Reaction to Sizewell C deal: too expensive, too slow

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Commenting on news that the Government has <u>struck a deal with private</u> <u>investors to progress the Sizewell C nuclear power plant</u> in Suffolk — a deal in which the government will have a 45% stake — co-leader of the Green Party and Waveney Valley MP, Adrian Ramsay, said:

"The tax-payer will pick up nearly half of the estimated £38bn bill for Sizewell C but see not a single watt of electricity from it for at least a decade. Bill-payers will also have to stump up the cash for this plant through an increase in their energy bills by around £12 a year.

"New nuclear is a vastly more expensive way to produce electricity than renewables, with electricity from Sizewell C <u>estimated to cost around £170</u> <u>per megawatt hour</u> compared to offshore wind at around £89/MWh. Hinkley C has also shown how the costs of developing nuclear power plants mushroom and are beset by endless delays.

"The billions of our money being squandered on this nuclear gamble would be far better spent on insulating and retrofitting millions of homes, which would bringing down energy bills and keep people warm in winter and cool in summer. We should also be investing in genuinely green power such as fitting millions of solar panels to roofs, and in innovative technologies like tidal power. All this would create many more jobs than nuclear ever will and deliver clean electricity much more quickly."

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