gas fields. IEA evokes a possible "supply crunch" around 2025. One day, production in Norway will plateau and in any case Norway's production can't compensate the overall decline in Europe's production (see figure1)

So UK and Europe have two choices:

- i) Increase military budgets and go to find oil where it is. But this will only move the problem back in time, not to mention the fact that others will have the same ideas, with potential casualties in this "race for oil" (who is to go to Venezuela?)
- (ii) Reduce consumption of fossil fuels to increase the resilience of society (rethink transport, agriculture, insulate buildings, build true low carbon buildings) and turn to low carbon energies (low carbon electricity, low carbon heat networks, solar water heaters, heat pumps, etc.).

Scotland plays its part as its electric grid is decarbonising quickly. One of remaining challenge sits in the decarbonisation of heat and transport.

So, whether it is for the planet or for its own sake, UK and Europe have no choice, they must decarbonise now.

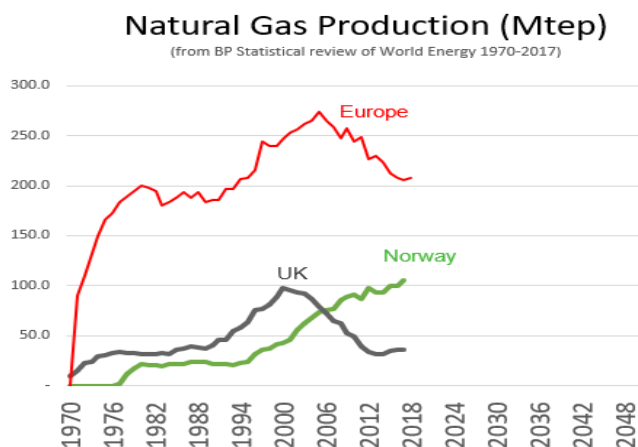


Figure 1: Europe, UK and Norway's Natural Gas production