

F38 Policy Motion: A Green Stimulus for Economic Recovery

Mover: Stephen Williams MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

Conference recognises the need for economic recovery in the UK to be based substantially on broadening our energy and resource base and investment in manufacturing industry and infrastructure, reducing the UK's dependence on financial services and spreading prosperity round the country.

Conference reaffirms its commitment to the goal of a zero-carbon Britain, and welcomes the Coalition Government's action in setting a level for the UK's carbon budget for 2023-27 equivalent to a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, thereby providing a clear long-term incentive for low-carbon investments.

Conference believes that economic recovery based on a return to business-as-usual patterns would be economically and environmentally unsustainable, and calls on the Government to pursue a green growth strategy centred on the development of low-carbon and environmentally sustainable technologies, industries and infrastructure.

Conference recognises that this green growth strategy will generate new jobs, promote exports of new technologies and reduce fossil fuel imports, thereby protecting UK businesses and consumers from oil and gas price rises and improving the UK's competitiveness in international markets.

Conference applauds the steps taken so far by the Coalition Government to promote green growth, including in particular the Green Deal energy efficiency programme and support for apprenticeships, the creation of the Green Investment Bank, the establishment of the low-carbon Technology and Innovation Centre, reform of the electricity market to provide clear incentives for investment in renewable energy, and subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles.

Conference calls for the Coalition Government to:

1. Place green growth at the heart of its strategies for recovery from recession and the creation of sustained economic prosperity.
2. Identify the barriers to green growth, including shortages of investment capital, skills, training, design and manufacturing capacity, deficiencies in grid infrastructure and low spending on energy research, development and deployment, and take urgent action to address them.
3. Ensure that an increasing proportion of the country's waste is used as a resource by extracting materials for reuse and that wherever possible these materials are reused within the UK.
4. Recognise the importance of the UK's agricultural sector as a source of sustainable materials for manufacturing, and invest in diversifying the rural economy to increase both food and other outputs, especially those which can result in the long term sequestration of carbon.
5. Ensure that the planning system fully supports green growth.
6. Provide financial support to critical investments in the skills, infrastructure and innovation needed to support the green growth strategy.

7. Ensure that the Green Investment Bank is able to play its full part in the green growth strategy, including by introducing legislation in the next parliamentary session to establish the Bank's remit and guarantee its permanence and independence.
8. Consider further measures to stimulate investment in green infrastructure and technologies, through the Green Investment Bank and other investment and retail banks, including promoting green financial products such as green ISAs.
9. Develop government procurement policies to promote the rapid expansion of low-carbon and other environmentally sustainable technologies and services.
10. Ensure that UKTI and ECGD are fully integrated into this strategy, increasing their support to low-carbon sectors, and withdrawing fully from supporting all fossil fuel-related sectors, including legislating, if necessary, to modify these agencies' remits.
11. Introduce a windfall tax on operators of existing nuclear stations, recovering through taxation the profits they make solely as a result of the introduction of the carbon price floor from April 2013; the proceeds of the windfall tax to be used to help consumers, especially those in low-income households, adapt to higher energy prices, for example through investments in improving energy efficiency.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 and 4 (lines 26-28) which are England only.