



# POWER TO THE REGIONS

## 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.

**With a high fuel-poverty gap, South Yorkshire would benefit from policies that deliver automatic support** now while removing upfront barriers to home upgrades. Our proposed package would keep up momentum by cutting bills now and building a visible local delivery programme people can see and feel.

With a Mayor already engaged on this agenda, South Yorkshire is well placed to become an early proof point for how this package can work in practice.

**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.

**11.1%** households  
in fuel poverty

**610,000** households  
could benefit

**1.4 million** people  
that 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 in for people across South Yorkshire. 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 11.1% of households in South Yorkshire in fuel poverty and the average fuel poverty gap sitting at £376, immediate measures could benefit households across the region.<sup>1</sup> 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 South Yorkshire:** Around 106,000 privately rented homes across South Yorkshire could benefit, with a modelled fuel-poverty reduction of 21,600 households and a £2.1 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 South Yorkshire think:** *"It's practical, I've always liked the idea of solar panels, but not everyone has a roof. Anything that's going to save people money is a good thing."*

# 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 South Yorkshire:** Each year in South Yorkshire, there are around 16,000 residential property sales. Of those, it is anticipated that at least, 2,200 households could be supported through this scheme over the course of a five-year timeframe. This would see a saving for households of £8.2 million over five years.

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

**What voters in South Yorkshire think:** *"It sounds good because you get some of your money back which you wouldn't have expected, and you are moving with the times too in terms of upgrading your home."*

# 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 South Yorkshire think:** *"I like the cost-spreading. You don't have to pay it up-front, you pay a monthly subscription. When you buy your car, you're not paying for that car outright, you pay subscriptions to it, so this makes sense."*

# REMOVE POLICY LEVIES FROM ELECTRICITY BILLS

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

**What this means for South Yorkshire:** Automatic relief across around 610,000 households in South Yorkshire, lifting 31,100 households out of fuel poverty.

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

**What voters in South Yorkshire think:** *"I think it's a bit more inclusive for everyone. It does seem to help a lot of people out. It would help me personally quite a bit."*

# SIMPLE SOCIAL ENERGY TARIFF

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

**What this would mean for South Yorkshire:** There are around 225,000 potentially eligible households (roughly 170,000 Universal Credit, 55,000 Pension Credit), with an estimated 75,000 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 South Yorkshire think:** *"Anything that helps old-age pensioners on low incomes and the disabled. I've got a friend who's got cerebral palsy and spina bifida and I know how much electricity he uses for all his equipment so anything that would help people like him has my support."*

Full report available here:



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