

Greens call for Drax subsidies to be shifted to home insulation scheme

Green MP and party co-leader Adrian Ramsay has urged the government to divert planned new subsidies for the privately owned wood-burning Drax power station to a national home insulation scheme.

Adrian Ramsay said:

“Drax is a green energy scam, burning trees – some imported from ancient forests from as far away as Canada – subsidised by the taxpayer.

“The billions of pounds worth of subsidies run out in 2027, but the government is expected to try to renew them next week, turning taxpayer money into profits for a private company, instead of using the money to fuel a green energy revolution.

“Drax has benefitted from over £6 billion in subsidies since 2012 and neither taxpayers nor the environment can afford a penny more.

“The money should be used to help fund a national scheme of home insulation that would cut people’s energy bills and help to reduce energy use.

“Green MPs and Peers will be pressing the government to end this subsidy scandal and invest people’s money where it will make a real difference to them.”

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Greens warn of burning world and call for faster government-backed transition

Responding to new data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (1) showing that the global temperature was the highest on record for a January, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer MP said:

“In light of this latest scientific evidence, it would be dangerously foolish to do anything to put our burning world in even greater danger.

“Yet that is exactly what the government is doing – determined to expand Heathrow and Gatwick airports and refusing to rule out giant new oil and gas

fields at Rosebank and Jackdaw coming on stream.

“Indeed, Equinor, one of the oil giants wanting to exploit the Rosebank field, has decided to cut promised investments in renewables in favour of increased oil and gas production. (2)

“The government is sending totally the wrong signals to the markets. We need a government committed to speeding up the transition away from fossil fuels. The government must make it clear now that it will not allow new North Sea oil and gas drilling go ahead.

“We must also get serious about how we make our communities more resilient to the now-unavoidable impacts of climate change. We need our homes and our communities to be fit for the future.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. [Climate puzzle persists with unexpectedly warm January – BBC News](#)
2. [Norwegian oil giant Equinor cuts green investment in half – BBC News](#)

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This announcement is straight out of an authoritarian playbook.

Green Party Co-Leader Adrian Ramsay MP has responded to [the news that local elections in a number of parts of England this May will be cancelled](#) saying: “It’s hard to think of anything more anti-democratic than cancelling elections ahead of a significant change in local democracy. It’s straight out of an authoritarian playbook.

“How can the Government claim an electoral mandate for these major changes if those most impacted see their elections cancelled?

“The Green Party is urging the Government to protect democracy, allow these long-planned elections to take place and get around the table with elected representatives of all parties to discuss how to make devolution work for people in local areas across the country.

“We want decisions closest to where they have the greatest impact with significant devolution of powers and funding from Westminster. That is the way to keep the vital connection between the politicians making decisions and those affected by them and avoid further alienation from the political process. The imposition of huge, remote councils against the will of local people would fly in the face of local democracy.”

The forced movement of a people from their homeland is ethnic cleansing say Greens

Responding to [President Trump's remarks overnight](#), Green Party MP, Ellie Chowns, said,

"The forced movement of a people from their homeland is ethnic cleansing. These comments advocating for ethnic cleansing have to be understood in the context of the mounting evidence of genocide in Gaza occurring over the last year. The people of Gaza are not obstacles to be removed; they are human beings with the right to live with dignity, security, and self-determination. Britain, and our international allies must today respond in the strongest terms condemning Trump's reckless remarks."

She continued, "Britain must take the opportunity today to reiterate the Palestinian right to self-determination. And if we are serious about this, we should clearly state our support for Palestinian statehood. This is the bare minimum that is required at this stage."

"Strategically now it is essential that none of these words fan the flames of conflict and jeopardise the precious ceasefire that is currently in place. The United States has an absolute legal obligation to follow international law, but it also has a moral obligation to ensure it works towards supporting the ongoing respect of the ceasefire."

Strong bonds with European neighbours is the only tonic to toxic Trump

In response to [Starmer joining the EU 27 this evening](#), Greens are urging him to put European unity at the top of his agenda to provide a united front against the toxic impact of Trump's trade wars.

Commenting, Green Party Co-Leader, Adrian Ramsay MP, said:

"Tonight represents a historic opportunity for the UK. Starmer will be the first PM to attend an EU summit since we left the European Union.

"In the face of increasing international hostility from President Trump, the UK needs to be clear that we stand united in the face of his aggression.

"Starmer cannot do that by parroting Trump's talking points on defence spending.

"Strong bonds with our European neighbours are the only antidote available to this toxic Trump Presidency.

"In the short-term, Starmer should embrace the idea of young people being able to move freely across their continent to work travel and study and respond positively to the EU's offer of a youth mobility scheme"

He continued:

"Brexit has resulted in tens of billions of pounds draining from our economy.

"The Office for Budget Responsibility [estimates](#) that Brexit will deliver a 15% long-term hit to UK trade.

"We should, as a matter of urgency, be looking to rejoin the Customs Union as a first step to plugging this hole.

"And the PEM deal the EU has offered is a no brainer.

"If Starmer is serious about taking tough decisions for economic stability then this would be a good starting point, not pumping money into climate-rocketing projects like Heathrow expansion."

END

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