# Ed Miliband rejects Tony Blair’s warning that Labour’s Net Zero plans are doomed to fail



Ed Miliband recently launched a robust defence of Labour's Net Zero agenda in response to a scathing assessment from former Prime Minister Tony Blair. In his latest comments, Blair described Labour's ambitious climate goals as "doomed to fail" and cautioned that public support for such initiatives could wane if they continue to demand "financial sacrifices and changes in lifestyle" with minimal impact on global emissions.

Blair's remarks, made in the foreword of a climate change report from his think-tank, have sparked considerable debate within the party. He urged the current government to reevaluate its "irrational" commitment to phasing out fossil fuels, advocating instead for a focus on technological solutions such as carbon capture. This suggestion aligns with a growing concern among some policymakers and analysts that the UK's current trajectory may over-rely on sacrifices without ensuring significant global impact.

Miliband, who helm Labour’s ambition to decarbonise the UK’s entire electricity supply by 2030, deemed Blair’s stance “incredibly defeatist.” During a recent podcast appearance, he expressed his disappointment, stating, "It’s just not true to say the world has not made progress," highlighting previous advancements in global climate action during his tenure in government. He maintains that the UK has a pivotal role to play in leading global efforts and urged for an accelerated approach to achieve net zero targets.

Critics, however, including major trade unions like Unite, have voiced concerns regarding the socio-economic ramifications of Labour’s climate policies. They caution that transitioning from fossil fuels without adequate support could jeopardise thousands of jobs, particularly in sectors like North Sea oil and gas. Unite has warned that such proposals could become a “political millstone” for the Labour Party, especially if voters perceive the policies as impractical or overly burdensome.

Despite this criticism, Miliband remains resolute, asserting that other countries look to the UK for leadership on climate issues. He pointed to the need for a global perspective, stating, "The biggest single risk is that we are held in absolute contempt by future generations," emphasising the moral imperative of addressing climate change.

The backlash against Blair's comments is not solely rooted in political strategy; it also reflects a broader understanding of the complexities of climate policy in a landscape fraught with public skepticism. While some may critique Labour's strategy as overly ambitious or unrealistic, there is equally a vigorous argument that inaction or half-measures could be even more detrimental in the long run. As Labour grapples with this dichotomy, the question of how best to engage and mobilise public support for climate initiatives remains a critical challenge on the horizon.

In a political climate where environmental concerns and economic realities collide, both Miliband and Blair represent divergent philosophies on how to navigate these urgent issues. The ongoing discourse puts Labour’s commitment to climate goals under scrutiny, with an eye towards how the party will balance ecological responsibility with the risk of political alienation leading up to the next election.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766789/Ed-Miliband-Tony-Blair-PM-Labour-Net-Zero.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/30/downing-street-forces-tony-blair-to-row-back-from-net-zero-strategy-criticism), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/29/phasing-out-fossil-fuels-doomed-to-fail-tony-blair-climate)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766789/Ed-Miliband-Tony-Blair-PM-Labour-Net-Zero.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/unite-labour-net-zero-millstone-b1225332.html), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/tony-blair-ed-miliband-net-zero-b2741510.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://news.sky.com/story/environment-secretary-defends-green-policies-after-sir-tony-blair-says-net-zero-is-doomed-to-fail-13358529), [[7]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/27/spare-public-huge-burden-of-net-zero-says-tony-blair//)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766789/Ed-Miliband-Tony-Blair-PM-Labour-Net-Zero.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/29/phasing-out-fossil-fuels-doomed-to-fail-tony-blair-climate), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/tony-blair-ed-miliband-net-zero-b2741510.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766789/Ed-Miliband-Tony-Blair-PM-Labour-Net-Zero.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/30/downing-street-forces-tony-blair-to-row-back-from-net-zero-strategy-criticism), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/unite-labour-net-zero-millstone-b1225332.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766789/Ed-Miliband-Tony-Blair-PM-Labour-Net-Zero.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/30/downing-street-forces-tony-blair-to-row-back-from-net-zero-strategy-criticism> - Tony Blair was compelled by Downing Street to retract his criticism of the government's net zero strategy after Labour politicians warned his comments could bolster climate sceptics ahead of local elections. Blair had initially stated that the strategy was 'doomed to fail', but following backlash, the Tony Blair Institute clarified its support for the government's approach. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/30/downing-street-forces-tony-blair-to-row-back-from-net-zero-strategy-criticism?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/29/phasing-out-fossil-fuels-doomed-to-fail-tony-blair-climate> - Former Prime Minister Tony Blair argued that the UK's strategy of phasing out fossil fuels to achieve net zero emissions is 'doomed to fail'. He suggested that focusing on technological solutions like carbon capture would be more effective, as current policies may be losing public support. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/29/phasing-out-fossil-fuels-doomed-to-fail-tony-blair-climate?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/unite-labour-net-zero-millstone-b1225332.html> - Unite, Labour's largest union backer, warned that the party's net zero policies could become a 'political millstone'. The union emphasized the need for investment to protect jobs, especially in the North Sea oil and gas industry, in response to former Prime Minister Tony Blair's criticism of the government's climate approach. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/unite-labour-net-zero-millstone-b1225332.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/environment-secretary-defends-green-policies-after-sir-tony-blair-says-net-zero-is-doomed-to-fail-13358529> - Environment Secretary Steve Reed defended the government's net zero agenda after Sir Tony Blair claimed that phasing out fossil fuels was 'doomed to fail'. Reed emphasized the necessity of transitioning to a green economy to secure the UK's energy supply, despite Blair's criticism of current policies. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/environment-secretary-defends-green-policies-after-sir-tony-blair-says-net-zero-is-doomed-to-fail-13358529?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/tony-blair-ed-miliband-net-zero-b2741510.html> - Tony Blair criticized the UK's pursuit of net zero policies, warning that efforts to phase out fossil fuels could lead to political repercussions for the Labour Party. He argued that voters might perceive the sacrifices as ineffective in addressing global emissions, prompting concerns within the party. ([the-independent.com](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/tony-blair-ed-miliband-net-zero-b2741510.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/27/spare-public-huge-burden-of-net-zero-says-tony-blair//> - Sir Tony Blair cautioned against imposing significant burdens on the public to achieve net zero emissions, stating that the UK's efforts alone would not substantially impact global climate change. He highlighted the disproportionate emissions from countries like China and suggested a more balanced approach to climate policy. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/27/spare-public-huge-burden-of-net-zero-says-tony-blair//?utm_source=openai))