

SPEEDING THE RENEWABLES REVOLUTION

The Green Party strategy for energy efficiency ensures that we can change to an energy system based mainly on electricity from renewables within 15–20 years (a little longer for transport). This will require substantial investment over the period. We also need to pay more attention to energy storage. So we will:

- *Invest* substantial amounts of public money (up to £35 billion over the Parliament) in *renewable generation* and in the National Grid, if necessary, to make sure renewable generation grows quickly enough. This would include both large-scale generation and *small- and medium-scale renewable generation* schemes funded through local authorities. This capacity would not necessarily be publicly owned and would include community-owned schemes.
- Give the Green Investment Bank full borrowing powers to help fund this investment.
- Concentrate on *expanding mature renewable* technologies such as wind energy and solar PV in the period until 2030 and bringing down costs, in part by reducing planning constraints, including those for onshore wind.
- Ensure that all schools, hospitals and other public buildings have solar panels by 2020.
- Encourage all social landlords to develop plans to install solar panels on all suitable properties, building on Kirklees Council's pioneering £10 million plan to install solar panels on 2,000 Council homes over the next two years. Schemes such as these can save people on low incomes the equivalent of up to two weeks' rent.
- Set deployment targets to bring down costs and attract investment in manufacturing and supply chains, aiming for 42 GW of offshore wind by 2020 and 60 GW by 2030, and for 25 GW of solar PV by 2020.
- Spend £2.5 billion over the Parliament on an intensive *research* and deployment programme for other renewables such as *wave* and *tidal stream* generators or other approaches, and also for storage technologies.
- Phase out *fossil-fuel-based* generation, including the closure of all coal-fired power stations by 2023 at the very latest.
- Phase out *nuclear* power within ten years.
- Ban all UK *fracking* operations – following a growing number of nations worldwide – and withdraw all relevant licences as soon as possible. Ban other new fossil fuel developments such as other unconventional fossil fuels and open cast coal.
- End fossil fuel industry tax breaks, phase out other harmful fossil fuel subsidies (domestic and international) and use the money saved to help fund other parts of our energy programme.
- Work with financial institutions, local councils and others to encourage *divestment from fossil fuels* and develop alternative investment in efficiency and renewables programmes.
- Support the potential deployment of *carbon capture and storage* to existing biomass and gas power stations only as a transitional technology.
- Develop *biomass* generation only where it can be done in a sustainable way giving regard to the environmental and human costs of some large-scale biomass fuel operations.
- Set in law a decarbonisation target for the power sector of *25–50 grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour by 2030*.
- Expand *electricity storage capacity*, including using the potential storage capacity of electric vehicles, and develop the commercial and regulatory framework to make this a reality.
- Introduce *smart* meters and appliances.