



POWER TO THE REGIONS



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CLIMATE POLICY FOR THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

The cost of living remains the public's top concern, with energy bills the primary driver. Fossil fuel spikes are a key driver of these bill increases. Well-designed climate policy offers a route to delivering what people care about - lower bills, greater energy security, and visible local benefits.

Greater Manchester has the scale, housing diversity and delivery capacity to deliver immediate affordability measures paired with a clean-homes programme that works for social tenants, private renters and homeowners alike. Our proposed package would cut bills now and build a visible local delivery programme people could see and feel.

The electoral opportunity: There's an electoral prize on the table. We found voters are ready to reward a party that champions bill-cutting policies.

10.5% households
in fuel poverty

1.23m households
could benefit

3 million people
could benefit

The Government has already begun cutting costs from electricity bills and putting money back in people's pockets. This package sets out the next steps to finish the job and make the benefits tangible for people across Greater Manchester. This means:

- **Cutting bills now:** Removing legacy policy levies from electricity bills and introducing a simple, automatic social tariff for households most exposed to high energy costs.
- **Ensuring everyone can access clean energy:** Using a range of measures so social tenants, private renters and homeowners all have a practical route to lower-cost clean energy.

Why this matters

With 10.5% of households in Greater Manchester in fuel poverty and the average fuel poverty gap sitting at £353, immediate measures could benefit households across the region.¹

At the same time, investment measures create visible local projects and longer-term protection from fossil-fuel price volatility.

RECOMMENDED POLICY PACKAGE

The package set out below would cut bills immediately, tackle fuel poverty at scale, and increase investment in clean, secure energy for every housing tenure.

It would also reduce the UK's exposure to volatile fossil fuel markets and give government a proven, popular story to tell on delivery.

RENTERS' ENERGY DIVIDEND

Great British Energy-backed partnerships enabling low-income rented blocks to buy locally generated solar power at least 20% below the grid tariff.

What this means for Greater Manchester: Around 264,000 privately rented homes across Greater Manchester could benefit, with a modelled fuel-poverty reduction of 43,900 households and a £4.2 million annual boost to the local economy.

What this means for households: At least £120 a year in lower bills, with no upfront cost to the household.

What voters in Greater Manchester think: *"I don't think there's many negatives to it, it's bringing renters in. I like the idea of knowing that the energy I'm using is green and environmentally friendly, and if that's done on a large scale like a full block of flats, I think it's a pretty good idea."*

HOME UPGRADE STAMP DUTY REBATE

A rebate for qualifying energy upgrades completed within five years of buying a primary residence below £1 million.

What this means for Greater Manchester: Each year in Greater Manchester, there are around 30,000 residential property sales. Of those, it is anticipated that at least, 4,100 households could be supported through this scheme over the course of a five year timeframe. This would see a saving for households of £15.4 million over five years.

What this means for households: Up to £3,750 back, one-off.

What voters in Greater Manchester think: *"Stamp duty usually ends up in a black hole, so if you can take that and redistribute it into something that's ultimately going to save you money over time by installing something like heat pump or something beneficial, that's phenomenal."*

HEAT-AS-A-SERVICE GUARANTEE

A partial government guarantee for accredited providers, reducing financing costs for subscriptions covering installation, maintenance and operation of clean heating.

What this means for households: An indicative 13% reduction in subscription costs, around £230 a year.

What voters in Greater Manchester think: *"I think it's a good incentive and a good idea. I do feel like everyone has so many subscriptions that once you sign up to them you kind of forget about them a little bit, so it is a lot easier to stomach than buying it outright."*

REMOVE POLICY LEVIES FROM ELECTRICITY BILLS

Move legacy policy levies from household electricity bills into general taxation.

What this means for Greater Manchester: Automatic relief across around 1.23 million households in Greater Manchester, lifting 64,600 households out of fuel poverty.

What this means for households: Around £175 a year for a typical household.

SIMPLE SOCIAL ENERGY TARIFF

An automatic 25% discount on energy tariffs for all eligible households.

What this would mean for Greater Manchester: There are around 515,000 potentially eligible households (roughly 405,000 Universal Credit, 110,000 Pension Credit), with an estimated 149,000 able to leave fuel poverty as a result of this policy. Extension to low-income households falling outside the benefits system and some disabled households with high energy usage as data matching allows.

What this means for households: An average annual saving of about £415.

What voters in Greater Manchester think: *"I really rate this... I think having an overall social energy tariff that you don't have to apply for is a good thing."*

Full report available here:



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