



ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

CHAIRMAN: SIR TOM BLUNDELL FRS

Twenty-second Report

ENERGY – THE CHANGING CLIMATE

*Presented to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
June 2000*

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3rd report	Pollution in Some British Estuaries and Coastal Waters	Cmnd 5054, September 1972
2nd report	Three Issues in Industrial Pollution	Cmnd 4894, March 1972
	First Report	Cmnd 4585, February 1971

*Information about the current work of the Royal Commission can be obtained from its website at
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or from the Secretariat at Steel House, 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9RE*

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, the undersigned Commissioners, having been appointed 'to advise on matters, both national and international, concerning the pollution of the environment; on the adequacy of research in this field; and the future possibilities of danger to the environment';

And to enquire into any such matters referred to us by one of Your Majesty's Secretaries of State or by one of Your Majesty's Ministers, or any other such matters on which we ourselves shall deem it expedient to advise:

HUMBLY SUBMIT TO YOUR MAJESTY THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

Material goods have gained an increasing and finally an inexorable power over the lives of men as at no previous period in history.... The tremendous cosmos of the modern economic order is now bound to the technical and economic conditions of machine production which to-day determine the lives of all the individuals who are born into this mechanism, not only those directly concerned with economic acquisition, with irresistible force. Perhaps it will so determine them until the last ton of fossilized fuel is burnt.

Max Weber. *The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. 1920.
Translated by Talcott Parsons.

Are these the shadows of the things that Will be,
or are they shadows of things that May be, only?

Charles Dickens. *A Christmas carol*.