



Climate Change and Energy

Climate change is getting worse. It's unfair because it's our children who will suffer. Labour has failed to make it easy for us to go green. We can't trust the Conservatives: they talk about going green but many don't even accept climate change science. Liberal Democrats are the only party that takes climate change seriously enough. We believe there is a huge opportunity to get out of this recession by going green, strengthening the economy and creating jobs that last. As well as investing in green infrastructure, we'll insulate homes and force energy companies to make bills fair so you can afford to keep warm. We'll oppose new dirty coal or nuclear power stations: we will use our lasting natural resources like wind and wave power. Over time, we'll ensure Britain doesn't contribute at all to climate change because we absorb as much carbon as we emit.

Build green infrastructure to create jobs that last. Now is the time for big investment to get the wheels of the economy turning again. By investing in green technologies, home insulation, and public transport we will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs that will last, and make the economy sustainable for the long term.

Fair fuel bills. Energy companies charge you less for your energy the more you use. That's unfair and environmentally crazy. It means a pensioner heating one room pays more per unit than a millionaire heating a mansion. We believe people who use less should pay less so we'll change bills so the first units are cheapest. We'll protect the poorest customers by making energy firms create "social" tariffs at lower prices for those who need them.

Major insulation programme to warm our homes. Britain has some of the worst insulated homes in Europe. Tens of thousands of older people die from the cold every year, and a million pensioners can only afford to heat one room. We want homes we can be proud of, that we can afford to keep warm. We'll have a major programme to give every home, school and hospital the opportunity to be insulated. We'll make sure every new home and building is fully energy efficient by improving building regulations.

Yes to renewables to generate your own power. To cut carbon emissions and give people a fair chance to go green, we will create an "eco-cashback" scheme where you get cash from the government for installing micro-generation technology like solar panels or a wind turbine at home. Then you'll be able to sell the energy back to the National Grid at a profit, with a so-called "feed-in tariff".

No to nuclear and dirty coal. The power stations we rely on are not only threatening the climate, many of them are coming to the end of their useful life. As we replace them, we have to move on from old technologies. We will not waste taxpayer subsidies on nuclear power. And we will block any plans for dirty coal power stations.