

## 2017 General Election Manifesto Review

### Energy, Carbon & Climate Change

This review is intended to be independent and only looks at energy, carbon and climate change aspects of the published manifestos. I have avoided political comment – I leave that to you the reader!

All the manifestos are a combination of opinion, party principles, observations, statements of intent or aspiration and policy statements. We all know that parties may deviate from their manifestos promises when elected, but is the best view/record we have of their intentions.

If the opinion polls are correct (and who knows) the most likely outcome is a return of the Conservatives to government – in which case their manifesto is arguably the most important. However, in the case of a reduced majority or a ‘hung’ parliament, the positions of the other parties will become more important.

Party	Manifesto Title	No of pages
Conservative	Forward, together - Our plan for a stronger Britain and a prosperous future	88
Labour	For the many, not the few	128
SNP	Stronger for Scotland	48
Liberal Democrat	Change Britain’s Future	100
Green	A caring and confident Britain	26
Plaid Cymru	Action Plan 2017	55
UKIP	Britain together	64

#### The manifestos covered by this document

The order above is based on the number of MPs each party had in the last parliament – or alphabetical where equal numbers.

As would be expected there a number of issues (Brexit, NHS, Education, etc.) that are covered in detail in all of the documents. Coverage of environment and energy is much less uniform – which possibly reflects public opinion at this time.

The following pages provide an ‘at a glance’ review of a range of energy, carbon and climate change issues. This is followed by related extracts from the manifesto documents and links to the full documents.

**At a glance:**

Note: A blank box means there is no statement (or clear statement) in manifesto document. This not to say the party does not have a position, only that it is not included in the manifesto.

Party	Energy price	Shale (Fracking)	Nuclear Power	Renewables	Climate Change	Carbon Capture & Storage	Public ownership of utilities
<b>Conservative</b>	Cap	Pro	Pro	Not onshore wind; no targets for renewables	“Continue to lead”		
<b>Labour</b>	Cap	Against	Pro	Pro	Back on track to meet targets		Pro
<b>SNP</b>	Cap	Against		Pro	Climate Change Plan	Pro	
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>		Against	Accept	Pro	Zero-Carbon Britain Act		
<b>Green</b>		Against	Against	Pro	2 Degrees & aiming for 1.5 degrees		Pro
<b>Plaid Cymru</b>				Pro	New Climate Change Act		Welsh energy company
<b>UKIP</b>	Removal of VAT from domestic bills	Pro with restrictions			Repeal of 2008 Climate Change Act		

Continued

Party	Energy efficiency support for business	New Homes	Existing Homes	Diesel cars
<b>Conservative</b>	Industrial energy efficiency scheme for large companies		Upgrading to EPC B & C	
<b>Labour</b>		Consult on zero carbon	Insulation for 4 million homes	
<b>SNP</b>				
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>		Green Buildings Act Zero Carbon	4 million to be made energy efficient	Scrappage scheme and ban
<b>Green</b>		Zero carbon		
<b>Plaid Cymru</b>			More energy efficient	
<b>UKIP</b>		Modular housing		Support for diesel car drivers

## **EXTRACTS FROM THE MANIFESTOS**

The text here is taken where possible, directly from the published manifesto. Changes/comments only added for clarity – not for opinion.

### **CONSERVATIVE**

Our ambition is that the UK should have the lowest energy costs in Europe, both for households and businesses. So as we upgrade our energy infrastructure, we will do it in an affordable way, consistent with that ambition. And because for British companies, an energy-efficient business is a more competitive business, we will establish an industrial energy efficiency scheme to help large companies install measures to cut their energy use and their bills.

We will therefore commission an independent review into the Cost of Energy, which will be asked to make recommendations as to how we can ensure UK energy costs are as low as possible, while ensuring a reliable supply and allowing us to meet our 2050 carbon reduction objective.

As part of broader reforms to the business energy market, we will consult on how to extend our safeguard tariff cap to micro-businesses.

We will ensure that the sector (oil & gas) continues to play a critical role in our economy and domestic energy supply, supporting further investment in the UK's natural resources.

We want to see a diverse range of sources for Britain's energy production, because a diverse energy economy is the best way to stimulate innovation, and also to ensure that we are getting the right generation in the right place.

While we do not believe that more large-scale onshore wind power is right for England, we will maintain our position as a global leader in offshore wind and support the development of wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland, where they will directly benefit local communities.

So, after we have left the European Union, we will form our energy policy based not on the way energy is generated but on the ends we desire – reliable and affordable energy, seizing the industrial opportunity that new technology presents and meeting our global commitments on climate change.

We will therefore develop the shale industry in Britain. We will only be able to do so if we maintain public confidence in the process, if we uphold our rigorous environmental protections, and if we ensure the proceeds of the wealth generated by shale energy are shared with the communities affected.

We will legislate to change planning law for shale applications. Non-fracking drilling will be treated as permitted development, expert planning functions will be established to support local councils, and, when necessary, major shale planning decisions will be made the responsibility of the National Planning Regime.

We will set up a new Shale Environmental Regulator, which will assume the relevant functions of the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We will change the proposed Shale Wealth Fund so a greater percentage of the tax revenues from shale gas directly benefit the communities that host the extraction sites.

We are at the forefront of action against global climate change.

We will continue to lead international action against climate change, and the degradation of habitat and loss of species.

The United Kingdom will lead the world in environmental protection.

As Conservatives, we are committed to leaving the environment in better condition than we inherited it.

We will pay immediate attention to the retail energy market. Customers trust established brands and mistakenly assume their loyalty is rewarded. Energy suppliers have long operated a two-tier market, where those constantly checking for the best deal can do well but others are punished for inactivity with higher prices.

We will ensure that smart meters will be offered to every household and business by the end of 2020, giving people control over their energy bills that they have not had before.

Fairer markets for consumers and action on the cost of living, including a safeguard tariff cap to protect energy customers from unacceptable rises.

We will introduce a safeguard tariff cap that will extend the price protection currently in place for some vulnerable customers to more customers on the poorest value tariffs.

We will improve the energy efficiency of existing homes, especially for the least well off, by committing to upgrading all fuel poor homes to EPC B and C by 2030. We will also review requirements on new homes.

## **LABOUR**

We will transform our energy systems, investing in new, state of-the-art low-carbon gas and renewable electricity production.

Ensure that 60 per cent of the UK's energy comes from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030

Energy costs and security – by capping costs and investing in new publicly owned energy provision.

Regain control of energy supply networks through the alteration of operator license conditions, and transition to a publicly owned, decentralised energy system.

Labour's energy policy is built on three simple principles:

- To ensure security of energy supply and 'keep the lights on'.
- To ensure energy costs are affordable for consumers and businesses.
- To ensure we meet our climate change targets and transition to a low-carbon economy.

Introduce an immediate emergency price cap to ensure that the average dual-fuel household energy bill remains below £1,000 per year, while we transition to a fairer system for bill payers.

Take energy back into public ownership to deliver renewable energy, affordability for consumers, and democratic control. We will do this in the following stages:

- Regaining control of energy supply networks through the alteration of the National and Regional Network Operator license conditions.
- Supporting the creation of publicly owned, locally accountable energy companies and co-operatives to rival existing private energy suppliers, with at least one in every region.
- Legislating to permit publicly owned local companies to purchase the regional grid infrastructure, and to ensure that national and regional grid infrastructure is brought into public ownership over time.

Labour will insulate four million homes as an infrastructure priority to help those who suffer in cold homes each winter.

We will insulate more homes to help people manage the cost of energy bills, to reduce preventable winter deaths, and to meet our climate change targets

For renters, Labour will improve on existing Landlord Energy Efficiency regulations and re-establish the Landlord Energy Saving Allowance to encourage the uptake of efficiency measures.

Labour will ban fracking because it would lock us into an energy infrastructure based on fossil fuels, long after the point in 2030 when the Committee on Climate Change says gas in the UK must sharply decline.

We are committed to renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons, which can help create manufacturing and energy jobs as well as contributing to climate change commitments.

The UK has the world's oldest nuclear industry, and nuclear will continue to be part of the UK energy supply. We will support further nuclear projects and protect nuclear workers' jobs and pensions. There are considerable opportunities for nuclear power and decommissioning both internationally and domestically.

A Labour government will put us back on track to meet the targets in the Climate Change Act and the Paris Agreement.

As part of the Brexit negotiations, Labour will prioritise maintaining access to the internal energy market.

We will consult on new rules on minimum space standards to prevent 'rabbit hutch' properties and on new modern standards for building 'zero carbon homes'.

Labour will introduce a new Clean Air Act to deal with the Conservative legacy of illegal air quality.

We will reclaim Britain's leading role in tackling climate change, working hard to preserve the Paris Agreement and deliver on international commitments to reduce emissions while mitigating the impacts of climate change on developing countries.

## **SNP**

We will not let a Tory government at Westminster get away with destroying another vital Scottish industry. Our oil and gas industry can have a bright future, but it needs a UK government that is willing to act.

SNP MPs will press the UK government to deliver a strong deal for the oil and gas sector. This must include targeted incentives to develop small pool discoveries, as well as further support to stimulate exploration activity and loan guarantees for critical infrastructure – measures which were promised in the UK Government’s 2016 Budget but have not been delivered.

SNP MPs will press the UK government to:

- put in place an energy price cap on standard variable tariffs, ensuring a fair deal for customers and energy suppliers;
- introduce a new duty to be placed on energy companies to set out a clear timetable to reduce the number of people on prepayment meters;
- immediately implement the Competition and Markets Authority’s recommendations on metering to reduce costs for households;
- put in place a requirement for energy companies to prioritise the roll-out of smart meters to those households at risk of fuel poverty
- introduce financial health checks to help people switch to the lowest tariffs and provide advice on reducing energy use; and
- take new action, alongside Ofgem, to identify those at risk from fuel poverty, with new legislation to ensure these groups are on the lowest energy tariff possible starting with those eligible for the Cold Weather Payment.

In government we have made energy efficiency a national infrastructure priority, and we will support it with more than £500 million of public funding over four years.

SNP MPs will work to protect Scotland’s place in Europe’s energy markets and funding programmes – ensuring continued funding and cooperation with the EU for Scotland’s renewable energy sector. The European Union is set to establish a €320 million investment fund to support wave and tidal power, in which Scotland is a world leader.

**Carbon Capture and Storage:** We want Scotland to be a leader in the development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology, which has the potential to create thousands of jobs in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and beyond, while fighting climate change. Scotland’s oil and gas sector remains uniquely well placed to develop CCS on an industrial scale – despite the UK government renegeing on its commitment to a £1 billion project set to benefit Peterhead Power Station. We will work to ensure Scotland is not denied this opportunity by working to secure the funding needed to develop this vital technology here in Scotland.

SNP MPs will press the Westminster government to include onshore wind, the lowest cost renewable energy technology, in its industrial strategy. They will also demand an increased focus on offshore wind, tidal energy and wave power.

Transmission charges: The UK's punitive transmission charging regime forces renewable and conventional energy generators in Scotland to pay huge fees to connect to the electricity grid, while power stations in the south of England receive subsidies. This unfair system contributed to the early closure of the power stations at Longannet in Fife and Cockenzie in East Lothian, with the loss of hundreds of local jobs, and must be overhauled.

SNP MPs will hold the UK government to account over its support for the Hinkley white elephant.

Working with our neighbours to fight climate change: Scotland has already exceeded a world-leading target to reduce emissions by 42 per cent by 2020. The Scottish Government has now produced a draft Climate Change Plan, with tougher targets for future years, ensuring Scotland continues to set an example for other countries to follow. SNP MPs will press the UK government to match Scotland's commitment and ambition.

We have blocked underground coal gasification and a moratorium means fracking cannot take place in Scotland.

Scotland has exceeded its target to produce 50 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2015 – helping to fight climate change and create jobs too.

The world's poorest and most vulnerable countries are the least responsible for climate change, yet face its biggest impacts. We will maintain the position of a Climate Justice Spokesperson, and call on the UK government to match the approach of the Scottish Government with a dedicated Climate Justice Fund.

## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT**

Maintaining environmental standards: The European Union has created the highest environmental standards in the world. We have a duty to future generations to protect our environment and tackle climate change. Liberal Democrats will ensure that everything is done to maintain those high standards in UK law, including the closest possible co-operation on climate and energy policy.

Develop national colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy, to deliver the high-level vocational skills that businesses need.

Additional funding to bring more private investment into renewable energy.

Reform the Regulatory Policy Committee to remove unnecessary regulation, reduce regulatory uncertainty, and support new markets and investment, particularly in low-carbon and resource-efficient innovation.

That's why we will pass five green laws: a Green Transport Act, a Zero-Carbon Britain Act, a Nature Act, a Green Buildings Act, and a Zero-Waste Act to incorporate existing EU environmental protections, maintain product standards such as for energy efficiency, and establish a framework for continual improvement.

A diesel scrappage scheme, and a ban on the sale of diesel cars and small vans in the UK by 2025.



Pass a Zero-Carbon Britain Act to set new legally binding targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2040 and to zero by 2050.

Set up a British Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank to mobilise investment into the low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure the UK needs to remain competitive.

Support the Paris agreement by ensuring the UK meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change.

Expand renewable energy, aiming to generate 60% of electricity from renewables by 2030, restoring government support for solar PV and onshore wind in appropriate locations (helping meet climate targets at least cost) and building more electricity interconnectors to underpin this higher reliance on renewables.

Support investment in cutting-edge technologies including energy storage, smart grid technology, hydrogen technologies, offshore wind, and tidal power (including giving the go-ahead for the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon), and investing heavily in research and development.

Support an ambitious carbon capture and storage programme, which is essential for delivering clean industrial growth.

Oppose 'fracking' because of its adverse impact on climate change, the energy mix, and the local environment.

Accept that new nuclear power stations can play a role in electricity supply provided concerns about safety, disposal of waste and cost are adequately addressed, new technology is incorporated, and there is no public subsidy for new build.

Maintain membership of Euratom, ensuring continued nuclear co-operation, research funding, and access to nuclear fuels.

Liberal Democrats will reduce energy bills permanently by improving home insulation and encouraging small-scale, community and local-authority renewable schemes. We will make saving energy a top infrastructure priority, slashing energy bills and carbon emissions, creating thousands of jobs and helping end the fuel poverty crisis once and for all.

We will:

Pass a new Green Buildings Act to set new energy-efficiency targets, including a long-term ambition for every home in England to reach at least an energy rating of Band C by 2035.

Ensure that at least four million homes are made highly energy efficient (B and C) by 2022, with priority given to fuel-poor households.

Restore the zero-carbon standard for new homes which was set by Liberal Democrats in government and since abandoned by the Conservatives, increasing the standard steadily and extending it to non-domestic buildings by 2022.

Expand community energy schemes, encourage councils to develop community energy-saving projects and local electricity generation, and promote city-scale demonstration projects in electric vehicles and clean energy.

Continue to back new entrants to the energy market, aiming for at least 30% of the household market to be supplied by competitors to the 'Big 6' by 2022.

We will establish a Cabinet Committee on Sustainability, chaired by a cabinet minister, establish an Office for Environmental Responsibility to scrutinise the government's efforts to meet its environmental targets, and place a responsibility on every government agency to account for its contribution towards meeting climate targets in everything it does.

Develop a strategic airports policy for the whole of the UK, taking full account of the impacts on climate change and local pollution.

## **GREEN**

We will always act strongly on climate change and to protect the natural world we love.

Active ongoing cooperation with businesses and other countries to limit global temperature increases to well below 2 degrees and aiming for 1.5 degrees.

Replacing fracking, coal power stations, subsidies to fossil fuels and nuclear with the clean green efficient renewable energy of the future, and investing in community owned energy.

Bring energy, water, railways, buses, the Royal Mail and care work back into public ownership to give communities real control of the public services that has been lost over the past 30 years.

A major programme to build affordable, zero carbon homes, including 100,000 social rented homes each year by 2022.

Strengthen the global deal on climate change, including by delivering climate justice and promoting ecologically sustainable development so that poorer countries can cope with the impacts of climate change.

## **PLAID CYMRU**

Plaid Cymru will increase energy generation from renewables including delivering tidal lagoons in Swansea Bay, Cardiff and Colwyn Bay. We will establish a national electric vehicle charging network and will transfer responsibility over Welsh energy generation and natural resources to the National Assembly.

We will create a Welsh energy company, to use profit from Welsh resources to cut the cost of energy for Welsh consumers and shifting to decentralised and distributed networks.

Plaid Cymru will roll out a nationwide scheme to make our housing stock more energy efficient. We will secure compensation for those who have suffered from badly installed, government backed cavity wall insulation.

Plaid Cymru will introduce a new Climate Change Act, adopting ambitious but achievable greenhouse gas and pollution reduction targets for 2030 and 2050.

## **UKIP**

UKIP will remove VAT from domestic energy bills and scrap the green levies currently added to our bills to subsidise renewable energy schemes. Together, these measures will cut typical household energy bills by £170 a year.

Electrically propelled vehicles are now a serious option for many families but the charging infrastructure is not keeping pace. UKIP will support the installation of rapid charging stations in towns and cities, and encourage off street parking and charging provision in all new housing and industrial developments through the local planning process.

UKIP will prevent diesel drivers from being penalised through higher taxes, parking fees, or emissions' zone charging. People bought their vehicles in good faith on government advice.

Brexit offers the perfect opportunity to review energy policy, prioritising lower prices and more secure supplies. There is one major problem: a lack of MPs in Westminster who recognise the potential of a rational energy policy, and who are committed to delivering it.

We will repeal the 2008 Climate Change Act, the most expensive piece of legislation in history. This will cut the cost of energy in our homes and encourage energy intensive businesses that are failing because of flawed energy policies.

Every political party except UKIP has thrown its weight behind the 2008 Climate Change Act. Set to cost us an eye-watering £319 billion by 2030, this Act has no basis in science, and its aim of cutting greenhouse gases by 80 per cent by 2050 is unachievable.

In addition to removing VAT from domestic fuel and scrapping 'green' levies to reduce household bills by an average of £170, we will review the ownership and profits of British utilities and the impact on consumers of steadily rising prices. We will not hesitate to table legislation to address any excesses we uncover.

Repealing the Climate Change Act and leaving the EU means we can also reduce high commercial energy prices and prevent energy-intensive businesses from being driven offshore. Problems in the steel industry have been well publicised, but similar issues apply to aluminium, chemicals, fertilisers, glass, ceramics and petroleum refining. Such companies may move to countries with lower environmental standards, and increase emissions, thereby rendering the 2008 Act even more futile.

It would be foolhardy not to maximise home produced energy and this is why UKIP will invest in shale gas exploration. If 'fracking' is viable in Britain, we will have tapped into a source of energy that is cost-effective and delivers domestic fuel security and stability.

UKIP will not, however, allow drilling for shale in our national parks or other areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Conservatives may be prepared to do this, but we are not. We will always respect local environmental issues.

**Links to manifesto documents:**

Party	URL
<b>Conservative</b>	<a href="https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto">https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto</a>
<b>Labour</b>	<a href="http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/Images/manifesto-2017/labour-manifesto-2017.pdf">http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/Images/manifesto-2017/labour-manifesto-2017.pdf</a>
<b>SNP</b>	<a href="https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/thesnp/pages/9544/attachments/original/1496139998/Manifesto_2017.pdf?1496139998">https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/thesnp/pages/9544/attachments/original/1496139998/Manifesto_2017.pdf?1496139998</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<a href="http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/themes/5909d4366ad575794c000000/attachments/original/1495020157/Manifesto-Final.pdf?1495020157">http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/themes/5909d4366ad575794c000000/attachments/original/1495020157/Manifesto-Final.pdf?1495020157</a>
<b>Green</b>	<a href="https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/all-manifestos-alternative-formats.html">https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/all-manifestos-alternative-formats.html</a>
<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<a href="https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/plaid2016/pages/1399/attachments/original/1494843830/Plaid_Cymru_-_Defending_Wales_-_2017_Action_Plan.pdf?1494843830">https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/plaid2016/pages/1399/attachments/original/1494843830/Plaid_Cymru_-_Defending_Wales_-_2017_Action_Plan.pdf?1494843830</a>
<b>UKIP</b>	<a href="http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017">http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017</a>