



GREEN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Local Energy

**Generation, Storage and Distribution, Smart Grids, Smart Appliances,
Efficiency**



**An array of Stirling engine concentrated solar power units in Spain
(public domain from wikimedia commons)**

Local energy covers the installation of domestic energy sources and storage, small-scale utilities such as community windfarms, preparing for a future with electric vehicles, implementing the smart grid (including burying power lines to replace pylons) and using energy more efficiently. Local Councils are now permitted to be energy generators and providers.

LibDem policy:

Policy Paper 22 - Conserving Tomorrow, Energy Policy For The Future, published in 1996

6.1.1: Support for renewable sources of energy plays a key part in Liberal Democrat energy policy. Some of the longer-established renewables, including onshore wind turbines and landfill gas, are becoming increasingly competitive with fossil fuel sources. Introduction of the carbon tax, which will not affect the cost of renewables (see 4.1.4), will help even more.

6.3.5 The privatised part of the nuclear industry should compete on equal grounds with the rest of the electricity supply industry; we will therefore end all subsidies.

Policy Paper 32 - Housing Policy into The 21st Century, published in 1999

5.2.3: We propose a major initiative to upgrade the quality of new homes to bring them up to the best environmental and efficiency standards.

Policy Paper 52 - Rural Futures, published in 2002.

4.11.1: Liberal Democrats believe that our farmers and rural communities have a crucial role to play in the creation of a renewable energy economy in the UK, as a mosaic of biomass, biofuels, solar, hydro, wind, hydrogen and other technologies, to allow flexibility and robustness.

Policy Paper 58 - Conserving the Future, proposals on energy policy, published in 2003.

5.1.9 includes: Encouraging, where appropriate, renewables schemes in which the local community has a share in the ownership and profits or benefits from reduced energy prices, for example through part-ownership by a community trust.

Policy Paper 69 - Affordable Homes in Safer, Greener Communities, Housing Policy Paper, published in 2004.

4.1.7 includes: Enable every home, where practical, to generate its own power, by removing all barriers to technologies such as micro combined heat and power units, solar power and micro wind turbines, and requiring all new and replacement electricity meters to operate two ways, so homes could sell power back to the grid;

Challenge:

08 Spring	p8	Towards Greener Living
08 Summer	p18	The Great Energy Betrayal
08 Autumn	p6	MSP Puts His House In Order
08 Autumn	p15	Tidal Barrages: The Debate Hots Up
08 Winter	p7	Boring is Better than Eco Bling!
09 Spring	p9	Small is Still Beautiful
09 Spring	p13	Can We Mobilise A Carbon Army?
09 Summer	p17	Failing The Energy Conservation Test
09 Autumn	p13	Household Carbon Trading
09 Autumn	p16	Pulp Factions
10 Summer	p10	Europe's Energy Revolution
10 Summer	p15	People Power
11 Spring	p6	Micro Hydro-power in Rural Africa
11 Spring	p10	The Grid Gets A Brain
11 Summer	p6	Collapse of the Old Oil Order
11 Summer	p22	Nuclear pros and cons

Resources:

The Energy Saving Trust <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

DECC Renewable Energy Statistics <https://restats.decc.gov.uk>

The Renewable Energy Association <http://www.r-e-a.net/>

British Wind Energy Association <http://www.bwea.com/>

The Renewable Energy Centre <http://www.therenewableenergycentre.co.uk/>

All Energy - International Renewables Exhibition May 2012 Aberdeen <http://www.all-energy.co.uk/>

Energy4all - consultancy for community owned renewable energy <http://www.energy4all.co.uk/>

Community Wind Power - community owned wind energy consultancy
<http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk/>

West Mill Community Wind Farm - located in the South East http://www.westmill.coop/westmill_home.asp