

Dear Natalie,

The February issue of the LaSER Newsletter (<http://www.unalondonandse.org/Publications.htm>) asked with respect to the Copenhagen climate conference "where do we go from here?" Hopefully to a period of quiet reflection, leading to recognition that attempts to continue the same process will deliver too little, too late, and that a fundamentally new approach is needed, such as that developed by Oliver Tickell in his book "Kyoto2". That approach combines market forces, direct regulation and behaviour change in a package that George Monbiot has called "brilliant, clear and unanswerable." Mark Lynas called it "elegantly simple and eminently workable... a proposal that could change the world." National targets for emissions of greenhouse gases are dispensed with, and replaced by a single global cap, to be progressively reduced. Emissions would be regulated "upstream": oil, gas and coal would be controlled at or close to where they are extracted from the ground. Permits to extract would be auctioned annually, raising about \$1 trillion every year, to be used to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. For example, \$200 billion might be allocated to an adaptation fund, twice as much as the current deal aims to provide by 2020. A simple idea with profound practical consequences, as when Copernicus proposed that the sun and not the earth was the centre of the planetary system. Perhaps Copenhagen will lead to a Copernican moment in the history of climate change.

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