

MAKE BRITAIN A CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER

Restoring our natural environment

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Our Labour government was elected on the promise of change – to deliver a decade of national renewal and put the country back in the service of working people.

In the face of the toxic division being peddled by other parties, we need to work together to stand up for unity so we can continue delivering the change our country needs. Labour chooses renewal over grievance, and every day we are getting on with the job of turning our country around.

Already with Labour, NHS waiting lists are down by more than 330,000. Inflation is falling, and interest rates have been cut six times, meaning new mortgages are almost £1500 cheaper a year on average. This is because we made the tough but fair decisions to invest in public services, help people with the cost of living, and restore our public finances.

2026 is the year that Britain turns a corner and that people will start to feel that change. After years of decline and drift under the Tories, 2026 is the year renewal becomes real:

- ✔ Thousands more free breakfast clubs will open giving children a better start to the day and saving parents £450 a year;
- ✔ 3,000 more neighbourhood police officers are on our streets from March making our communities safer;
- ✔ Almost 120 community diagnostic centres will be open 7 days a week across the country by April – as we bring down waiting lists and fix our NHS for the future;
- ✔ New rights for renters and workers will deliver greater security for millions;
- ✔ And inflation, interest rates and mortgage costs are forecast to keep on falling helping to keep costs down .

Many of the policies that are going to make a real difference to people's lives this year came from the work of the National Policy Forum– so thank you.

This year, the National Policy Forum is continuing this important work, supporting our Labour Government and looking ahead to the next General Election. We look forward to hearing from you and invite you to get involved and play your part in our country's renewal.

Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party
Prime Minister



After two decades on the National Policy Forum, I am delighted to continue my work as NPF Chair as we enter the second year of the cycle. It is a privilege to lead the NPF as we shape the next stage of Labour's work in Government.



Since the Labour movement's historic General Election victory, this Government has delivered major action across all six missions.

We are tackling the cost of living and delivering major planning reforms to kickstart economic growth and build 1.5 million homes. We are speeding ahead with our mission to secure home-grown energy and deliver clean energy jobs. We are restoring neighbourhood policing and making communities safer. Our Child Poverty Strategy, including scrapping the two-child benefit limit, will lift around 550,000 children out of poverty and break down barriers to opportunity. We promised 2 million extra NHS appointments and delivered 5.2 million in our first year as part of our work to build an NHS fit for the future. Our VAWG Strategy will put into action our plan to halve violence against women and girls in a decade. The Employment Rights Act represents the biggest transformation of workers' rights in a generation, and we have reset our relationship with the EU.

Last year's consultation focused on 'Fixing the Foundations to Deliver Change', looking at how the Labour Government can deliver the milestones set out in the Plan for Change, on the path to delivering the decade of national renewal that we promised in the 2024 Manifesto.

This year, our focus moves firmly to the delivery of national renewal.

The 2026 consultation will look at some of the vital areas we must continue to focus on if we are to deliver Labour's decade of national renewal, making working people feel more secure.

This means bringing back pride in our communities, restoring our natural world, supporting young people to get on in life, bringing health services closer to people, securing our borders and restoring Britain as a respected partner in the world.

As Party members, supporters and stakeholders, your voice is imperative to this work. Your lived experience, expertise and insight help ensure a strong link between the Party in Government and the Party across the country.

I encourage you to take part in this consultation, submit your views individually or through your CLP or organisation, and join one of our online members' events to hear directly from Cabinet colleagues.

Together, our long-term work will get Britain back on track to deliver the change and national renewal we promised, as well as looking ahead to future challenges.

Ellie Reeves
NPF Chair and Solicitor General

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the previous cycle of the National Policy Forum (NPF). The new cycle of the NPF was launched in January 2025 following the 2024 General Election. We are now in the second year of the policy development cycle.

The NPF is made up of the following six policy commissions:

This year's consultation runs from 5 March to 11 June 2026.

The theme of this year's consultation is national renewal. Over the spring, each commission will consult on renewing Britain to support the Labour government in delivering the change we promised, while also looking ahead to future challenges. Through this consultation, commissions will consider evidence, review submissions, and develop policy recommendations as part of the ongoing policy development cycle.

Each commission has produced a set of questions to guide discussions, as well as details on the policy context, and some steps Labour has already taken to deliver on our promise of change and get Britain back on track.

You don't need to answer every one of the questions in the document, nor answer them in a specific way. These questions are intended as a guide to stimulate discussions on what you think the main issues are in each policy area.

We welcome submissions from members of the public, Constituency and Branch Labour Parties, affiliated trade unions and socialist societies, as well as contributions from expert organisations such as think tanks, businesses and civil society.

Please submit your responses on our website here:

<https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk/>

This website also provides further information about this year's consultation and other ways to get involved, including our programme of members' events coming soon.

Finally, we recommend looking at our FAQs here

<https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk/about/> and we will be sending a 'How to guide' out to roleholders if you have any questions.

Thank you again for getting involved with the NPF. It is through our collective work that we will deliver a decade of national renewal for working people.

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1. How can we restore Britain's natural environment?
2. What steps can the Labour Government take to improve access to nature and green spaces while delivering on the Plan for Change?
3. What further measures are needed to ensure water companies are held accountable?
4. How does the restoration of nature support families and businesses with the cost of living during the transition to clean energy?
5. What additional steps can be taken by the Labour Government to build on the work already done in reducing carbon emissions, supporting the clean energy economy, securing Britain's energy independence and delivering green jobs across the country?
6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women, (b) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people and (e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

The Clean Energy Policy Commission covers policy areas that fall under the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Commission supports the 'Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower' Mission, a key plank of the Labour Government's Plan for Change.

Families and businesses were left high and dry by successive Conservative Governments, whose failure to invest in our nation's energy infrastructure and failure to secure home-grown energy added billions of pounds to energy bills over the last decade.

That's why the Labour Government's Clean Energy Mission is so important. It is helping to deliver national renewal through lower cost, home-grown, clean energy – protecting billpayers, creating good jobs across the country and putting the UK on track to at least 95% clean power by 2030.

During last year's policy cycle, the Clean Energy Policy Commission looked at how the Labour Government was fixing the foundations to secure home-grown energy. This included the action taken by Labour to invest in clean energy, launch Great British Energy, lift the de-facto ban on onshore wind, help drive down energy bills and build domestic energy resilience.

The Commission consulted on the importance of securing a diverse domestic energy mix in order to meet our country's climate obligations, including wind, solar, new nuclear and hydroelectric. This sits alongside the Government's commitment to a strategic reserve of gas-fired power stations.

The Commission also took evidence on how the Labour Government can deliver a just transition to net zero and we heard how turning back the clock on clean power, as suggested by the Conservatives and Reform UK, would lead to higher energy bills and the loss of almost a million jobs across the country.

Over the course of this year's consultation, our Commission will build on this work and look more forensically at how the Labour Government can address the key environmental and energy challenges facing Britain today, while boosting living standards, tackling the cost of living and supporting economic growth.

Crucially, that means examining how Labour can restore our natural world, improve access to nature and green spaces, cut pollution, deliver more green jobs, support families with their energy costs and clean up our nation's rivers, lakes and seas.

While families were left exposed to soaring bills under the Conservatives, the Labour Government is protecting billpayers: expanding the Warm Home Discount so six million households saw £150 cut from their energy bills, upgrading millions of homes to make them warmer and cheaper to run, and taking decisive action to bring the energy price cap down by £117.

Through the Plan for Change, Labour is also putting Britain's natural environment on the road to recovery. After years of Conservative neglect, the Labour Government is taking the action that's needed to create a better future for England's habitats, waterways, green spaces and clean air – so everyone has the chance to benefit from nature.

Labour's ambitious Environmental Improvement Plan sets out how the Government will restore or create a quarter of a million hectares of wildlife-rich habitats by 2030, backed by £500 million of funding for landscape recovery. Labour is already planting trees at the highest rate in over 20 years and investing over a billion pounds in tree planting this Parliament. The Government has also announced the creation of three new national forests, delivering on Labour's manifesto commitment.

Labour will improve access to nature with a Green Paper to be published during this Parliament, and the Government will cut waste by ensuring that local authorities invest in recycling and crack down on fly-tipping.

This follows the action already taken by Labour to lower energy bills, secure home-grown energy and improve our natural environment: launching Great British Energy, securing a record-breaking number of new clean energy projects, and approving more solar in the first year of government than the previous Government managed in 14 years. Labour has consented enough wind and solar to power the equivalent of 8.5 million homes.

In addition, the Labour Government has overturned the ban on new onshore wind in England, committed to build Sizewell C and confirmed that Wylfa in North Wales will host first of a kind Small Modular Reactors as part of a 'golden age' of nuclear energy.

Labour inherited a broken water system, with record levels of sewage being pumped into our waterways, bosses being paid millions in bonuses, and families being left with massive bill hikes. But, already, the Government has taken huge steps towards restoring public trust and cleaning up the nation's rivers, lakes and seas.

The Labour Government has put in place the most ambitious target on water pollution in history – to halve sewage pollution by 2030. And the landmark Water (Special Measures) Act is ushering in a new era of accountability. These tough new laws mean the Government can block unfair bonuses and polluting water bosses now face up to two years in prison.

Labour has also launched the largest criminal action against sewage dumping in history, with a record number of criminal investigations launched. We are rebuilding the water network to slash pollution levels, with over £104 billion of private investment being spent to upgrade crumbling pipes.

This comes alongside root and branch reform so that the water sector works for the British people: a new single water regulator with tough new powers, abolishing Ofwat, giving the Environment Agency teeth and bringing together the functions of four different regulators into one. Already, the number of bathing sites meeting standards for swimming has improved with Labour.

Every family and business in Britain has paid the price for Conservative failures on energy and on the environment.

Families have faced the worst cost of living crisis in generations because of Britain's exposure to international fossil fuel markets, while the Conservatives' failure to invest in clean energy resulted in a legacy of high energy bills, energy insecurity and a lack of clean energy jobs.

On the Conservatives' watch, weakly-regulated water companies were effectively allowed to mark their own homework while the amount of illegal sewage dumped in our rivers, lakes and seas soared to record levels – and families faced ever-higher bills.

Through the Plan for Change and the 'Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower' Mission, the Labour Government is taking back control of Britain's energy system and restoring the environment – delivering energy security, supporting economic growth and creating good jobs across the country.

Thanks to the policy certainty and ambition provided by the Labour Government, the clean energy economy is booming, with tens of billions of pounds of private investment in clean energy announced since Labour came to office.

The Labour Government has announced a £15 billion Warm Homes Plan, the biggest ever investment in home upgrades, to create jobs, slash energy costs and lift up to a million people out of fuel poverty.

Labour's Clean Energy Jobs Plan will deliver over 400,000 new jobs in clean energy industries between now and 2030 – meaning a generation of young people across the UK will benefit from good jobs at decent wages with strong rights at work.

The Clean Energy Jobs Plan also calls time on the historic decline in union membership in the energy sector, detailing how trade unions must be an essential part of the new jobs that the Government is creating.

Reform would put this progress at risk. They want to abolish DESNZ entirely and repeal the Climate Change Act; their plans for the water industry are unfunded and their opposition to vital energy infrastructure could see energy bills soar by £850 and thousands of miles of countryside dug up.

Along with the Conservatives, Reform would wage an ideological war on clean energy. As well as undermining Britain's energy independence, that would mean putting at risk almost a million good jobs in thriving clean energy industries across the country.

In contrast, Labour's clean energy superpower mission is securing home-grown energy, supporting economic growth, creating jobs and helping to protect the British people now and for generations to come.

