

Repeal the Climate Change Act

Summary: On 2 October 2025, the Conservatives announced their plan to repeal the Climate Change Act.

- **The Climate Change Act is not working. It's forcing Ministers to adopt policies which are making people poorer, increasing energy bills for families and businesses, and deindustrialising Britain.**
- **That is why despite our efforts, emissions around the world are rising. When things are not working, we should say so. That is why we will repeal the Climate Change Act and replace it with an energy strategy which will put cheap energy first.**
- **This does not mean we are giving up on tackling climate change – we will replace the Act with a strategy that focuses on cheap energy so people can adopt electric products that can reduce emissions when it works for their finances, protecting nature, and innovating products that can reduce emissions around the world as that is the biggest impact we will have on global climate change.**
- **Labour make announcements and set targets with no plan to deliver them making us poorer. Reform only offer gimmicks. Only the Conservatives are doing the hard work to come up with clear plans.**

Background

The Climate Change Act – passed by Ed Miliband under the last Labour Government – has increased energy bills, eaten away at Britain's manufacturing sector, and worsened economic growth:

- **The UK's energy costs are the highest in the OECD and getting higher.** The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's (DESNZ) international comparisons reveal that the UK's industrial energy costs, including taxation, are the highest in the OECD at 26.63 per kWh in 2024, more than double those of Canada, Japan and South Korea.¹
- **The Climate Change Act forces Ministers to make decisions that make people poorer and make our economy weaker just for the sake of meeting climate targets.** The Boiler Tax increases the cost of gas boilers to force people to adopt heat pumps for the sake of meeting climate targets. We are chopping down trees in America, shipping them across the Atlantic, and burning them in Yorkshire to generate electricity at three times the price of gas, because it is labelled as 'clean' for the sake of our climate targets. Neither of these are desirable but are required by the targets in the Climate Change Act.
- **The CCA incentivises the deindustrialisation of Britain.** The Climate Change Act only counts the emissions produced within our borders. If the British chemicals industry shuts down, that is a good thing for the climate targets in the Act. But we will not need any less chemicals – we will just import more from abroad instead, and lose out on the jobs, tax revenue, and economic growth. Britain will be poorer and global emissions will increase.
- **The CCA removes democratic accountability – leaving our energy policy in the hands of a quango.** The CCA removes democratic accountability, putting our energy policy in the hands of the unelected Climate Change Committee, who are not accountable for our economy or our energy prices.²
- **The CCA was designed to show 'moral leadership' to other countries and convince them to decarbonise – but the rest of the world is not following our lead.** Shutting down our industry, losing

¹ DESNZ, International industrial energy prices, 30 September 2025, [link](#).

² *Climate Change Act*, accessed 26 September 2025, [link](#).

jobs, and having the highest electricity prices in the world, is making us a warning, not an example, for the rest of the world.

- **Key infrastructure and policies have faced Judicial Review on the grounds of the CCA.** Key infrastructure projects – including HS2 and the proposed third runway at Heathrow – have faced Judicial Review on the grounds of the CCA, pushing up costs. Meanwhile, crucial government policy – including the Road Investment strategy – has been frustrated in the courts by the CCA.³

We are focused on making sure our economy and our businesses are given the right regulatory climate and framework to succeed:

- **We will repeal the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA) to regain control of our economic and energy policy.** The Climate Change Act established legally binding, five yearly carbon reduction targets. Repealing the Act is essential to regaining control of economic and energy security policy and making decisions that put the interests of the British people – and cutting bills – first.⁴
- **We will replace the Climate Change Act with an energy strategy that puts cheap energy and prosperity first.** In place of the Act we will have an energy strategy that is focused on delivering cheap and reliable energy first, as the foundation for economic growth. This will also make it easier for people to move to electric vehicles and heat pumps when they want to, reducing emissions.
- **We will end the constant threat of Judicial Review and eco-lawfare which has cost the taxpayer millions and slowed down critical infrastructure.** By replacing the CCA, Ministers will be freed from legally binding targets that force them to make decisions in pursuit of arbitrary carbon budgets, over the interest of jobs and economic growth. A future Conservative government will be able to balance the interest of the economy and our natural environment, without the constant threat of Judicial Review and eco-lawfare that has cost the taxpayer millions over the past decade and driven up the cost and timeline of successive government projects.
- **We will abolish the unaccountable Climate Change Committee and restore power to elected politicians to make the right decisions for Britain's economy.** The CCC pushes policies that make Britain poorer, but they are unaccountable for what those policies do to our economic growth or the cost of our energy.
- **We will continue to support action on climate change – and believe in safeguarding our environment for future generations.** The UK has already cut emissions by 50 per cent, more than any other major economy in the world, and we will continue to decarbonise through new nuclear.

Political Points

Labour:

- **The energy price cap has increased by £187 since Labour came to power, despite their promise to cut bills by £300.** The energy price cap for July to September 2024 was £1,568 compared to £1,755 for October to December 2025, a £187 increase.⁵
- **Labour are making energy more expensive for longer which will increase household bills.** Ed Miliband has extended increased the subsidies on offer in his upcoming wind auction, and extended them

³ *The Guardian*, 31 July 2020, [link](#); *White and Case*, 25 January 2021, [link](#); *Francis Taylor Building*, 27 July 2021, [link](#).

⁴ *Climate Change Act*, accessed 26 September 2025, [link](#).

⁵ *Ofgem, Energy Price Cap*, accessed 7 August 2025, [link](#).

from 15 years to 20 years, meaning that British consumers will be paying more on their bills for even longer to pay for impossible Net Zero targets.⁶

The Liberal Democrats:

- **The Liberal Democrats would go even further than Labour – with a 2045 Net Zero target that would bankrupt the country.** The Liberal Democrat manifesto said: ‘Liberal Democrats are committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2045 at the latest’.⁷
- **The Liberal Democrats want to increase climate aid spending.** The Liberal Democrats want to increase international aid spending to 0.7 per cent of GDP, with a specific focus on climate aid.⁸

Reform:

- **Reform are not doing the necessary work behind their policies, meaning they would take years to introduce and not do what they say they will do.** Richard Tice made up a number for the cost of Net Zero, which was opposed by the OBR, and claimed he would cut electricity bills by £1,000, despite the average bill being just £859.⁹
- **Reform want to nationalise the North Sea’s oil and gas industry.** Reform’s manifesto for the 2024 general election included a pledge to introduce a new public ownership model for ‘critical national infrastructure’ including 50 per cent public ownership.¹⁰

Q&A

Q: Net Zero U-turn?

The Conservative Party, under new leadership, is clear that Net Zero by 2050 is impossible without bankrupting Britain and driving up energy bills for families and businesses. That is why we are taking sensible, well thought through action to reduce energy bills by potentially hundreds of pounds to put more money in families pockets and support British industry to create a strong economy.

Q: Does this mean you’re abandoning all plans to reduce emissions?

We are unashamedly putting people’s finances and living standards first. The best way we will cut emissions is with more clean and reliable nuclear power, and by making electricity cheap so that people can buy electric cars and heating when it can save them money and make their lives better – not forcing them to do it just to meet a Government target. Britain accounts for just one per cent of global emissions. We alone cannot solve climate change, but Net Zero is making British peoples’ lives worse and making them poorer.

Q: Does this mean you are pulling out of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change?

The Paris Agreement does not need legally binding climate targets in domestic legislation. We will not pull out of the Paris Agreement, however it is clearly not working. It is not fair that Britain is one of the only countries which is compliant. We still believe there is a benefit to remaining party to the Agreement so that we can put our case forward about how best to address climate concerns.

Q: Run to the right?

We started a Net Zero reset in Government because we recognised we had to put cheap energy first – long before Reform was back on the scene. This is a return to common sense that puts our economy and energy security first. Parties like Reform and Labour want more state involvement in energy policy. Reform want to

⁶ DESNZ, *Consultation outcome*, 15 July 2025, [link](#).

⁷ *The Liberal Democrats*, 10 June 2024, [link](#).

⁸ *The Liberal Democrats*, 10 June 2024, [link](#).

⁹ *The Daily Mail*, 3 August 2025, [link](#).

¹⁰ Reform UK, *Manifesto 2024*, 17 June 2024, [link](#).

nationalise the North Sea, ban certain types of investment in the grid and their Deputy Leader makes up statistics about the cost of Net Zero because they do not do the hard work. Our policies are sensible and deliverable