

POLICY THUMBNAIL

Energy That's Cheap As Well As Green

**Cutting Bills, Saving UK Manufacturing
& Preparing For A Warmer World.**



**OCTOBER
2025**



THE PROBLEM

The international Net Zero pledges which Britain helped create aren't stopping global warming the way everyone hoped. Atmospheric CO₂ keeps rising & the target 1½ degree cap global temperature increases will not be achieved, so we will face rising seas, warmer weather & stronger storms. In the UK our energy costs are already amongst the most expensive in the world and current Government policies will not only push them even higher, but also limit household choices (for example by forcing people to buy particular types of cars or home heating) and cost jobs, investment and growth by creating higher costs for UK firms compared to rivals in other countries.

THE SOLUTION

Deliver cheap, clean & secure energy for UK while preparing for a warmer climate by:

- 1) Adapting UK buildings & infrastructure to cope with higher global temperatures & more extreme weather by speeding up planning permissions & reducing the costs of construction. This means:
 - a) Future-proofing UK building & infrastructure regulations to cope with more extreme weather, with an independently-audited £1-in-£2-out requirement to cut the red tape costs of every new standard compared to the ones it replaces.
 - b) Pre-approved planning permission for:
 - i. energy grid connections on existing brownfield sites, with a 'right to connect' to the grid with 6 months notice for any generator
 - ii. electricity pylons alongside motorways and dual carriageways
 - iii. rooftop solar PV arrays on all buildings apart from listed heritage sites.
 - iv. new nuclear generation on all previous nuclear sites.
 - c) Implementing the Winser Review recommendations for building public infrastructure projects faster & more efficiently.
 - d) Stop infrastructure gold plating (eg a £100m 'bat shed' for HS2) by introducing Government measurement & valuation standards (equivalent to the Treasury's Red Book or NHS QALYs) for the costs & benefits of all environment & safety protections.
 - e) Introducing 'Permit Passports' where a previously-approved solution to a particular environmental or safety issue is automatically valid for equivalent problems elsewhere too.
 - f) Improving energy efficiency on all existing business and residential buildings through Council Tax & Business Rates discounts (eg 5% off for an EPC C-rated building, 10% off for EPC-B, 15% off for EPC-A) and adjusting local Government grants from Whitehall to match
- 2) Reforming the planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) by:
 - a) Expanding it to cover all manufacturing industries, so they have a level playing field to compete against imports made with cheaper but dirtier energy.
 - b) Exempting UK manufacturing exports from the CBAM, so they have a level playing field to compete abroad against foreign rivals made with cheaper but dirtier energy.
 - c) Stopping the CBAM from becoming a "stealth tax" by using all net receipts to cut fuel duty or green levies on energy bills.

- d) Replacing the CBAM carbon prices from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (which are designed to rise ever-higher as Net Zero approaches) with a single, constant & predictable carbon price which will not change unless & until a new UK Net Zero date is agreed.
- 3) Cut bills by introducing sharper competition & choice to drive down prices for everyone. This will mean:
 - a) Rewiring UK energy markets to uncover & publish the true like-for-like costs of unsubsidised on-demand low-carbon power from rival generating technologies, so wholesale & retail customers can make fully-informed choices without political meddling. Full details of how to do this are available in A Cheaper Route To Net Zero
 - b) Amending Ofgem's legal duties so its top priority is to sharpen competition while maintaining standards, and its second is to publish an independently audited annual report of the red tape costs it has created or removed, with a net reduction every year.
 - c) Abolishing all the bossy & expensive red tape which won't be needed once sharper competition is introduced, such as:
 - i. Banning gas boilers in new-built homes
 - ii. Banning new petrol and diesel cars from 2030
 - iii. Joining the – much pricier – EU carbon trading scheme
 - iv. Preventing North Sea drilling & UK coking coal mining
 - v. Subsidising politically-connected but uncompetitive generating technologies.

THE BENEFITS

- a) Making it quicker, easier & cheaper to update UK buildings & infrastructure for higher temperatures & more extreme weather will not only cut the costs of adapting to cope with a warming planet, but also address the long-term underlying drag on our economic growth of Britain being one of the slowest & most expensive places in the world to build anything.
- b) Sharper competition will cut energy & fuel bills for households & businesses so budgets go further; remove enormous bureaucratic costs and delays which are holding back UK jobs, growth and investment; save taxpayers money; & improve overall UK economic productivity & growth as well.
- c) Expanding the CBAM will drive a renaissance in jobs, investment and growth in UK manufacturing, by creating a level playing field where green, low-carbon British products will become cheaper and more competitive compared to rivals imported from dirtier and less-green countries.
- d) Exempting UK exports from the CBAM will make "made in Britain" goods more internationally competitive against rival products from countries where energy is cheaper but dirtier and less green.
- e) Creating Council Tax and Business Rates discounts for well-insulated buildings will spark a retro-fit revolution to update more UK premises so they become modern, comfortable, cheaper places to live and work.
- f) Reforming Ofgem's legal duties will future-proof the changes, to prevent creeping re-regulation & rising red tape burdens in years to come.
- g) Restarting North Sea drilling and UK coking coal mining will reduce carbon emissions and costs by replacing fossil-fuel imports with cheaper & cleaner domestically-produced products instead.



THE SOUNDBITES

"We may not like how the international Net Zero pledges are failing to stop global warming, but it wouldn't be right to pretend nothing is wrong. The world will miss the 1½ degree target no matter what Britain does, so we've got to get our buildings and infrastructure ready to keep everyone safe"

"Even though the international Net Zero pledges aren't working properly at the moment, prevention would still be better and cheaper than cure. So we need to keep trying to fix the system so it works better in future"

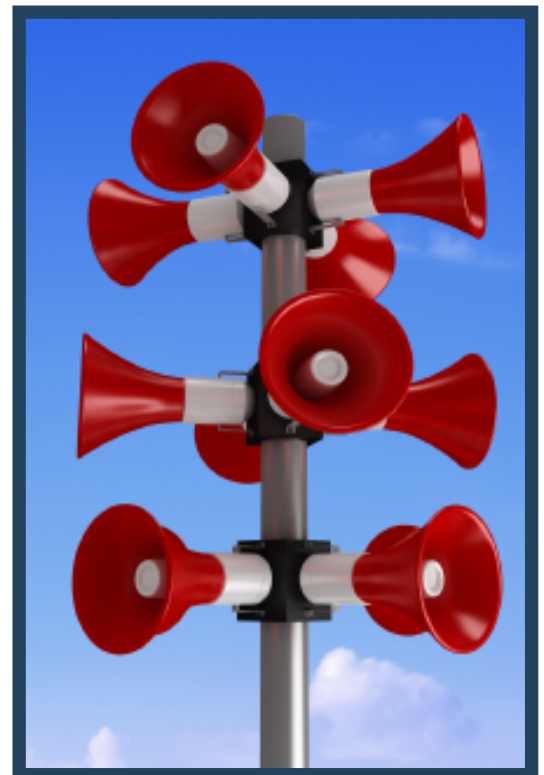
"Ed Miliband's crazily-expensive Climate Change Act has created sky-high energy prices which are wiping out British manufacturing jobs & saddling families with unaffordable bills. Decarbonisation shouldn't mean deindustrialisation, but that's what will keep happening unless we change course quickly."

"We want to spark the rebirth of UK manufacturing, so Britain becomes the clean and green workshop of the world once more."

"Politicians can't predict the future, so they shouldn't be making big bets on new energy technologies with taxpayers' money. Sometimes it's better to keep your mouth shut, your hands in your pockets, and let investors & businesses work out what customers will want instead."

"Council Tax & Business Rates discounts for well-insulated buildings will spark a retro-fit revolution so more buildings become modern, comfortable, cheaper places to live and work."

"Sharper competition will mean cheaper bills, faster economic growth, & no need for all the bossy red tape banning gas boilers or petrol cars either"



THE REBUTTALS



1. Why are you leaving the door open to Net Zero at all? Won't it give eco-zealots another chance to kill off British manufacturing for good?

Preventing climate change ought to be much cheaper than adapting all our buildings and infrastructure to cope with higher seas and more extreme weather, so it makes sense to keep trying to fix the system in future. But whether it works or not, you are right that we need a much cheaper, nimbler, free-market & pro-manufacturing approach to energy than what we've got at the moment.

2. How can you claim to be serious about the planet's future when you are abandoning Net Zero like this?

We aren't abandoning anything, but it can't be right to pretend nothing is wrong when the UK's own Climate Change Committee says the planet will miss the 1½ degree target. This is a new & better approach which will deliver energy that's cheap as well as clean.

3. Does this mean you are giving up on nuclear power?

On the contrary. We've got to re-learn how to build nuclear generation more cheaply without sacrificing safety, but nuclear power is vital because it doesn't stop when the sun isn't shining or the wind doesn't blow, so it has inbuilt advantages which other low-carbon energy sources can't match. Giving new nuclear power stations automatic planning permission on previous sites will be a huge help.

4. Why are we copying the EU with this CBAM idea? Isn't this reversing Brexit?

Hardly. We can steal a march on the EU if we tailor our CBAM to the specific needs of the UK economy, covering all manufacturing industries rather than just a selection, and exempting exports too.

5. Won't the World Trade Organisation block a CBAM as being anti free trade?

Both we, the EU & other countries with CBAMs believe they are perfectly compatible with WTO's free trade rules, providing we do it right.

6. Aren't you abandoning free markets by rewiring energy trading to kill off marginal pricing? Won't that push energy bills even higher?

Quite the opposite – in fact we are making competition stronger. Our current energy markets are broken because they are distorted by complicated, overlapping red tape and political-driven subsidies, and depend on the price of short-term, full-carbon gas rather than on-demand low-carbon power for long or short term contracts. These rewiring proposals would heal our energy markets, not kill them.

