

GENERAL ELECTION 2019 – REVIEW OF PARTY MANIFESTO POLICY COMMITMENTS ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The General Election which takes place on 12 December 2019 has been characterised as ‘the Brexit Election’ with the main issue being whether the U.K will leave the European Union (EU) following the referendum on EU membership in 2016.
- 1.2 However, this should be the ‘Climate Change’ Election with a major focus on how the U.K. is going to decarbonise its economy and achieve the goal of net zero emissions set by the U.K. Government for 2050.
- 1.3 We have already seen the first televised leaders debate on Climate Change in this election and a review of the political party manifestos shows that Climate Change and energy are important aspects of the commitments being made.
- 1.4 One criticism that could be levelled at many of the parties standing in the election is that the role of local government in the energy transition and getting to net zero carbon is not fundamental to the overall approach, but nonetheless there are very ambitious plans and targets set out by all of the political parties which demonstrates that despite the tag of this being the ‘Brexit election’ that Climate Change is rising to the very top of the political agenda.
- 1.5 This briefing is designed to set out some of the main policy commitments made by the parties in the General Election and draws out some of the key pledges made by all the parties in relation to Climate Change and Energy.
- 1.6 The first part of this briefing focuses on policy commitments and promises made by the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Parties in their manifestos. A further briefing will follow which focuses on the policy commitments made by the Green, Plaid Cymru and Scottish National Parties.
- 1.7 The table below brings together the main policy commitments under thematic areas for ease of reference.

Policy	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem
<p>1. Energy & Climate Change</p>	<p>Deliver on the target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Prioritise the environment in the next Budget, investing in the infrastructure, science and research that will deliver economic growth, not just through the 2020s, but for decades to come.</p>	<p>Develop the recommendations of Labour's '30 by 2030' report to put the UK on track for a net-zero-carbon energy system within the 2030s – and go faster if credible pathways can be found. Deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030.</p> <p>Kick-start a Green Industrial Revolution that will create one million jobs in the UK to transform industry, energy, transport, agriculture and buildings, while restoring nature.</p>	<p>A new plan to innovate our way out of crisis. Mobilise every community in the country, and the resources of both the public and private sector to achieve it. To turn the birthplace of the industrial revolution into the home of the new Green Revolution.</p> <p>Deliver a ten-year emergency programme to cut emissions substantially straight away, and phase out emissions from the remaining hard-to-treat sectors by 2045 at the latest</p>
<p>2. Green Programme</p>	<p>Set up a new Office for Environmental Protection.</p> <p>Set up a new international partnership to tackle deforestation and protect vital landscapes and wild-life corridors.</p> <p>Establish a new £500 million Blue Planet Fund to help protect Oceans.</p> <p>Extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment.</p>	<p>Launch a Green New Deal which aims to achieve the substantial majority of emissions reductions by 2030.</p> <p>Launch a National Transformation Fund of £400 billion</p>	<p>Deliver a ten-year emergency programme to cut emissions substantially straight away and phase out emissions from the remaining hard-to-treat sectors by 2045 at the latest.</p> <p>Establish a Department for Climate Change and Natural Resources,</p>

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<p>3. Independent environment protection</p>	<p>Set up a new Office for Environmental Protection.</p>	<p>Ask the Office for Budget Responsibility to incorporate climate and environmental impacts into its forecasts so that the cost of not acting will be factored into every fiscal decision</p>	<p>An Office of Environmental Protection that is fully independent of government and possesses powers and resources to enforce compliance with climate and environmental targets.</p>
<p>4. Treasury and public procurement</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Create a Sustainable Investment Board to bring together the Chancellor, Business Secretary and Bank of England Governor to oversee, co-ordinate and bring forward this investment – involving trade unions and business.</p> <p>Rewrite the Treasury’s investment rules to guarantee that every penny spent is compatible with climate and environmental targets – and that the costs of not acting are fully accounted for. Of this, £250 billion will directly fund the transition through a Green Transformation Fund dedicated to renewable and low-carbon energy and transport, biodiversity and environmental restoration.</p> <p>Whenever public money is invested in an energy generation project, the public sector will take a stake and return profits to the public.</p>	<p>Appoint a Cabinet level Chief Secretary for Sustainability in the Treasury to coordinate government-wide action to make the economy sustainable resource-efficient and zero-carbon and require every government agency to account for its contribution towards meeting climate targets.</p> <p>Increase government expenditure on climate and environmental objectives, reaching at least five per cent of the total within five years.</p> <p>Expand the market for green products and services with steadily higher green criteria in public procurement policy</p>

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5. Regulation	None	Fully fund the Environment Agency and other frontline environment agencies and improve upstream river management.	<p>Ensure that the national Infrastructure Commission, National Grid, the energy regulator Ofgem, and the Crown Estate work together to deliver our net zero climate objective.</p> <p>Increase the budget for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, ensuring that agencies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency are properly funded.</p>
6. Green Finance Rules	Ask other UN members to match the UK's decision to double international Climate Finance at the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020.	<p>Change the criteria a company must meet to be listed on the London Stock Exchange so that any company that fails to contribute to tackling the climate and environmental emergency is delisted.</p> <p>Improve the fitness of the financial authorities to mobilise green investment and by giving them powers to manage the risk to financial stability posed by short sighted investment in polluting assets</p> <p>Whenever public money is invested in an energy generation project, the public sector will take a stake and return profits to the public.</p>	<p>Require all Companies registered in the UK and listed on UK stock exchanges to set targets consistent with the Paris Agreement on climate change and to report on their implementation; and establish a general corporate duty of care for the environment and human rights.</p> <p>Regulate financial services to encourage green investments, including requiring pension funds and managers to show that their portfolio investments are consistent with the Paris Agreement, and creating new powers for regulators to act if banks and other investors are not managing climate risks properly</p> <p>End support from UK Export Finance for fossil fuel-related activities, and press for higher environmental standards for export credit agencies throughout the OECD.</p>

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<p>7. Energy Generation</p>	<p>Increase offshore wind capacity to 40GW by 2030 and enable new floating wind farms.</p> <p>Increase commitment to renewables sector.</p> <p>Support gas for hydrogen production.</p> <p>Support nuclear energy including fusion.</p> <p>No support for fracking unless science proves extraction can be done safely.</p> <p>Conservatives also rule out changes to the planning system.</p>	<p>Develop the recommendations of our ‘30 by 2030’ report to put the UK on track for a net zero-carbon energy system within the 2030s – and go faster if credible pathways can be found.</p> <p>Deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030.</p>	<p>Accelerate the deployment of renewable power, providing more funding, removing the Conservatives’ restrictions on solar and wind and building more interconnectors to guarantee security of supply: we aim to reach at least 80 per cent renewable electricity in the UK by 2030.</p> <p>Expand community and decentralised energy, support councils to develop local electricity generation and require all new homes to be fitted with solar panels.</p> <p>Ban fracking because of its negative impacts on climate change, the energy mix and the local environment.</p> <p>Support investment and innovation in cutting-edge energy technologies, including tidal and wave power, energy storage, demand response, smart grids and hydrogen.</p> <p>Provide an additional £12 billion over five years to support these commitments, and ensure that the National Infrastructure Commission, National Grid, the energy regulator Ofgem, and the Crown Estate work together to deliver our net zero climate objective.</p>

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8. Citizens Assembly	Not mentioned	Renewal of our Parliament will be subject to recommendations made by a UK-wide Constitutional Convention, led by a citizens' assembly. (not directly connected to the environment)	Establish UK and local Citizens' Climate Assemblies to engage the public in tackling the climate emergency.
9. Community Energy	Not mentioned	Expand distributed and community energy	Expand Community and decentralised energy, support councils to develop local electricity generation and require all new homes to be fitted with solar panels.
10. Energy price cap	Keep existing energy cap and introduce new measures to lower energy bills. Will give the Competition and Markets Authority enhanced powers 'to tackle consumer rip-offs and bad business practices.'		

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<p>11. Waste and circular economy</p>		<p>Make producers responsible for the waste they create and for the full cost of recycling or disposal.</p> <p>Encourage more sustainable design and manufacturing.</p> <p>Invest in three new recyclable steel plants</p> <p>We will make producers responsible for the waste they create and for the full cost of recycling or disposal, encouraging more sustainable design and manufacturing. In government in Wales, Labour has transformed the position of recycling, placing them in the top five globally for recycling rates. A UK Labour government will learn from Wales' example and will also back bottle-return schemes.</p>	<p>Introduce a Zero-Waste and Resource Efficiency Act. Establishing a statutory waste recycling target of 70 per cent in England, extend separate food waste collections to at least 90 per cent of homes by 2024, and strengthen incentives to reduce packaging and reduce waste sent to landfill and incineration.</p> <p>Benefit consumers through better product design for reparability, reuse and recycling, including extending the forthcoming EU 'right to repair' legislation for consumer goods, so helping small repair businesses and community groups combat 'planned obsolescence'.</p> <p>Introducing legally binding targets for reducing the consumption of key natural resources and other incentives for businesses to improve resource efficiency.</p>
<p>12. Plastic</p>	<p>Ban the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries, consulting with industry, NGOs and local councils on the date by which this should be achieved.</p> <p>Increase penalties for fly tipping, make those on community sentences clean up their parks and streets, and introduce a deposit return scheme to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass.</p>	<p>Take on the global plastics crisis by investing in a new plastics remanufacturing industry creating thousands of jobs, ending exports of plastic waste and reducing our contribution to ocean pollution.</p>	<p>Ban non-recyclable single-use plastics and replace them with affordable alternatives, aiming for their complete elimination within three years, as a first step towards ending the 'throwaway society' culture and an ambition to end plastic waste exports by 2030.</p> <p>Extending deposit return schemes for all food and drink bottles and containers, working with the devolved administrations to ensure consistency across the UK. Initiate negotiations</p>

	Continue to lead the world in tackling plastics pollution, both in the UK and internationally, and will introduce a new levy to increase the proportion of recyclable plastics in packaging. We will introduce extended producer responsibility, so that producers pay the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce and boost domestic recycling.		within the UN for a legally binding international treaty on plastics reduction.
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13. Local government and zero carbon	No mention	No mention	Create a statutory duty on all local authorities to produce a Zero Carbon Strategy, including plans for local energy, transport and land use, and devolve powers and funding to enable every council to implement it. Empower councils to develop community energy-saving projects, including delivering housing energy efficiency improvements street by street, which cuts costs. Give new powers to local authorities and communities to improve transport in their areas, including the ability to introduce network-wide ticketing, like in London.
14. Energy Distribution	First Budget will prioritise the environment: ... electric vehicle infrastructure including a national plug-in network and Gigafactory; and clean energy.	Expand power storage and invest in grid enhancements and interconnectors Expand distributed and community energy.	Support investment and innovation in cutting-edge energy technologies, including tidal and wave power, energy storage, demand response, smart grids and hydrogen. Nationalisation

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15. Public Ownership	No plans to take energy into public ownership	Bring energy and water systems into democratic public ownership. Bring the National Grid back into public ownership and create a new UK National Energy Agency, which will own and maintain the national grid infrastructure and oversee the delivery of decarbonisation targets. Create 14 new Regional Energy Agencies that will replace the existing district network operators and hold statutory responsibility for decarbonising electricity and heat and reducing fuel poverty. Bring into public ownership the supply arms of the Big Six energy companies where they will supply households with energy while helping them to reduce their energy demands.	No plans to take energy into public ownership
16. Reducing UK Emissions	Deliver on the target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Ask other UN members to match the UK's decision to double international Climate Finance at the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020.	Instruct the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to assess the emissions the UK imports as well as those it produces, and recommend policies to tackle them, including making UK industry the greenest in the world.	Support the Paris Agreement by playing a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change, demonstrating commitment by rapidly reducing emissions from the UK economy, increasing development spending on climate objectives and aiming to persuade all countries to commit to net zero climate goals by the 2020 UN climate conference in Glasgow.

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<p>17. Research & investment</p>	<p>Will Continue to collaborate internationally and with the EU on scientific research, including Horizon.</p>	<p>Set a target for 3% of GDP to be spent on research and development (R&D) by 2030.</p> <p>Create a Foundation Industries Sector Council to provide a clean and long-term future for our existing heavy industries like steel and glass and fund R&D into newer technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.</p> <p>Invest in three new giga factories and four metal reprocessing plants.</p> <p>Support the UK-made electrical steel</p>	<p>Support investment and innovation in zero-carbon and resource-efficient infrastructure and technologies by creating a new Green Investment Bank and increasing funding for Innovate UK and new Catapult innovation and technology centres on farming and land use and on carbon dioxide removal.</p> <p>Provide more advice to companies on cutting emissions, support the development of regional industrial clusters for zero-carbon innovation and increase the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund.</p> <p>Support investment and innovation in cutting-edge energy technologies, including tidal and wave power, energy storage, demand response, smart grids and hydrogen.</p>
<p>18. Renewable Energy</p>	<p>New Floating Wind</p>	<p>Build 7,000 new offshore wind turbines and 2,000 new onshore wind turbines</p> <p>Build enough solar panels to cover 22,000 football pitches</p> <p>Trial and expand tidal energy</p>	<p>Accelerate the deployment of renewable power, providing more funding, removing the Conservatives' restrictions on solar and wind and building more interconnectors to guarantee security of supply; we aim to reach at least 80 per cent renewable electricity in the UK by 2030.</p> <p>Support investment and innovation in cutting-edge energy technologies, including tidal and wave power, energy storage, demand response, smart grids and hydrogen.</p>

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<p>19. Energy Storage and Smart grids</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Expand power storage and invest in grid enhancements and interconnectors</p> <p>To balance the grid, expand power storage and invest in grid enhancements and interconnectors.</p>	<p>Support investment and innovation in cutting-edge energy technologies, including tidal and wave power, energy storage, demand response, smart grids and hydrogen.</p> <p>Support innovation in zero-emission technologies, including batteries and hydrogen fuel cells, supplementing government funding with a new Clean Air Fund from industry.</p>
<p>20. Hydrogen and carbon Capture & Storage</p>	<p>Support gas for hydrogen production.</p> <p>Invest £800 million to build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster by the mid-2020s.</p> <p>Invest £500 million to help energy intensive industries move to low-carbon techniques.</p>	<p>Fund R&D into newer technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.</p> <p>establish a Foundation Industries Sector Council to provide a clean and long-term future for our existing heavy industries like steel and glass and fund R&D into newer technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.</p> <p>Reduce</p>	<p>As above and:</p> <p>Reduce emissions from industrial processes by supporting carbon capture and storage and new low carbon processes for cement and steel production.</p>

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21. Nuclear	Support for Nuclear including fusion	Support for building New Nuclear Power.	Not mentioned.
22. Fracking	Moratorium on fracking “unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely.”	Ban fracking	Ban Fracking
23. Fuel poverty	Keep winter fuel payments.	Kick-start a Green Industrial Revolution to tackle the climate emergency by shifting to renewable energy, investing in rail and electric cars, and making housing energy efficient, to reduce fuel poverty and excess winter deaths.	Cut fuel bills and end fuel poverty by 2025.
24. Renewable Heat	Not mentioned	Deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030. As part of heat decarbonisation, we will roll out technologies like heat pumps, solar hot water and hydrogen, and invest in district heat networks using waste heat.	Adopt a Zero-Carbon Heat Strategy, including reforming the Renewable Heat Incentive, requiring the phased installation of heat pumps in homes and businesses off the gas grid, and piloting projects to determine the best future mix of zero-carbon heating solutions.
25. Oil and Gas Industry	Sector has a key role to play in the move to a Net Zero economy and pledges to support the transition in the next Parliament with ‘a transformational sectoral deal.’ Focus will be on the North Sea oil and gas industry	Introduce a windfall tax on oil companies, so that the companies that knowingly damaged our climate will help cover the costs	Implement the UK’s G7 pledge to end fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, Argue for an end to all fossil fuel subsidies world-wide and provide aid to developing countries to help them transition to clean sources of energy.
26. Transport - Electric Vehicles and ULEVs	Invest £1 billion in completing a fast-charging network to ensure that everyone is within 30 miles of a rapid electric vehicle charging station. We will consult on the earliest date we can phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars, while minimising the impact on drivers and businesses	Position the UK at the forefront of the development and manufacture of ultra-low emission vehicles and will support their sale. We will invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and in electric community car clubs. Accelerate the transition of our public sector car fleets and our public buses to zero-emissions vehicles.	Investing in public transport, buses, trams and railways to enable people to travel more easily while reducing their impact on the environment. Accelerating the transition to ultra-low emission transport – cars, buses and trains – through taxation, subsidy and regulation.

			<p>Accelerate the rapid take-up of electric vehicles by reforming vehicle taxation, cutting VAT on EVs to 5 per cent and increasing the rate of installation of charging points, including residential on-street points and ultra-fast chargers at service stations. We will ensure that, by 2030, every new car and small van sold is electric.</p> <p>Extend Ultra-Low Emission Zones to ten more towns and cities in England and ensure that all private hire vehicles and new buses licensed to operate in urban areas are ultra-low emission or zero-emission vehicles by 2025; we will provide £2 billion to support this transformation</p> <p>Transport</p>
<p>27. Public Transport</p>	<p>Invest in electric buses, developing the UK's first all-electric-bus town.</p>	<p>Ensure that councils can improve bus services by regulating and taking public ownership of bus networks, and we will give them resources and full legal powers to achieve this cost-effectively</p> <p>Deliver improvements for rail passengers by bringing our railways back into public ownership</p> <p>Deliver rail electrification and expansion across the whole country, including in Wales.</p> <p>Build</p>	<p>Build on the successful local Sustainable Transport Fund established by the Liberal Democrats when in government, and workplace travel plans, to reduce the number of cars – particularly single-occupancy cars – used for commuting, and encourage the development of car-sharing schemes and car clubs and autonomous vehicles for public use.</p> <p>Amend planning rules to promote sustainable transport and land use.</p> <p>Convert the rail network to ultra-low emission technology (electric or hydrogen) by 2035 and provide funding for light rail and trams.</p>

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28. Buildings	Invest £9.2 billion in the energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals. support the creation of new kinds of homes that have low energy bills, and which support our environmental targets and will expect all new streets to be lined with trees.	Upgrade almost all the UK's 27 million homes to the highest energy-efficiency standards, reducing the average household energy bill by £417 per household per year by 2030 and eliminating fuel poverty. Introduce a zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes As part of heat decarbonisation, roll out technologies like heat pumps, solar hot water and hydrogen, and invest in district heat networks using waste heat. invest £6 billion in retrofitting houses across Scotland, which will help tackle the climate emergency at the same time as lowering bills, ending fuel poverty and creating 35,000 jobs.	Cut energy bills, end fuel poverty by 2025 and reduce emissions from buildings, including by providing free retrofits for low-income homes, piloting a new subsidised Energy-Saving Homes scheme, graduating Stamp Duty Land Tax by the energy rating of the property and reducing VAT on home insulation. Empower councils to develop community energy-saving projects, including delivering housing energy efficiency improvements street by street, which cuts costs.
29. Air Quality	Introduce legal targets for air quality. Consult on how to phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars.	Introduce a new Clean Air Act, with a vehicle scrappage scheme and clean air zones, complying with World Health Organisation limits for fine particles and nitrous oxides.	Clean Air Act based on World Health Organisation guidelines, enforced by a new Air Quality Agency. The Act will enshrine the legal right to unpolluted air wherever you live. Extend Ultra-Low Emission Zones to ten more towns and cities in England; Support innovation in zero-emission technologies, including batteries and hydrogen fuel cells, supplementing government funding with a new Clean Air Fund from industry.