

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)

Energy covers the installation of domestic energy sources and storage, utility-scale installations such as windfarms and tidal lagoons, preparing for a future with electric vehicles, implementing the smart grid (including burying power lines to replace pylons) and using energy more efficiently. Councils are now permitted to be energy generators and providers, as well as having control over local plans to permit or restrict fossil fuel exploration.

LibDem policy:

PP22 - 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.

PP32 - 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.

PP52 - 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.

PP58 - 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.

PP69 - 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;

PP109 - Green Growth and Green Jobs, Transition to a Zero Carbon Britain (pub 2013)

This paper covers the entire strategy for decarbonising the energy sector.

PP114 - A Stronger Economy In A Fairer Society (pub 2013)

We need to stick to ambitious targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and adopt a binding target for the decarbonisation of our electricity sector

Challenge:

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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 Energy Conference May 2015 Glasgow <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/>

Whalley Hydro - a community-led hydropower project <http://www.whalleyhydro.co.uk/>

UK Government Policy on Nuclear Energy <http://tinyurl.com/n5rn6lj>

Energy from Thorium <http://energyfromthorium.com/>

ITER (nuclear fusion project) <http://www.iter.org/>