

## *Low Power Lightbulb - A Poem*

For a number of years I have been working on sustainable technologies. Not surprisingly I was an enthusiastic supporter of the alternative energy programs which the Irish, and other governments in the West began to promote a few years ago. One of them was a drive to encourage the general public to install low power lightbulbs.

Then I began to notice that things were not quite what they seemed. I was never very convinced by the arguments in favour of low power lightbulbs, and as I examined each sustainable energy scheme on offer, I realised that despite the merits of some of the proposals, there appeared to be an underlying absence of sincerity in the government policies.

George W. Bush and Tony Blair have essentially disappeared from the political stage. Tony Blair's cohorts, Gordon Brown and John Prescott clung to office for a while after their master had departed. To the extent that democracy exists in the UK, one had to accept that they had the right to continue collecting their salaries - at least until the next election. It was reported that Mr Blair received £5M for the rights to his memoirs. I find it hard to imagine his memoirs being worth the paper on which they were written.

The UK Parliament would almost certainly have refused to support the second war against Iraq had the Lord Chancellor not reversed his Opinion on the legality of such a war. My understanding is that his appointment is a political one. Consequently, it seems fair to hold the view that the Lord Chancellor was simply Tony Blair's mouthpiece. The third key person in bringing about the present state of affairs in the Middle East was Bertie Ahern. Without his enthusiastic support, and provision of staging facilities at Shannon, the second gulf war may never have achieved the go-ahead. It was interesting to observe the surge in economic activity which took place in Ireland following the invasion of Iraq. One wonders whether Ireland's well known neutrality in world affairs was sold out for thirty pieces of silver. Mr Ahern resigned from office a while ago, bringing to an end a long running corruption investigation into his affairs.

I have the utmost respect for members of the armed forces. That might be expected since I am an ex serviceman. However, I have difficulty finding the slightest respect for the politicians responsible for utilising those Forces. I am of the view that only those politicians who have themselves seen active service, are qualified to vote on whether their country's Forces should be committed to any conflict.

Hence - Low Power Lightbulb.

Jim Cahill

# Low Power Lightbulb

I must buy some low power lightbulbs  
There still may be some in the shop  
I can help save the layer of Ozone  
And bring climate change to a stop

Yes I'm going to fit low power lightbulbs  
For really it has to be said  
The less that you use when you're living  
The more there will be when you're dead

Now I'm fitting my low power lightbulb I  
know its the right thing to do  
To save the world from extinction  
Make it cleaner for me and for you

Yes I'm fitting my low power lightbulb  
They tell me its going to save oil  
Where they make the electrical current  
That I use for my kettle to boil

Aye I'm fitting more low power lightbulbs  
The refinery lads say I'm swell  
For they can crack heavier fractions  
To make petrol and Avtur as well

As I fit all my low power lightbulbs  
I'm sure Tony and George think I'm great  
For they can put fuel in their aircraft  
And they fly at a heck of a rate

While I gaze on my low power lightbulbs I  
think of the chancellor's purse  
I know Gordon is always so prudent  
That inflation can never get worse

Yes I'm fitting a low power lightbulb  
So John Prescott will not have to stint  
And can keep his two jaguars purring  
While he's busily making a mint

So I'm fitting more low power lightbulbs  
There's bad guys out there I've heard tell  
They're not letting us have their oil They're  
keeping it down in their well

Sure I'm fitting a low power lightbulb  
It's taking the world by a storm  
And we're bombing Iraqis and Afghans  
Because they won't comply with our norm

Yes I'm fitting a low power lightbulb While  
destruction continues apace  
In those countries where I am not living  
I won't let my leaders lose face

I'll go on fitting low power lightbulbs  
No matter the lives that are lost  
And the folks who will come long time after  
They're ones who must carry the cost

.....  
As I fit my last low power lightbulb  
I start to feel something amiss  
That there's more to this energy saga  
Than I grasped in my ignorant bliss

My muse upon low power lightbulbs  
Is broken by noise from the sky  
As overhead, transports fly troops to the war  
And bring body bags home when they die

I'm not sure about low power lightbulbs  
Perhaps they're not such a good thing  
If the energy saved makes it simpler  
To other folk misery bring

So I'll maybe not fit any lightbulbs  
For perhaps I'll just sit in the gloom  
I might even get up with the sunrise  
Or work by the light of the moon

Yes I'll do without low power lightbulbs  
And for Tony and George I've no prize  
I'd like peace on this Earth with some goodwill to boot  
Though our energy prices might rise

You can stuff all your low power lightbulbs  
Since it seems every Joule that I've saved  
Has been turned into death and destruction  
By leaders corrupt and depraved

When I now think of low power lightbulbs  
I wish George and Tony the worst  
Electoral fate to befall them  
By their tenure this earth has been cursed

May the glow of all low power lightbulbs  
Remind us of those young and brave  
Whose idealism led them to serve their homeland  
Whose betrayal sent them to their grave

But if you think that low power lightbulbs  
Will improve this sick world that we're in  
I suggest that you might reconsider  
Your illusions before you begin

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