

Greens urge Chancellor to announce £250bn home retrofit plan in Spring Statement to tackle cost of living crisis



21 March 2022

- Greens call for retrofitting of 10 million homes over the next decade, as well as insulating every home that needs it
- Tax on energy companies could help fund energy efficiency improvements to end fuel poverty
- Adrian Ramsay: “Our Green plan would simultaneously address the three most pressing crises we are facing – the cost of living crisis, fossil fuel dependency which is funding a deadly invasion in Ukraine and climate change”

The Green Party has called on the Chancellor to announce a £250 billion investment plan for a nationwide home retrofit scheme and renewables to help tackle the three most serious crises facing the country in the Spring Statement this week.

With the country facing a cost of living crisis unlike anything we have seen for decades, while at same time a war in Europe and the existential threat of climate change threaten our security in several ways at once, the Greens have published their five key demands for this week’s budget to tackle these crises head on. [1]

At the centre of the proposal is a call for the government to invest in an emergency programme to upgrade cold, damp homes across the country through a mass retrofit programme, which will help reduce bills and carbon emissions, while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels from murderous regimes.

The Greens are calling for local authorities to receive £25bn each year for a decade in order to carry out deep retrofitting of ten million homes and provide insulation improvements for every home that needs it.

Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“The country is in the midst of the most critical economic situation for a generation. Millions of people are facing the sort of poverty that we thought had been condemned to the history books. While at the same time we see a war in Europe that also feels like something from another century, and is having massive economic impacts.

“Our Green plan would simultaneously address the three most pressing crises we are facing – the cost of living crisis, fossil fuel dependency which is funding a deadly invasion in Ukraine and climate change.

“A nationwide home retrofit plan, along with immediate financial support for those who need it most, paid for by taxing the record profits of fossil fuel companies, would see the beginning of a fairer, greener world for us all.”

The Green Party’s full proposal calls on the Chancellor to use the Spring Statement to:

- **Address pay inequality and provide real society security**, including restoring the £20 uplift to Universal Credit and doubling it to £40 per week and extending emergency fuel payments to all by providing each household with an additional £320 to help them pay for spiralling energy costs.
- **Invest in energy efficiency and energy security**, including funding local authorities to better insulate all homes and carry out deep retrofit of 1 million homes a year.
- **Invest in green jobs**, including a retraining guarantee for existing oil and gas workers, as well as those who have recently left the sector.
- **Tax pollution and wealth**, including increasing the supplementary tax already charged on North Sea oil and gas to 40%, which would raise £5bn, and transition towards a carbon tax to make polluters pay.
- **Use the power of money for good**, including banning any bank holding a UK banking licence from investing in new fossil fuel development and updating the Bank of England’s mandate so that funding the sustainability transition becomes a central objective, alongside the maintenance of price stability

Molly Scott Cato, Green Party finance and economy spokesperson and former MEP, said:

“It is unacceptable that while people are freezing in their homes, this Government is tucked up in bed with the dirty energy companies who are making ever-growing profits off the back of the misery of millions.

“We urge the Chancellor to put people first. A dirty profits tax would see us make steps towards a world where energy bills are a minor part of spending, not only supporting those millions of people who are struggling to make ends meet today, but also protecting the climate for future generations.

“The technology to rid ourselves of fossil fuels, and all the misery they bring, is already here. The government has so far chosen not to take this path but the costs of responding to fossil fuel lobbying rather than the needs of British people is becoming clearer by the day. The Chancellor has to use his statement this week to take the first step off this track and towards a fairer, cleaner future.”

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The Green Party’s full paper outlining its demands for the Chancellor ahead of the Spring Statement can be read [here](#).

[Back to main news page](#)

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[Greens say fuel duty cut would not fix the cost of living crisis](#)



21 March 2022

- **People need help right now – but cuts to fuel duty aren't targeted to support the poorest**
- **Focus should be on an uplift to the incomes of the poorest while ensuring everyone can keep warm in their homes**

Responding to pressure from some Tory MPs for a fuel duty cut in the Spring budget statement [1], Greens have said such a cut is not going to fix the cost of living crisis, is not targeted to support the poorest households and is the wrong approach faced with a climate emergency and the need to transition away from fossil fuels.

Co-leader, Adrian Ramsay, said:

“This is a difficult time for those who need to use cars and vans for work, to visit family and access shops and leisure, particularly where public transport is so inadequate due to years of underinvestment and cuts to services.

“We absolutely know people need help right now – but cuts to fuel duty aren't targeted to support the poorest and the greatest numbers of people. They're not going to fix the cost of living crisis.

“Research shows such a cut would mainly benefit the richest while doing little or nothing to help those on the lowest incomes [2].

“It is also worth noting that prices at the pumps have risen by no more than inflation since 2011 [3], and since March 2021 have increased by 35% compared to a 275% increase in the gas retail price over the same period [4].

“Faced with a climate emergency and the need for a rapid transition away from fossil fuels, we also need to acknowledge that now is not the time to cut fuel duty. It is really disappointing to see Labour has jumped on this particular bandwagon.

“Our focus should be on an uplift to the incomes of the poorest while ensuring everyone can keep warm in their homes. That’s why Greens want to see a dirty profits tax – a windfall tax – on fossil fuel companies who are raking in billions on the back of rising energy prices. This could restore the £20 uplift to Universal Credit and double it to £40 per week, and extend emergency fuel payments, providing each household with an additional £320 to help them pay for spiralling domestic energy costs [4].”

Notes

1. [Fuel duty cut in Spring Statement 2022 ‘inevitable’ as Rishi Sunak drops big hint – Mirror Online](#)
2. <https://twitter.com/NEF/status/1505850705952788480>
3. [Petrol Prices \(speedlimit.org.uk\)](#)
4. [Wholesale Energy Prices for Oil, Gas and Electricity – Interactive Charts \(cliffordtalbot.co.uk\)](#)
5. [Government energy loans will increase household fuel debt to £7.2bn, Green co-leaders warn | The Green Party](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

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[Caroline Lucas responds to the Nature Recovery Green Paper launched by DEFRA](#)



16 March 2022

Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP for Brighton Pavilion, has the following response to the launch of the Government’s [Nature Recovery Green Paper](#) and [Environmental Targets consultation](#) out today:

“The Nature Green Paper and Environmental Targets consultation out today fall embarrassingly short of stopping and reversing nature’s decline.

I’m glad the Government admits our National Parks and AONBs are currently failing to contribute towards the 30x30 goal. But the targets set out in this

consultation are pitiful. On biodiversity, the aim for a 10% increase on 2030 baseline by 2042 is feeble. As sewage continues to pour into our waterways, there's no target to improve the overall condition of our rivers. And the Government's definition of 'effective protection' for nature is vague at best, downright evasive at worst.

It's also very disappointing to see major policy ideas omitted entirely – from improving access to nature via a right to roam, to a ban on industrial fishing in England's marine-protected areas. With COP15 mere months away, we have a chance to show leadership on the world stage in restoring nature and protecting our planet – this Green Paper is not it.”

Caroline Lucas also tweeted about the Green Paper [here](#).

ENDS

[Back to main news page](#)

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New UK visa scheme “a pale imitation” of proper refugee support, Greens warn



14 March 2022

The UK government's new visa scheme does not go far enough to help families fleeing war in Ukraine, the Green Party has warned.

Benali Hamdache, Green Party migration and refugee support spokesperson, said:

“This is a pale imitation of the welcome the European Union has rolled out. The European Union has waived all visas and given refugees the right to asylum for three years. We've created a bureaucratic hosting process that will mean refugees won't be able to live independently.

“The generosity of sponsors is appreciated, but will there be spaces for families? What happens if the relationship between host and sponsor fails?

“Basically, the government is passing on their responsibility and leaving it down to the British public's kindness and desire to help. The charity of individuals should not be relied on to replace the joined up humanitarian approach that could be provided. Priti Patel's priorities are all wrong”

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[Back to main news page](#)

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[Greens call for emergency food security summit as Ukraine invasion hits 'breadbasket of Europe'](#)



11 March 2022

- * **A plan to address the underlying causes of food poverty**
- * **Emergency investment in sustainable food production to increase domestic supply**
- * **Transform farming to help tackle the climate and ecological emergency**
- * **Halve the UK's 10 million tons of food waste**

With the UN World Food Programme warning that the war in Ukraine threatens to disrupt a third of the world's wheat market and double global wheat prices [1], the Green Party has called for an emergency food security summit, alongside action on the cost of living crisis, to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty. They also argue this is the opportunity to invest in sustainable methods of food production which work to capture carbon while improving soil quality and biodiversity.

Adrian Ramsay, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"Ukraine has been one of Europe's bread baskets for centuries. The Russian invasion will inevitably lead to food shortages and spiralling food prices, further exacerbating the cost of living crisis.

"That's why the Green Party is calling for an emergency food summit alongside action to address the underlying causes of food poverty.

"Such a summit must involve farmers and food producers in planning how we can immediately increase the UK food supply. This is the time to learn from the good work of many UK farmers who are demonstrating how agriculture can help tackle the climate and ecological emergency and supply healthy and sustainable food. In particular, we need to adopt farming methods that end our dependence on imported fossil fuel based fertilisers and focus on growing grains for human consumption not for farmed animal feed.

"Farming currently contributes up to a third of UK greenhouse gas emissions

and two thirds of wildlife loss. We need to seize this opportunity to turn this around and adopt farming methods which work to capture carbon while improving soil quality and biodiversity.

“We also need to end the scandal of 10 million tons of edible food waste per year in the UK [2]. An emergency summit must look at what action we need to take to halve this waste mountain – an aim that is in line with UN goals.

“We must tackle food poverty and transform farming and food production into the secure, sustainable and healthy alternative we know it can become.”

Notes

[1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-60653856>

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/sep/04/how-food-waste-is-huge-contributor-to-climate-change>

[Back to main news page](#)

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