



Renewables
Consulting
Group

Insight

#GE2017: Manifesto update

*Renewable Energy and
Climate Change – the
Forgotten Issues?*

Classification	Public
Document number	170530 – Manifesto Insight
Prepared for	General Release
Date	2017-05-30
Revision	V2.1

This document is for general release

Lee Clarke
Director

+44 7738 948275
lee.clarke@renewablescg.com

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	4
LABOUR PARTY	7
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	10
SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY	13
PLAID CYMRU – THE PARTY OF WALES	16
GREEN PARTY	18
UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY	20

The research contained in this report is based on current public information that RCG considers reliable, but we do not represent it as accurate or complete or timely, and it should not be relied on as such. RCG is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of this information. The information contained in the report, including estimates and forecasts, are subject to change without prior notification.

INTRODUCTION

Britain heads to the polls on 8th June, in a snap general election dominated by Brexit and punctuated by the Manchester bombing atrocity. All other issues seem to be subsidiary; climate change and energy policy barely get a mention in campaigning.

The Renewables Consulting Group has been following the major parties' policies on renewable energy and climate change.

This white paper provides a summary of their key manifesto pledges on climate change, energy policy in general, and renewable energy in particular.

The review covers manifestos that have been published by the main parties up to 30th May.

We will continue to provide updates and analysis as additional information is made available by the parties.



CONSERVATIVE PARTY

The Prime Minister, Theresa May, launched her Party's election manifesto in Halifax, on 18th May ¹. The manifesto's key message is economic competence and stability through the Brexit negotiations. The Conservatives say that "sound money and responsible public finances are the essential foundations of national economic success" and they would continue with the fiscal rules already announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond.



The Conservative manifesto is 16 pages long and covers key priorities for the next Parliament.

The Conservatives say that they have called the snap national poll to secure "strong and stable leadership" to strengthen the government's negotiating position on Brexit and avoid an election at the very point Britain exits the European Union (EU). The Party is buoyant after conclusive victories in recent local elections and early polling pointed to a landslide in the forthcoming general election, though there has been some narrowing. Many commentators believe it was an opportunistic move to strike whilst the opposition is weak.

Specific manifestos have been published for the party in Scotland (launched 19th May) ² and Wales (launched 22nd May) ³ which although very similar, do contain small points of difference, even on energy policy.

Climate change

The Conservatives plan to position Britain to play an active role in global affairs post-Brexit. They pledge to continue to take a lead in global action against climate change, a commitment which they say the government has demonstrated by ratifying the Paris Agreement. They note that Britain was the first country to introduce a Climate Change Act and that the nation is halfway towards meeting its 2050 goal of reducing emissions by 80 per cent from 1990 levels.

¹ <https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

² http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/GE2017_Manifesto_A5_Scottish_DIGITAL.pdf

³ <https://www.welshconservatives.com/manifesto>

“*...mainstream government that would deliver for mainstream Britain.*

Theresa May, manifesto launch

Energy policy

The Conservatives want to see a diverse range of sources for Britain's energy production. They believe that energy policy should be focused on outcomes, rather than how the objectives are met. This translates to a move away from specific generation targets once Britain has left the EU, whilst still meeting global commitments on climate change.

The Conservatives pledge competitive and affordable energy costs. They plan a new independent review into the cost of energy. The terms of reference would be to make recommendations as to how Britain's energy costs can be kept as low as possible, whilst ensuring a reliable supply and allowing the country to meet its 2050 carbon reduction objectives. The Welsh version of the manifesto mentions efforts to compensate energy intensive manufacturers such as steel for the costs of renewables and climate change policy.

It is recognised that the oil and gas sector is transforming. The Conservatives say they will ensure that the North Sea sector continues to play a critical role in the economy and domestic energy supply, supporting further investment in the UK's natural resources. They aim to also support the development of a world-leading decommissioning industry.

The Conservatives are in favour of the extraction of shale gas because it can assist security of energy supplies and reduce carbon emissions by substituting for coal. Recognising public concerns, they plan to set up a new Shale Environmental Regulator, which will assume the relevant functions of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Environment Agency and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). They also pledge to divert a greater percentage of the tax revenues from shale gas directly to benefit the communities that host the extraction sites.

There are no specific policies announced on the coal industry, but the government has already announced plans to phase out coal-fired generation by 2025. The government has supported the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant project. However, there are no explicit policy statements concerning additional new nuclear power plants.

Renewable Energy

The Conservatives have developed a policy of “getting the right [power] generation in the right place”. They do not believe that more large-scale onshore wind power is right for England or Scotland (no specific mention is made in the Welsh manifesto). However, they support the development of wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland, where they will directly benefit local communities.

They pledge to maintain Britain's position as a global leader in offshore wind.

There is no specific mention of support for tidal lagoon power, but cryptically there is a promise to invest in improved infrastructure in Wales and "explore ways to harness Welsh natural resources for the generation of power".

Infrastructure

The Conservatives promise to act to protect critical national infrastructure. They propose greater scrutiny of foreign ownership of companies controlling important infrastructure in order to protect security and essential services. Civil nuclear power and energy are highlighted for a "robust approach".

The Conservatives plan to step up programmes to support businesses developing new technologies, such as smart grids that will make the most efficient use of Britain's electricity infrastructure.

LABOUR PARTY

Jeremy Corbyn launched the Labour Party's "radical, responsible" general election manifesto in Bradford on Tuesday, 16th May. Britain's Labour Party has made a decisive move to the left, promising renationalisation, increases in public spending, measures to redistribute wealth, and other measures to roll-back the Conservative government's policies. Labour's pitch is strongly anti-establishment, aiming to appeal to the party's traditional working-class voters.



The 128-page manifesto document is not short on detail, with comprehensive policies presented across the full range of political topics ⁴. Manifestos for Scotland⁵ and Wales⁶ were published by the local parties on 22nd May and launched by Kezia Dugdale in Scotland and Carwyn Jones in Wales. Both are very similar to the UK party manifesto, but provide some additional detail.

Critics claim the manifesto turns the clock back to the 1980s, a period when Labour was considered unelectable, and question how it would pay for spending commitments worth almost £50bn. Labour has detailed hikes in corporation tax, higher income tax for top earners and various new levies. As well as tax raises, the manifesto proposes to borrow £250bn for a new national investment bank to finance infrastructure projects.

Climate change

Labour says it will "put us back on track" to meet the targets in the Climate Change Act and the Paris Agreement. It plans to "reclaim" Britain's leading role in tackling climate change, delivering on international commitments to reduce emissions while mitigating the impacts of climate change on developing countries.

Labour has set a goal of delivering 60 per cent of Britain's energy from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030.

⁴ <http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/manifesto2017>

⁵ <http://www.scottishlabour.org.uk/campaigns/entry/Manifesto-2017>

⁶ http://www.welshlabour.wales/manifesto_manifesto

Energy policy

Labour's energy policy highlights three key principles:

- security of energy supply – “keep the lights on”;
- affordability - keep energy costs affordable for consumers and businesses; and
- climate change – meet targets and transition to a low-carbon economy.

“ *Investing in our environment is investing in our future. We will defend and extend existing environmental protections.*

Labour manifesto

Labour claims the energy system is outdated, expensive and polluting, and that privatisation has failed to deliver. It proposes to address this by introducing price caps and taking energy back into public ownership. Labour would regain control of energy supply networks through the alteration of license conditions. It would legislate 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. Critics worry that industries under state control would be less productive and that investment would stagnate.

Labour says it will ban fracking because allowing the technology to progress would lock Britain into fossil fuels for the period beyond 2030, when gas consumption must drop sharply to hit climate change targets. However, to safeguard the offshore oil and gas industry, Labour promises to provide a strategy focused on protecting North Sea assets and the related jobs and skills. Labour favours the development of carbon capture and storage whilst the country transitions to cleaner fuels.

On nuclear energy, Labour will continue to support further nuclear projects to protect nuclear workers' jobs. It believes there are considerable opportunities, both domestically and internationally, for nuclear power development and decommissioning. The Welsh manifesto pledges UK Labour support for the Wylfa Newydd nuclear project, which it says is important for the Anglesey and wider North Wales economy.

As part of the Brexit negotiations, Labour will prioritise maintaining access to the internal energy market. It will also retain access to the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom), to allow continued trade of fissile material, with access and collaboration over research for the nuclear industry.

Renewable Energy

Labour says it is committed to renewable energy projects, which it says can help create manufacturing and energy jobs as well as contributing to meeting climate change commitments. It specifically mentions support for tidal lagoon schemes.

Welsh Labour goes further, saying it will work with partners to take advantage of the opportunities opened up by a “Swansea pathfinder project”, with the potential to support manufacturing and supply chains in Wales as well as contributing to climate change commitments.

Welsh Labour says it supports and promotes renewable energy generation as part of its approach to reducing reliance on energy from fossil fuels. It says the devolved Welsh Labour government will set targets on renewables, including community energy, this summer.

Infrastructure

Labour is proposing sweeping changes to Britain’s infrastructure. It plans to create a National Transformation Fund that will invest £250 billion over ten years. Labour plans to use part of the fund to invest in energy systems, including state of-the-art low-carbon gas and renewable electricity production. Bringing grid infrastructure into public ownership might cost a future government £50bn – £60bn just for National Grid (which runs the nation’s high voltage electricity grid and gas transmission networks). The level of investment in new projects is not specified.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Tim Farron launched the Lib Dems election manifesto on 17th May in East London, putting a pledge to hold a fresh referendum on Brexit at the heart of the campaign. He has positioned the party on the left, with significant increases in spending, most notably on health and social care, funded by tax increases and increased borrowing.



The Liberal Democrat manifesto runs to 16-pages and focusses heavily on the Party's response to Brexit ⁷. Coverage of other policies, including energy and the environment is reasonably comprehensive.

The Liberal Democrats were almost wiped off the electoral map in the 2015 election, losing all but eight of its 56 seats in parliament. Critics question the relevance of the party's programme, given the modest number of seats it is likely to gain and the fact that they have ruled out a coalition with either the Conservatives or Labour. Unusually, Tim Farron has conceded that the Conservatives are likely to win the general election and that the purpose of the Liberal Democrat campaign is to assemble an opposition to ensure that the next government is not in a position where "they can do what they like unchecked".

The Lib Dems would put the protection of the environment at the heart of policies across all areas of government. To achieve this they would establish a Cabinet Committee on Sustainability and establish an Office for Environmental Responsibility to scrutinise the government's efforts to meet its environmental targets. They would require government agencies to account for meeting climate change targets.

Climate change

The Lib Dems will "champion" the rules-based international order and multilateral action to address the global problems, including climate change. They would continue to strongly support the Paris agreement by ensuring that Britain meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change. They want to pass a Zero-Carbon Britain Act to set new legally binding targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2040 and to zero by 2050.

⁷ <http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>

“ *We have a duty to future generations to protect our environment and tackle climate change.* ”

Liberal Democrat manifesto

Energy Policy

The Lib Dems policy is to expand renewable energy - reducing carbon emissions, cutting dependence on fossil fuel imports and generating more jobs and prosperity.

They pledge the provision of assistance to areas heavily dependent on fossil fuel industries, such as the north-east of Scotland (North Sea oil and gas), so that they can diversify away from these industries. They also support an ambitious carbon capture and storage programme, which they say is essential for delivering clean industrial growth.

The Lib Dems say that they oppose fracking because of its adverse impact on climate change, the energy mix, and the local environment.

They say that they accept that new nuclear power stations could play a role in electricity supply, provided concerns about safety, disposal of waste and cost are adequately addressed, and new technology is incorporated. They do not favour public subsidy for new build projects. The Lib Dems would maintain membership of Euratom, to ensure continued nuclear co-operation, research funding, and access to nuclear fuels.

The Lib Dems would build on the Coalition's industrial strategy, creating more "catapult" innovation and technology centres and backing private investment, in particular in green innovation.

Renewables

The Lib Dems want to expand renewable energy, aiming to generate 60 per cent 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.

The Lib Dems also pledge support for investment in cutting-edge technologies including energy storage, smart grid technology, hydrogen technologies, offshore wind, and tidal power, and investing heavily in research and development. They specifically state that they would give the immediate go-ahead for the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon project.

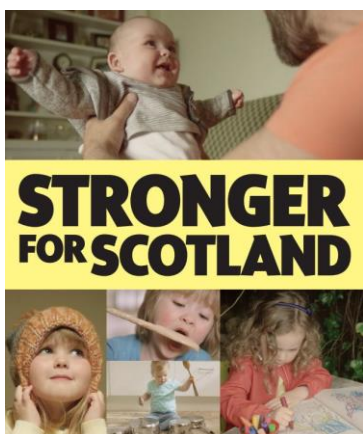
In addition to energy efficiency measures, the Lib Dems would encourage small-scale, community and local-authority renewable schemes.

Infrastructure

The Lib Dems would boost the economy with a major programme of capital investment aimed at stimulating growth across all areas of Britain. They commit to a “responsible and realistic” £100bn package of additional infrastructure investment. This would in part be used to provide additional funding to bring more private investment into renewable energy.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

The Scottish National Party (SNP) is Scotland's largest political party and the party of Government in the Scottish Parliament. It was stunningly successful in the 2015 UK-wide general election. Only a year after losing the referendum on Scottish independence, the party bounced back and almost swept the board in Scotland, taking 56 of the 59 Scottish parliamentary seats. The SNP's vision is for Scotland to become an independent country, and a key priority is a second referendum on Scottish independence. The party describes itself as centre left and its leader, Nicola Sturgeon, says that the SNP would try to form an alliance to pursue "progressive policies" if the general election results in a hung Parliament.



The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, has devolved powers over education, local government, health and social work, housing, justice, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Holyrood also has significant powers over setting or varying tax rates. Control over some social security benefits is also being transferred to the Scottish parliament. The UK government retains powers over defence, economic and monetary policy, the constitution, employment, foreign policy, immigration, and trade and industry.

The SNP launched its 48-page general election manifesto in Perth on 30th May, somewhat after the other main parties. It included plans to invest an additional £118bn in public services across the Britain ⁸.

Climate change

The devolved SNP-led Scottish government has set ambitious targets to achieve a 42 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The SNP has published a draft Climate Change Plan for Scotland which sets out "tough" new carbon reduction targets. It will use its Westminster MPs to press the UK government to match Scotland's commitments.

The SNP supports multi-lateral action to tackle global challenges like climate change. It wants to see Scotland working closely with EU countries to deliver the benefits of climate action together. The SNP sees Brexit as a threat, potentially used by the UK government to weaken commitments to tackle climate change or to undermine the EU's efforts to fight climate change and protect the environment.

⁸ <https://www.snp.org/manifesto>

Energy Policy

The SNP has called for the UK government to provide a serious package of support for the oil and gas industry in Scotland. In particular, it has argued for action to reduce costs and increase production in fields nearing decommissioning. The SNP also wants the UK government to introduce measures to support oil and gas exploration to ensure that the potential of the North Sea is realised, which it estimates at 20 billion barrels. It suggests targeted incentives to develop small pool discoveries, as well as further support to stimulate exploration activity and loan guarantees for critical infrastructure. The party is demanding fresh support for Scotland's oil and gas sector as part of a broader industrial strategy.

The SNP Scottish government has welcomed the opening of new gas fields, supporting the North Sea industry and Shetland, where the gas is processed.

The SNP will also urge the UK government to provide incentives for oil and gas companies diversifying into renewables.

The SNP supports carbon capture and storage (CCS) and wants Scotland to become a leader in the technology. It believes that CCS will help fight climate change whilst protecting the oil and gas sector.

The manifesto notes that the Scottish government has blocked underground coal gasification and a moratorium means fracking cannot take place in Scotland.

The SNP believes that the UK's electricity transmission charging regime is punitive, disadvantaging renewable and conventional energy generators in Scotland. It is calling for an overhaul of the system.

The party is opposed to the Hinkley Point C nuclear plant, which it sees as an £18bn "white elephant" that will result in "huge costs" for taxpayers and consumers. It says it will hold the UK government to account over its support for the project.

The SNP wishes to protect Scotland's position in Europe's energy markets and funding programmes. It singles out ensuring continued funding and cooperation with the EU for Scotland's renewable energy sector as a priority. The party notes that the EU is set to establish a €320m investment fund to support wave and tidal power, in which it says Scotland is a world leader.

Renewable Energy

The SNP believes that Scotland's renewables sector is at the cutting edge of low-carbon technology development. Scotland has exceeded its target to produce 50 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2015. The manifesto

“Renewable energy is a Scottish success story. We are determined to build on that success. We will ... continue to champion low cost renewable energy.

SNP manifesto

notes that “with the support of the SNP Scottish Government”, the low carbon and renewables sector in Scotland supported 58,500 jobs in 2015 – up by a third since 2014.

Scotland has a wealth of onshore and offshore renewable energy potential which the SNP believes, if unlocked, can support jobs and economic growth. In their view the UK government has put in place ideologically-driven cuts to support for renewables. The SNP will press the Westminster government to include onshore wind, the lowest cost renewable energy technology, in its industrial strategy. It will also demand an increased focus on offshore wind, tidal energy and wave power.

The SNP supports the development of wind and other renewable energy projects in the Northern and Western Isles. It is pressing for a clear timescale for the delivery of the electricity interconnectors to the islands.

The SNP pledges to ensure that island and mainland communities benefit financially from renewable energy projects.

The party wants to support investment in new energy storage schemes, including pumped hydro and batteries, by establishing a favourable regulatory environment. The SNP says this will allow Scotland to maximise the benefits of its “outstanding resources” and build a modern energy system.

Infrastructure

The manifesto notes that the SNP government in Scotland has prioritised investment in infrastructure, which it says will “improve public services, enhance connectivity, create jobs and grow our economy”. There are few commitments to direct investment in energy infrastructure.

The SNP believes that Scotland is uniquely well placed to capitalise on the opportunities presented by onshore oil and gas sector decommissioning work. It wants to ensure Scotland is home to Britain’s first ultra-deep water decommissioning port and associated facilities.

PLAID CYMRU – THE PARTY OF WALES

Leanne Wood, leader of Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales, launched the party’s manifesto on 16th May. It is unashamedly promoting an independent voice for Wales. There is a big Brexit focus in the document, which proposes to fight for the best possible Brexit deal for Wales’ industry and agriculture. The policies are left-leaning, pro-European and, not surprisingly, pro-Wales.



The 52-page document is presented in an abbreviated so-called “Action Plan” form ⁹. There is mention of greater capital investment and improved transport links, greater devolved powers in areas including benefits and taxation, scrapping the Trident nuclear submarine programme, and a green energy programme. However, the manifesto is rather light on detail around energy policy. The focus is on jobs, tourism, farming, and public service spending.

Climate Change

Plaid Cymru claims that the British government is neglecting its international duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it sees this threat will become greater as Britain leaves the EU.

Plaid Cymru's answer is to introduce a new Climate Change Act, adopting ambitious but, it says, achievable greenhouse gas and pollution reduction targets for 2030 and 2050.

Energy policy

There is a strong commitment to energy efficiency in the Plaid Cymru manifesto, with plans to roll out a nationwide scheme to make the housing stock more energy efficient.

Post-Brexit, there is a commitment to build upon the standards set by the EU which Plaid Cymru says have protected the environment.

There is no mention of coal-fired power generation, fracking, or nuclear power in the manifesto.

⁹ <http://www2.partyof.wales/actionplan17>

“ *Our environment is being eroded whilst our natural resources are being used for the benefit of others.*

Plaid Cymru manifesto

Renewables

Plaid Cymru says Wales is far too reliant on fossil fuels. It pledges to increase energy generation from renewables, including delivering tidal lagoons in Swansea Bay, Cardiff and Colwyn Bay. It says that Wales can be self-sufficient in electricity from renewables and “powering ahead” with world-leading tidal energy technology.

Plaid Cymru wishes to transfer responsibility over Welsh energy generation and natural resources to the National Assembly of Wales.

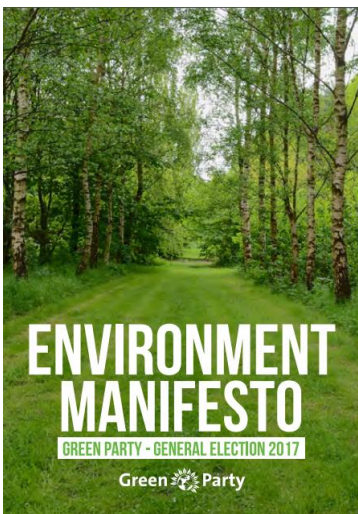
Plaid Cymru plans to create a Welsh energy company, to use profit from Welsh resources to cut the cost of energy for Welsh consumers and shifting to decentralised and distributed networks.

Infrastructure

Within its commitment to rural Wales, Plaid Cymru singles out the blighting of the natural landscape with unnecessary and unwanted pylons. It will oppose the construction and use of pylons through National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, advocating underground or undersea cabling where possible.

GREEN PARTY

The Green Party is looking to build on its success in getting an MP elected to Parliament - Caroline Lucas for the Brighton Pavilion constituency. Not surprisingly for a party that began as the Ecology Party, it put environmental issues at the heart of their policies. But it also has a range of “progressive” left wing policies. The Green Party favours a second referendum on the details of any Brexit deal.



The Green Party promise to prioritise urgent measures to tackle climate change, “replacing fracking, coal power and subsidies to fossil fuels, with investment in jobs-rich renewable energy technology”. It plans a Green Industrial Strategy.

The Green Party has issued a series of topic-specific manifestos. Caroline Lucas launched the party’s Environment Manifesto in London on 11th May 2017. This announces how the Green Party would put the environment at the heart of its politics ¹⁰. The Green Party’s co-leaders Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley launched the party’s full 26-page manifesto document (entitled “Confident and Caring Britain”) in London on 22nd May, setting out the key policy priorities ¹¹.

The Green Party will push for a new Act of Parliament to protect important EU regulations, and enshrine long-term goals for the environment into law. It is calling for the creation of a new Office for Environmental Protection and an Environmental Court that would monitor and enforce new long-term goals for biodiversity, water and air quality.

The Green Party is also seeking a “Green Guarantee” in Brexit negotiations and trade deals to ensure that all EU-derived legislation is maintained and strengthened, including the precautionary and polluter-pays principles.

Climate change

The Green Party believes that even if we cut global emissions to zero today, the effects of climate change will be felt for generations and it would invest in a climate-proof future – for example, by building flood defences and investing in natural flood management.

The Green Party would join with other countries fighting for “climate justice” and push for concerted global action to limit warming to 1.5 °C.

¹⁰ <https://greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/green-party-environment-manifesto.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/gp2017/greenguaranteepdf.pdf>

“ *...the need for bold and dynamic action on climate change has never been more urgent.*

Green Party manifesto

Energy Policy

The Green Party claims that Britain’s energy system is “broken” - fuelled by “dirty energy that belongs in the past”. It would harness the “dramatically falling costs of renewable energy”.

It pledges to create a new Green Investment and Innovation Centre with borrowing powers to finance the transition to a zero-carbon economy, creating a government owned hub for innovation and investment in a low-carbon economy.

The Green Party takes a strong line on fossil fuels, arguing to keep them “where they belong: in the ground”. It would introduce a ban on fracking, phase-out the “£6bn-a-year fossil fuel subsidies”, bring forward the coal phase-out date to 2023 (at the latest), divest public funds from the fossil fuel industry, and make transitional arrangements for communities dependent on fossil fuel jobs.

The Green Party would scrap plans for all new nuclear power stations, including Hinkley Point C.

The Green Party would require grid operators to give priority access to community energy projects and favour municipal heating projects for towns and cities. The Green Party also has comprehensive plans to decarbonise heat, including pilot residential and commercial projects.

It would help fund investment in energy projects through tax reliefs for smaller-scale projects, introducing Green ISAs, and issuing government-backed Green Bonds.

Renewable Energy

The Green Party says it would “breathe life back” into the Climate Change Act by investing in the energy system, ensuring that all new investment in energy is directed towards clean, renewable energy, and a smarter, networked grid, with battery-storage, demand-side measures, and interconnection.

It would end the effective ban on onshore wind, which it sees as the cheapest form of new electricity generation, and introduce new support for onshore wind and solar-photovoltaics. It would scale up investment in offshore wind and marine renewables.

UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY

The UK Independence Party (UKIP), postponed a plan to launch its election manifesto on 24th May due to the Manchester bombing atrocity. The party decided to publish its policy document on Thursday instead. After successfully campaigning for Britain to leave the European Union, UKIP will be hoping to convince voters that it is still relevant.



At the 2015 general election, UKIP received nearly 13 per cent of the vote but picked up only a single parliamentary seat. Recent local election results suggest a collapse in support. Nevertheless, the party's strand of populist right-wing policies beyond Brexit, including restricting immigration, enhanced law and order, and a smaller role for the state, resonate with many voters. UKIP's revised policies are laid out in a 64-page manifesto ¹².

Climate change

Whilst most political parties have thrown their weight behind the 2008 Climate Change Act, UKIP argues that the aim of cutting greenhouse gases by 80 per cent by 2050 is unachievable and the cross-party "dash for green" is wrong. UKIP is campaigning to repeal the Climate Change Act and for a withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement.

Energy Policy

UKIP believes that Brexit offers the opportunity to review and reset energy policy, prioritising lower prices and more secure supplies.

UKIP supports a diverse energy market based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables when they can be delivered at competitive prices. It argues that the Climate Change Act is forcing the closure of "perfectly good" coal-fired power stations.

The policy focus is on reducing energy costs. UKIP believes that Britain's major global competitors in the USA, China and India are gaining an advantage by switching to low-cost fossil fuels.

Shale gas is seen by UKIP as potentially important for enhancing energy security and it supports investment in shale gas exploration and fracking. There are no specific policy pledges concerning the future of North Sea oil and gas.

¹² <http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017>

“ *Energy policies ... have created a lose-lose situation, but only UKIP is awake to the problem.*

UKIP manifesto

The party does not present a policy on future investment in new nuclear power stations. There is no mention about future membership of Euratom post-Brexit.

UKIP would withdraw from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, to enhance Britain's industrial competitiveness.

In addition to removing VAT from domestic fuel, UKIP would scrap “green” levies, which it claims would greatly reduce household energy bills.

Renewable Energy

As in its 2015 manifesto, UKIP pledges to remove taxpayer-funded subsidies from “unprofitable” wind and solar schemes as soon as contractual arrangements expire.

Infrastructure

UKIP would require major infrastructure projects to give “much more respect” to irreplaceable natural habitats. Whilst not singling out energy projects, the party would offer local referenda to overturn unpopular development approvals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lee Clarke

Director & COO

T: +44 300 303 3061

M: +44 7738 948275

E: lee.clarke@renewablescg.com

Dr Lee Clarke is a Director and Chief Operating Officer at The Renewables Consulting Group based from the UK headquarters. He has more than 25 years' experience in the energy industry, and a broad range of general management, consultancy, commercial, operational, and strategy experience. Dr Clarke previously served as Project Director for Forewind, the international joint venture developing the Dogger Bank offshore wind concession. He has also held senior roles developing corporate strategies and responses to government energy policy and regulation.



**Renewables
Consulting
Group**



The Renewables Consulting Group

RCG is a specialized expert services firm dedicated to the global renewable energy sector. We are a firm of practical consultants known for our technical expertise, industry foresight, and sleeves-rolled-up approach to projects. From strategy to implementation, we serve businesses, governments, and non-profits around the world with technical, commercial, and management consulting services for the public sector, private equity and financial services firms, utilities, independent power producers (IPPs), and contractors and manufacturers for land-based and offshore wind, solar, hydrokinetic and ocean energy, and energy-storage technologies. RCG is headquartered in London in the United Kingdom, and has offices in New York in the United States.

London

Gilmoora House
57 – 61 Mortimer Street
London
W1W 8HS

New York

433 Broadway
6th Floor
New York
NY 10013