

Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor

Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

12 May 2026

Dear Prime Minister, Chancellor and Secretary of State,

We are writing from a coalition of the UK's leading charities and civil society organisations.

We welcome the steps your government has already taken to protect households from high energy costs. The November Budget delivered a cut to many energy bills by moving the cost of the Renewables Obligation from bills to general taxation, alongside an additional £1.5 billion for the Warm Homes Plan.

Your 21st April package – increasing Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants, accelerating the Warm Homes Plan, and reforming electricity market contracts to start breaking the link between gas prices and household bills – showed again that you understand both the scale of the challenge and the direction of travel.

But unless you go further, millions of households will continue to suffer. The next couple of months are critical, before we face further winters of unaffordable energy costs.

Energy bills are set to rise sharply, by 18% in July and a further 4% in September. More than seven million people spent last winter in cold, damp homes. Our polling shows 77% of the public believe history is repeating itself on energy prices, while 72% recognise that the UK's continued dependence on oil and gas leaves the UK exposed.

The conflict in Iran has demonstrated once again that every shock in global fossil fuel markets feeds directly into household costs – and those with the least are hit hardest. When Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent gas prices soaring, it cost the UK more than £180 billion over four years and pushed millions into energy debt.

Without more decisive action now, the actions your government has already taken risk being wiped out before households feel them.

The answer is the one your government has already identified: a clean, homegrown energy system with prices we control.

The public is already moving in that direction. Heat pump orders more than doubled in March compared with February. Solar installations are up 80%. Electric vehicle leases are up 85%. People are ready to make the switch.

The Government must now make that switch possible at the scale and speed this moment demands.

That means four things.

1. Protect households now.

Long-term reform is essential, but it will take time. Some households will need help this winter. We urge you to enhance the Warm Home Discount, tackle the growing crisis of energy debt, and ensure no one is left unable to heat their home this winter.

2. Cut electricity costs now.

Customers switching to clean energy need to feel the savings in their bills now. We urge you to complete the break between electricity prices and volatile international gas markets, deliver additional cuts to electricity bills by moving levies onto general taxation and investigate public financing for future network upgrades.

3. Help more people make the switch from oil and gas to clean electricity now.

Rapidly expanded support for solar panels, heat pumps, insulation and electric vehicles, especially for lower-income households who have the most to gain but the least ability to act alone.

As well as providing more financial support, give people confidence to upgrade their homes by introducing a Warm Homes Guarantee [\[pdf\]](#) to back up the Warm Homes Plan with trusted independent advice, clear rights and fast redress should things go wrong; alongside protection for renters from eviction or rent rises linked to improvements.

4. Stay the course on clean power.

The path to long-term stable energy bills are homegrown renewables, not new oil and gas extraction. Do not let the fossil fuel lobby derail or delay that journey. More drilling would do nothing to cut household costs and everything to keep Britain dependent on the volatile markets that caused this energy bills crisis in the first place.

Ministers have shown a willingness to act. The decisions your government has already taken prove that.

Now we ask you to increase your ambition to match the scale and urgency of the current moment, before this winter.

With so much progress dependent on legislation, we urge you to prioritise the forthcoming Energy Independence Bill after the King's Speech to make our energy cheaper, cleaner, fairer and more secure. That means delivering greater ambition, a social tariff framework and long-term meaningful reform as outlined above, to ensure that people can feel the benefits of the country's Clean Power Mission today.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Shortt, General Secretary, National Pensioners Convention
Frazer Scott, Chief Executive, Energy Action Scotland
Rachel Jones, CEO, Act on Energy
Rachael Orr, CEO, Climate Outreach
Joanna Howard, Chief Executive, 361 Energy,
Ruth London, Director, Fuel Poverty Action
Rebecca Deegan, Director, Fair By Design
Hannah Cooper, Research and Campaigns Manager, Citizens Advice Newcastle
Joanna Elson (CBE), Chief Executive Officer, Independent Age
John McGowan, General Secretary, Social Workers Union
Dave Taylor, Director, Walsall Working For Change CIC
Paul Staples, CEO, Ryecroft Community Hub
Christine Nicholls CDO Community Action Northumberland
Janine Michael, CEO, Centre for Sustainable Energy
Hirra Khan Adeogun, Co-Director, Possible
Stephen Knight, CEO, Heat Trust
Students Organising for Sustainability UK
Dan White, Disability Rights UK
Kate Meakin, Energise Sussex Coast
Jacky Peacock, OBE, Director, Fairer Housing
Sabine Goodwin, Director, Independent Food Aid Network
John Stephens, interim CEO, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Rhidian Hughes, Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG)
Patrick Marples, Chief Executive, South West London Law Centres
Holly Brazier-Toppe, Director of Politics, Green Alliance
Sarah Sleet, CEO, Asthma + Lung UK
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Kate Royston, MD, Tamar Energy Community
Lord John Bird, Founder, Big Issue
Giselle Hoad, Adult Social Care Warriors
Rick Burgess, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
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