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The challenges facing the gas industry are no better typified than in the UK energy sector, where – despite vocal backing from the Conservative government – gas has failed to gain the financial incentives necessary to spur the construction of new-build CCGTs. With the UK carbon capture and storage (CCS) competition scrapped and capacity market auctions incentivising coal and diesel over gas (despite government plans to phase out coal), it is uncertain how natural gas can strengthen its role in the mix. Gas Strategies spoke to Ed Davey, former UK secretary of state for energy and climate change and Liberal Democrat politician, and discussed these issues in light of the carbon-reduction pledges made at COP21.

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