



11 April 06

## The Edge Energy Debates – supply, demand and balance #3. balance living within our means

I am writing to invite you to join us for the third of three linked energy debates—balance – is growth even an option?—at 6pm on 3 May at the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George Street, London W1.

In the previous debates we have looked at how resources – oil, uranium and atmosphere are finite (although we do not seem to have taken on board the fact that we don't have the atmosphere to burn the oil that is left) We have also looked at what needs to be done: the 60% cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets still seem impossibly far away; meanwhile the goalposts have shifted and 90-100% cuts are now seen as being much more realistic. When we started these energy debates last year the CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheric content was 380 ppm. Now it is 381 ppm. The upper limit of 400 ppm, agreed at the 2005 Exeter Conference, is getting ever nearer and we still seem to be in denial.

This debate is about asking whether energy is the problem or is it our assumptions and expectations about growth. How can we achieve a new balance and live within our means

Prof Peter Guthrie, Professor of Engineering, University of Cambridge, will chair the debate

The speakers are

Aubrey Meyer, Director of the Global Commons Institute

Lord Oxburgh, Former Chairman of Shell UK

Edge debates take the form of short presentations from the speakers—5-10 minutes—to give ample time to discuss the issues from the floor. At the end of the debate, we will be looking for action points that we can take forward.

The Edge is an inter-institutional ginger group involving ICE, CIBE, RIBA and RISC. The Edge Debates are sponsored by the Carbon Trust in order to promote inter-disciplinary co-operation between architects and engineers. We are dedicated to changing our industry through intellectual debate, political lobbying and inter-institutional working and would be delighted if you could join us. Our debates are finished by 8.30pm although more informal conversation, aided by wine, usually continues for another half an hour.

Yours sincerely

Adam Poole

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