



A green future fair for all

Labour's Green Manifesto

Summary: The choice

In this election Britain faces a fundamental environmental choice.

Under Labour this country is on the road to creating hundreds of thousands of new green jobs in a high-tech, low-carbon economy. We have embarked on a revolution in clean energy: by 2020 around 40 per cent of our electricity will come from low carbon sources.

We are committed to giving consumers a wider choice of energy supplier and to create statutory rights for consumers. We will help to protect the poorest and most vulnerable customers from the impact of price increases.

We will maintain our leadership in the EU to push for a greener Europe, and globally for a legally binding international climate agreement.

We are committed not just to protecting but to enhancing our precious landscapes and biodiversity. We will continue to direct new housing onto brownfield land. And we will maintain our proud record on improving animal welfare, including the ban on fox hunting.

All this would be put at risk by a Conservative Government. Although the Tories have tried to improve their environmental image, their policies would jeopardise our low carbon targets and our energy security, and a deep well of opposition to action on climate change has emerged in their party. The Liberal Democrats, too, are opposed to key elements of a low carbon future.

Labour is committed to work for a greener Britain and a greener world. In this manifesto we set out our vision and programme.

Our vision and values

Labour's green programme is driven by our vision and values.

Our vision is of a green economy - in Britain, and globally - which improves people's quality of life and lifts people out of poverty through the sustainable use and careful stewardship of natural resources. It is of a green society - in Britain, and globally - which values nature in all its ecological and cultural richness, and which enables everyone to enjoy its benefits.

The world faces a stark challenge. Avoiding the ravages of climate change and reversing the decline of biodiversity will require unprecedented commitment from nations across the globe. But we also know that this can be done: humankind has the technological and economic capability, and - with sufficient pressure from the people - governments have the power. Labour's commitment is to do all we can to make that happen, here and overseas.

That will take the active resources of government. Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved by individuals or businesses acting on their own. It needs the active intervention of governments to shape markets away from polluting and nature-destroying activities and towards sustainable ones. That is why Labour has adopted both a more interventionist energy policy, to ensure we have the clean energy that will reduce our emissions and guarantee security of supplies; and an active industrial policy, to ensure that Britain gains the benefits of the jobs and business opportunities that come from the new green economy.

But we also believe that this new green economy must be fair. Everyone has the right to a healthy environment, and environmental protection cannot be at the expense of the most vulnerable in society. That is why Labour's priority is to help pensioners and other low income households with their energy bills, and to ensure that Britain's countryside and green spaces are made accessible to all, not just a few.

And we believe in strong communities, not just individuals. We want to see communities take more control of their environments. That is we will give local councils stronger powers to promote energy efficiency and to generate their own local energy, and will give community organisations and social enterprises help to provide energy services, allotments and other activities.

Finally, we are internationalists. We know that only co-operative global action can tackle climate change and protect the world's precious environments at the same time as global poverty is eradicated. That is why we are committed to providing additional help to developing countries to tackle climate change, and why we have

taken a leadership role to make the European Union a driver of low carbon and sustainable policy.

Under Labour it has been widely acknowledged that Britain has made huge environmental progress in recent years. We are on the road to creating hundreds of thousands of new green jobs in a high-tech, low-carbon economy. We are now among the world leaders in key fields - such as offshore wind, clean coal and carbon capture and storage, electric vehicles and carbon trading. We have protected and made accessible to the people some of Britain's most precious natural areas. And our global leadership has helped drive progress both on climate change and on the protection of species and habitats.

We will maintain this record and build on it.

Labour's green programme

A Labour Government will:

1 Build a low carbon energy system

- Around 40 per cent low carbon electricity by 2020.
- 15 per cent renewable energy by 2020, including local heat and power.
- No new coal without carbon capture and storage (CCS) and four CCS plants.
- Drive up energy efficiency, including through a smart grid.
- Reform energy market to provide greater certainty for investors.

2 Drive down emissions from all forms of transport

- Cut transport emissions by 14 per cent by 2020.
- New high speed rail link and electrification of major routes.
- Support for buses, cycling and walking.
- A new 'national grid' of charging points for electric cars and help for consumers to buy them.
- Force down pollution from planes.

3. Create jobs in the green economy

- £2 billion Green Investment Bank for low carbon infrastructure.
- Support low carbon businesses through £4 billion UK Finance for Growth.
- Create 5,000 apprenticeships in low carbon sectors.
- Create Low Carbon Economic Areas to provide industrial support in every region.

4 Give consumers a fair deal

- Open up the energy market to new suppliers.
- Introduce a statutory code of consumer rights.
- Clearer energy bills including information on cheapest tariffs.
- Strengthen role of consumers in water pricing.

5 Make greener living easier for individuals and communities

- Insulate every loft and cavity wall where practical by 2015.
- Every home with a smart meter by 2020.
- All new homes zero carbon by 2016.
- Pay As You Save schemes for green energy measures at home.
- Street-by-street energy saving schemes through partnerships between energy companies and local councils.
- Allow local councils to generate electricity for local communities.
- Help community organisations, co-ops and social enterprises provide energy services.

6 Help those on low incomes with their energy bills

- At least £100 off energy bills for around one million older pensioners on low incomes.
- Post Office Bank for cheaper direct debit bills.
- Warm Home Standard for all social housing, with 100 per cent subsidies for insulation.
- Private landlords required to insulate rented homes.

7 Move towards a 'zero waste' society

- Ban recyclable and biodegradable waste from landfill.
- Drive introduction of 'on the go' recycling bins in public spaces.
- Continue reduction in single use plastic bags and packaging.
- Improve enforcement on litter and fly tipping.
- Continue move towards universal water metering in areas of water stress.
- Put pressure on Mayor of London and local councils to act on air pollution.

8 Protect and enhance valuable landscapes and biodiversity

- Comprehensive assessment of Britain's natural resources and White Paper on land and nature management.
- Maintain area of Green Belt.
- Maintain 60 per cent target for new homes on brownfield land.
- New protected areas of landscape and habitat, including green corridors and wildlife networks.
- Increase in forest and woodland area.
- Reform of Common Agricultural Policy to improve environmental management of farmland.
- New Marine Conservation Zones.

- New floods and water legislation.
- Help for communities to identify and use sites for allotments.

9 Improve animal welfare

- Maintain the ban on fox hunting.
- Ban wild animals in circuses and cages for game birds.
- Review wildlife crime legislation and enforcement.

10 Act as a leader for the environment in Europe and the world

- Push for 30 per cent cuts in EU emissions by 2020 as part of an ambitious global deal.
- Shift the EU budget towards low carbon infrastructure and technology.
- EU standards for biofuels to protect rainforests and food security.
- Push for an internationally legally-binding climate change agreement.
- Provide climate assistance to developing countries additional to 0.7 per cent aid commitment.
- Campaign internationally to protect threatened species and end to illegal trading in ivory.
- Ban illegally logged timber.

The policies

1 We will build a low carbon energy system

Labour's Climate Change Act made Britain the first country in the world to put its carbon targets into law. We will cut UK emissions by a third (34 per cent) by 2020 compared with 1990, and 80 per cent by 2050. Through our path-breaking 'UK Low Carbon Transition Plan' we have set out a comprehensive strategy for meeting our targets, with every government department given its own 'carbon budget'. If we succeed in getting the EU to strengthen its emissions reductions, the UK target will rise significantly above 34 per cent.

At the heart of our plan to achieve these reductions - while simultaneously reducing Britain's dependence on imported oil and gas and increasing our energy security - we have begun a revolution in Britain's energy system. **This will see around 40 per cent of our electricity coming from low carbon sources by 2020**, en route to an almost complete decarbonisation in the 2030s. Most of this will come from renewables, including wind, marine, solar and sustainable bio-energy. We already have more offshore wind-power than any other country in the world, and our plans could see this increase up to forty-fold. Alongside this **we are facilitating a new generation of nuclear power stations and** a world-leading programme of **four clean coal plants with carbon capture and storage technology. We have banned unabated coal fired power stations** - the only government in the world to have done so.

Including heat and transport, we are committed to **15 per cent of our energy in all coming from renewables by 2020**. This will include **a major expansion of 'decentralised energy' at the household and community level**, including district heating schemes. We will make a decision early in the next Parliament on the feasibility of alternative options for a tidal energy project on the Severn, taking full account of the environmental impacts.

And **at the heart of our approach is energy saving**, the cheapest and most effective energy source of all. Alongside the EU emissions trading scheme we have introduced a new carbon trading scheme for larger businesses, and an obligation on energy companies to provide energy saving measures for households. Over the next decade **we will drive the development of a 'smart grid'** using information technologies to allow a more dynamic balancing of supply and demand.

To ensure this investment in our energy system Labour has already reformed the planning system to reduce delays in considering applications for major infrastructure projects. Over the next year **we will reform our energy regulatory system to provide the certainty which investors need.**

2 We will drive down emissions from all forms of transport

Labour is committed to cutting emissions from UK transport by 14 per cent by 2020, as set out in our Low Carbon Transition Plan. We will do this through a combination of regulation to cut polluting emissions and investment in lower carbon modes.

At the heart of our transport strategy is a transformation of our rail network, encouraging people off planes and out of cars. This will include **a new, high-speed North-South link**, which will not only slash journey times but free up capacity on existing rail lines, enabling more rail freight, commuter and local services. A £35 billion investment package over the next five years will include a huge improvement in commuter services into and through London and the **electrification of new rail-lines** such as the Great Western Main Line from London to South Wales. We will encourage more people to switch to rail with an enforceable right to the cheapest fare, and **we will treble the number of secure cycle-storage places at rail stations.**

We will continue support for local bus services and for towns and cities adopting strategies to increase cycling and walking. We are investing £140 million in cycling provision and have introduced a Cycle to Work Guarantee, making it easier for people to cycle to work. Building on our successful Cycle Demonstration and Sustainable Travel Towns, which have seen a real shift towards walking, cycling and bus use, our new Urban Challenge Fund will provide finance for local authorities that establish ambitious sustainable travel plans with cycling, walking and public transport at their heart.

Having successfully pushed the EU into a major improvement in fuel efficiency standards for cars, we will continue our £400 million programme to accelerate the commercial development and availability of electric and low carbon vehicles. **We will offer incentives of up to £5,000 for consumers to buy electric cars, and will create a 'national grid' of charging points, with at least 100,000 by the end of the next Parliament.** We anticipate that by 2020 our policies will help lead to around half a million electric cars and plug-in hybrids on Britain's roads.

Subject to planning permission we will support a third runway at Heathrow airport, but only within the toughest environmental limits in the world, **requiring aviation**

emissions to be reduced to 2005 levels by 2050. We will not allow additional runways to proceed at any other airport in the next Parliament.

3 We will create jobs in the green economy

Labour's drive to green our economy will create a huge market for the manufacture and installation of low carbon and environmental technologies and their associated services. Labour's active industrial strategy - supported by almost half a billion pounds in support to low carbon businesses in 2009-11 - is ensuring that the jobs and business benefits of this market flow to Britain. Already this has helped to attract four of the world's major wind turbine manufacturers to locate in this country. Toyota and Nissan are building the first European hybrid and all-electric car and electric vehicle battery manufacturing plants here. Rolls Royce and Sheffield Forgemasters are opening new nuclear manufacturing facilities. And we are assisting some of Britain's most dynamic home-grown low carbon businesses - from nuclear engineering to cable manufacture, from marine energy technology to aerospace. We anticipate that **an additional 400,000 jobs in the environmental and low carbon sectors will be created by 2015**, taking the total figure to well over 1.2 million.

To take forward our active industrial strategy, in the next Parliament Labour **will create a Green Investment Bank**, using £1 billion of public capital derived from asset sales, with a matching £1 billion from the private sector, to help bring the required finance into offshore wind projects and other low carbon infrastructure. At the same time we will create a new investment institution, **UK Finance for Growth, which will bring together £4 billion of funding for equity investment**, and which among other sectors will help innovative and growing firms in low carbon technology and supply chain companies access the finance they need. **We will create 5,000 apprenticeships to help equip these sectors with the workforce skills they need.** And to ensure the benefits of the green economy spread to all parts of the country **we will ensure a Low Carbon Economic Area in every region**, clustering businesses, R&D centres and skills providers around advanced clean technologies.

4 We will give consumers a fair deal

Currently the 'big six' energy companies dominate 99 per cent of the retail energy market. We want to open up the market to new entrants, giving consumers greater choice. So if reform by the regulator, Ofgem, does not succeed, **we are prepared to legislate to ensure greater competition in energy supply.** We will consider measures such as limiting the ability of energy companies to generate electricity solely for themselves, and reducing the barriers to the changing of licence conditions.

At the same time **we will introduce a statutory code of consumer rights**. This **will include a requirement for clear and transparent bills, including information provided on every bill on the cheapest available tariffs**. Under the statutory code **the Ombudsman will have the power to force companies found guilty of breaches of the code, such as mis-selling, to compensate the consumer directly**. Having already strengthened Ofgem's economic and social responsibilities and powers to act on anti-competitive practices, as part of our review of energy market regulation we will examine whether Ofgem needs further reform.

We are determined to ensure water prices are fair and affordable too. So **we will review the role of the water regulator, Ofwat, to ensure customers are getting the best deal and their voice is heard when prices are being set**.

5 We will make greener living easier for individuals and communities

Everyone can play their part in reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment. Labour's aim is to make living a greener lifestyle easy and affordable for all. Since 2002 Labour policies have helped over seven million households fit energy saving measures and cut their energy bills. Our policy of requiring the energy companies to provide subsidies for insulation, including 100 per cent subsidies for pensioners and families on low incomes, is currently driving six million homes to be insulated between 2008 and 2012. **We will now ensure all household lofts and cavity walls are insulated, where practical, by 2015. By 2020 we will ensure that every home has a smart meter to help control energy use and enable cheaper tariffs; and we will enable seven million homes to have a fuller 'eco-upgrade', through a simple and easily accessible advice service. By 2016 all new homes will have to be zero carbon.**

We will legislate to introduce 'Pay As You Save' financing schemes under which measures can be paid for from the savings they generate on energy bills. Already, under our new 'feed-in tariffs' and forthcoming incentive for renewable heat, households fitting micro generation technologies such as solar can earn financial rewards from the energy they generate themselves.

We want to see communities taking charge of their own energy systems. So through Local Carbon Frameworks **we will give local councils a bigger role in promoting energy efficiency through street-by-street energy saving schemes in partnership with energy companies and through developing community energy systems such as renewables and district heating. This will include new powers to sell electricity themselves.**

At the same time we want local people to have a stake in local renewable energy projects such as windfarms. So **we will support community organisations, co-ops and social enterprises to provide energy services**, including lower prices through bulk purchasing, and the development of small-scale renewables.

6 We will help those on low incomes with their energy bills

Labour is determined to end fuel poverty and protect those on low incomes from upward pressure on energy bills. So using our new Energy Act we will require energy companies to provide discounted tariffs to vulnerable customers. **This will include around one million households with pensioners over 75 receiving the pension credit guarantee, taking at least £100 off their annual energy bill by 2013.** And **our Post Office Bank will create accounts that enable those on low incomes to take advantage of cheaper direct debit tariffs.**

At the same time we will continue to prioritise those on low incomes and social housing in the energy saving obligation we place on energy companies. **We will introduce a new Warm Home Standard for social housing, and offer 100 per cent subsidised energy efficiency measures to social tenants.** And **we will regulate landlords to ensure privately rented accommodation is properly insulated.**

7 We will move towards a 'zero waste' society

When Labour came to power only nine per cent of municipal waste was recycled or composted; now the figure is 37 per cent, on course to our target of 50 per cent by 2020. We have now set out our plans to move towards a 'zero waste' society **by banning recyclable and biodegradable materials from landfill.** Having made kerbside collection now near-universal, next **we will drive the introduction of 'recycling on the go', with separated public bins on the street and in shopping centres.**

By working with the retailers we have already cut the use of single-use plastic bags in half, greatly reducing unsightly litter as well as the waste of resources. **We will continue to work with suppliers to reduce plastic bag use and will reinforce regulations to reduce unnecessary packaging.**

And with local councils and the Environment Agency we will use Labour's 'cleaner neighbourhoods' legislation to clamp down on litter, flytipping and vandalism. Litter thrown from cars is a particular blight on our roads and country lanes: **we will make**

it possible to prosecute the registered keeper of a vehicle for litter thrown from it. And to help tackle the scourge of flytipping in the countryside we will bring in powers for the vehicles involved to be seized.

Water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in some parts of the country. To ensure its efficient use and fair pricing **we will continue to move towards universal water metering in areas of water stress.**

Thanks to European law and Labour's investment in preventing pollution, our air, rivers and beaches are now the cleanest they have been since the height of the industrial revolution. However, there are still a small number of areas where air quality, in particular, isn't good enough. **We will continue to work with the Environment Agency and local authorities to ensure progress, and will expect those with major responsibilities, such as the Mayor of London, to initiate the required action urgently.** We will work with councils to implement Noise Action Plans to reduce noise nuisance in local communities.

8 We will protect and enhance valuable landscapes and biodiversity

Britain's natural areas - our countryside, rivers, coastline, open spaces, parks and commons - are amongst the treasures of our nation. They create the distinctive character of the places we love. They give millions of people enjoyment, fresh air and beauty. And the riches of Britain's biodiversity - our native species, both rare and commonplace - depend on them.

Labour is committed not only to protecting but to enhancing our natural environment, and ensuring it can be enjoyed by as many people as possible. When we came to power we set a target that 60 per cent of all new development should be on brownfield land - and we have actually achieved 75 per cent. Alongside our targets for the density of housing this has contributed to the renaissance of many of our urban areas at the same time as keeping unnecessary development from the countryside. **We will maintain the 60 per cent brownfield and minimum density targets.**

Under the Labour Government **the area of Green Belt has increased - and we intend to sustain that over the next Parliament.** We have created two new National Parks, in the New Forest and South Downs. Our Countryside and Rights of Way Act gave public access to our mountains, moors, heaths and downs; and our landmark Marine and Coastal Areas Act last year extended this to the full length of the English coastline. Our environmental stewardship schemes for farmers have improved the environmental management of Britain's farmland; we have substantially slowed the decline in most of Britain's key 'indicator' species and seen some begin to recover. In the next Parliament we will negotiate reform of the EU

Common Agricultural Policy to continue the improved environmental management of farmland. And we will create new Marine Conservation Zones in our coastal waters.

But competing pressures are making the management of our land resources ever more challenging. We need our farmers to produce more food to increase our food security; and we also want an increase in the numbers of farmland birds and other wildlife, particularly those species still in decline. We need more housing to meet housing need, including in rural communities; and we also have to leave space where natural flooding can occur. We want to preserve our most beautiful landscapes and valuable habitats; yet climate change is altering them almost before our eyes.

Labour believes that we will need a new framework for managing our land and environment which can more effectively reconcile these pressures. So **we will commit to publishing within two years a comprehensive assessment of Britain's natural resources and the services which they provide for society, how they should be valued, and where they need to be enhanced.** And then following extensive consultation **we will publish a White Paper on the national policy, regional planning strategies and local authority action which should follow.** In particular, we will respond to the findings of the Lawton Review by **putting forward new areas for protected landscape and habitat status, focusing on green corridors and wildlife networks to link up existing sites.** And **we will commit to increasing the area covered by forest and woodland.** All this will represent a fundamental rethink of the way we manage and live sustainably within it.

Adapting to climate change will require changes in the way we manage not only our land, but our buildings, infrastructure and water. So our Climate Change Act requires major public bodies to implement adaptation plans. And we have doubled annual spending on flood defence over the last decade. The Flood and Water Management Act we have just passed, responding to the terrible floods of 2007, will provide better, more comprehensive management of flood risk, help safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in water charges, and protect supplies to the consumer. **We will bring forward further legislation to make sure our floods and water system is fit for purpose.**

The quality of life in our urban areas is greatly enhanced by trees, parks and open spaces and we will continue to encourage their protection in local plans.

We have especially championed the increasing desire of many people to grow their own food. We have encouraged local authorities to provide more allotments and got kids to learn about growing food in school. Now, working with community organisations, **we will set up a national community landbank to identify new plots for 'grow your own' schemes, allow gardeners to sell surplus produce to**

local markets and shops, and develop 'meanwhile leases' making it easier to access unused sites and those awaiting development.

9 We will improve animal welfare

Labour has a proud record on animal welfare. Over the past thirteen years we have not only banned fox hunting, but other cruel and unethical practices such as hare coursing, drift net fishing and fur farming. We have banned animal testing on cosmetics, alcohol and tobacco and set tougher penalties for crimes of cruelty against animals. Our 2006 Animal Welfare Act was the first major overhaul of animal welfare legislation for over a century.

In the next Parliament **we will ban cages for game birds and wild animals in circuses. We will continue the review of wildlife crime legislation, including the Hunting Act's code of practice, to give animals appropriate protection.**

10 We will act as a leader for the environment in Europe and the world

Labour has put Britain at the heart of the EU, and in the last few years we have been instrumental in getting the EU to sign up to a strong set of climate and energy policies. Now we want to go further - to create a Low Carbon Europe. Over the coming decade a key source of Europe's economic competitiveness can come from its global leadership in environmental technologies and innovation, using low carbon growth to create jobs and prosperity while emissions are dramatically reduced.

So in the next Parliament **we will use our leadership to push for a strengthening of Europe's 2020 emission reductions from 20 to 30 per cent by 2020 in the context of an ambitious global deal. We will negotiate for a shift in the EU budget towards low carbon and environmental technologies and infrastructure. We will seek European co-operation in the development of low carbon networks such as offshore grids. And having helped secure agreement on a strong 95g/km fuel efficiency standard for cars by 2020 we will seek to ensure that this is not weakened.**

The Labour Government was among the first to recognise the potential impacts of biofuel expansion on rainforests and food security. We believe that biofuels which are produced by cutting down virgin rainforests, causing a net increase in greenhouse gases and with often devastating impacts on biodiversity, and biofuels clearly displacing food production, should not be used to meet the EU's renewable

fuels target. So **we will press for the earliest possible introduction of rigorous EU sustainability standards for biofuels.**

Ever since playing a central part in the securing of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, the Labour Government has played a leadership role in securing international action on climate change. Building on the Copenhagen Accord we will continue to lead, **working for an ambitious, fair and legally binding climate change agreement that limits global temperature rises to no more than two degrees Celsius.**

As part of the international negotiations we believe Europe should agree to a second Kyoto commitment period, provided all countries are brought within a clear legal framework.

A legally binding agreement must include new and additional sources of finance to help developing countries adapt to climate change, to move onto lower carbon development paths and to tackle deforestation. We are already committed to spending £1.5 billion in this area between 2010 and 2012. After 2013, **Labour will ensure that part of our climate assistance to developing countries is additional to the commitment we have made to provide 0.7 per cent of our national income in overseas aid, while no more than 10 per cent of our aid will be counted towards climate finance.**

More widely, a Labour Government **will continue to campaign across the world to end illegal trading in ivory and to protect species such as polar bears, seals and bluefin tuna. We will campaign for an EU-wide ban on illegally logged timber and ban it domestically if this does not succeed.**

The risk

The Conservatives have tried to project a new green image over the last few years. David Cameron had himself photographed with huskies in the Arctic and cycling to work (followed by his chauffeur driven car). But as the green gloss has peeled off over recent months, it has revealed a Tory Party which hasn't actually changed at all.

In a recent survey of Tory election candidates, a majority ranked reducing Britain's carbon footprint as the lowest priority of 19 policies.¹ A number of senior Conservative MPs, Lords and MEPs have publicly stated their scepticism about the science of climate change and the need to tackle it. According to the editor of the Conservative Home website, '80 or 90 per cent of the Party' are not signed up to the green agenda. 'I'm confident the sceptics are going to win,' he told the Financial Times: Cameron has 'lost the battle already.'²

The risk to clean energy

The Tories would threaten our future energy security and the thousands of new jobs which the clean energy industry will create, through their widespread opposition to renewables.

When Shadow Business Secretary Ken Clarke recently said that the land "that we have left in Britain should not be used for wind turbines" he was expressing a widespread view in the party: David Cameron himself called offshore wind turbines "bird blenders" to a Conservative audience.⁽³⁾ Since Cameron became leader Conservative councils have refused more wind farm planning applications than they have consented to. This record stands in contrast to Labour councils, which in the same period gave permission to well over half the wind farm applications received.⁴

Key Conservative policies would put our carbon targets and energy security at risk. The Tories propose to get rid of the Renewables Obligation (RO), the UK's principal means of supporting renewable energy. This would hugely increase uncertainty for renewable investment: in response to this policy the leading industry body RenewableUK warned that it was "concerned that a Conservative government would abandon the Renewable Obligation (RO) support mechanism, given that it was instrumental in building up the UK's renewable energy generating capacity, while supporting a range of renewable technologies... and has encouraged the development of over 13GW of wind plant - enough to power close to 8 million households."⁵

At the same time the Tories are pledged to abandon Labour's planning reforms, thereby reintroducing delays in planning processes, and so making investment in low

carbon energy harder and more expensive. The CBI warned of this that “the prospect of [another] new planning regime being set up could prevent investment decisions being made”⁶, while a leading energy company noted that such delays could be “very, very damaging.”⁷

The Liberal Democrats would also abandon our planning reforms, with the same effect on clean energy investment. And they would oppose our programme of building new nuclear power stations - despite the fact that nuclear is already an important part of our energy mix. Without nuclear, alongside energy efficiency, renewables and clean coal, we cannot achieve the energy security and emissions cuts we need over the next two decades. So the Lib Dems too would endanger our energy security and climate change goals.

The risk to fairness

The Tories would abandon Labour’s active industrial strategy, believing the market should be left to itself. Just as Labour’s policies are bringing new green jobs to Britain, they have opposed and would get rid of the support we have provided. They promise to create a green investment bank - but with no new funding, just wrapping up existing funds - surely the world’s first bank without any money.

And the Tory manifesto offers no policies to support those on lower incomes with energy bills or energy consumers more generally.

The risk in Europe and the world

Internationally, the Conservatives’ decision to leave the mainstream centre-right group in the European Parliament would reduce their influence over EU policy. A substantial number of the Conservatives’ European group voted against a motion calling for the Copenhagen talks to agree an 80 per cent cut in emissions by 2050. Europe is central to tackling the climate and environmental challenges we face: the Tory stance would weaken UK leadership just when it is most needed.

The risk to the natural environment

The Tories have refused to support Labour’s target to build at least 60 per cent of new homes on brownfield land and our minimum density targets for new housing.

David Cameron has made it clear he intends to restore the barbaric practice of foxhunting, promising a government bill to repeal Labour’s ban.

Conclusion: the choice

These examples all show how a Conservative Government would put at risk not only the progress Labour has made in reducing emissions and protecting the environment at home, but the prospects of tackling climate change on a global scale. Only a Labour Government can create a greener Britain and help to forge a greener world.

References

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² 'Climate not priority for Tory candidates', *Financial Times*, 17 January 2010

³ *Financial Times*, 21 October 2009; *North Wales Pioneer*, 25 November 2005

⁴ <http://www.lgcplus.com/news/environment/tories-criticised-over-wind-farm-refusals/5004448.article>

⁵ RenewableUK, press release, 19 March 2010

⁶ Neil Bentley, director of business and environment at the CBI, *Financial Times*, 26 October 2009.

⁷ Vincent de Rivaz, CEO of EDF Energy, *Financial Times*, 26 October 2009.

