NATIONAL BRIEFING

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.

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.

9.4% households in fuel poverty	**100%** households would benefit from this policy package	**89%** people named cost of living as a top concern

The Government has already begun cutting costs from electricity bills and putting money back in people's pockets. Our proposed policy package sets out the next steps to finish the job and make the benefits tangible for people across the whole of the UK. 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

59% of Britons don't think the cost-of-living crisis will ever end, and four in five are cutting back on heating or discretionary spending to cope with their energy bills. 77% say the Government is either almost entirely or somewhat responsible for high household energy bills.[1]

Support for climate and nature action remains strong, however, so policies that benefit this agenda while delivering visible, near-term improvements in living standards are likely to be most politically popular.

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.

AFFORDABLE ENERGY

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 the UK: £2 billion in private investment over 3 years, crowded in through a small £0.2 billion subsidy to solar developers that enables them to offer lower bills to households.

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

What voters think: *"It benefits a large amount of people living in blocks of flats with something that's not detrimental to their building, so it seems all positive to me."*

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1 Energy Bills Public Sentiment Tracker. More in Common. March 2026.

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 the UK: Around 30,000 additional retrofits a year at the base case (up to 90,000 at higher uptake), at an Exchequer cost of around £113 million a year.

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

What voters think: *"You're paying stamp duty anyway so to get it back to invest in your house just seems like a really good use of your money."*

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 the UK: Modelled on 500,000 households taking up the scheme nationally, at a guarantee cost of around £113 million.

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

What voters think: *"It's always good if you can spread the cost. Just like when you buy your car, you're not paying it outright, you pay your subscription to it."*

REMOVE POLICY LEVIES FROM ELECTRICITY BILLS

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

What this means for the UK: Automatic relief for all 29 million UK households, at an Exchequer cost of around £5 billion a year.

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

What voters think: *"I like this one, in that you don't have to actually do anything. There are no complications to it, it's just instant savings for everyone."*

SIMPLE SOCIAL ENERGY TARIFF

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

What this means for the UK: Around 8.5 million eligible households nationally in first iteration at an Exchequer cost of around £3.5 billion a year. 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 think: *"It reaches more people than you think. There are a lot of vulnerable people, a lot of elderly people, but there's also a lot of people that work who still need a helping hand, this will benefit a lot of people who need it."*

LAND AND AGRICULTURE

FARM RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

Defra-enabled Value-Chain Insetting Partnerships, letting farmers blend public ELM payments with private investment from food retailers, processors and brands who want to fund verified environmental outcomes.

What this means for the UK: This could unlock hundreds of millions per year in additional private investment into sustainable agriculture, on top of existing public funding.

What this means for farmers: A new, more stable income stream that reduces reliance on volatile commodity and input markets, smooths cashflow, and rewards environmental improvements.

INCENTIVES TO REDUCE FOSSIL-FUEL-BASED FERTILISER USE

Structured financial incentives to help farmers cut or replace fossil-fuel-based fertilisers with certified low-carbon alternatives.

What this means for the UK: This policy reduces UK farming's exposure to volatile international fertiliser markets and increases the sector's resilience.

What this means for farmers: It could cut input costs by up to £60 per hectare and cut emissions intensity by up to 80% per kilogram of fertiliser used.

FAST-TRACKING RURAL PLANNING FOR ON-FARM ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Extends permitted development rights so farmers can build things like ponds, wetlands and horticulture sites without a full planning application, for projects with clear environmental benefits.

What this means for the UK: This eases pressure on local planning authorities and is expected to accelerate uptake of nature-based solutions like ponds and wetlands that improve flood resilience and water quality.

What this means for farmers: Cuts planning costs by around 85% and speeds up approval by 2–5 weeks.

Full report available here: