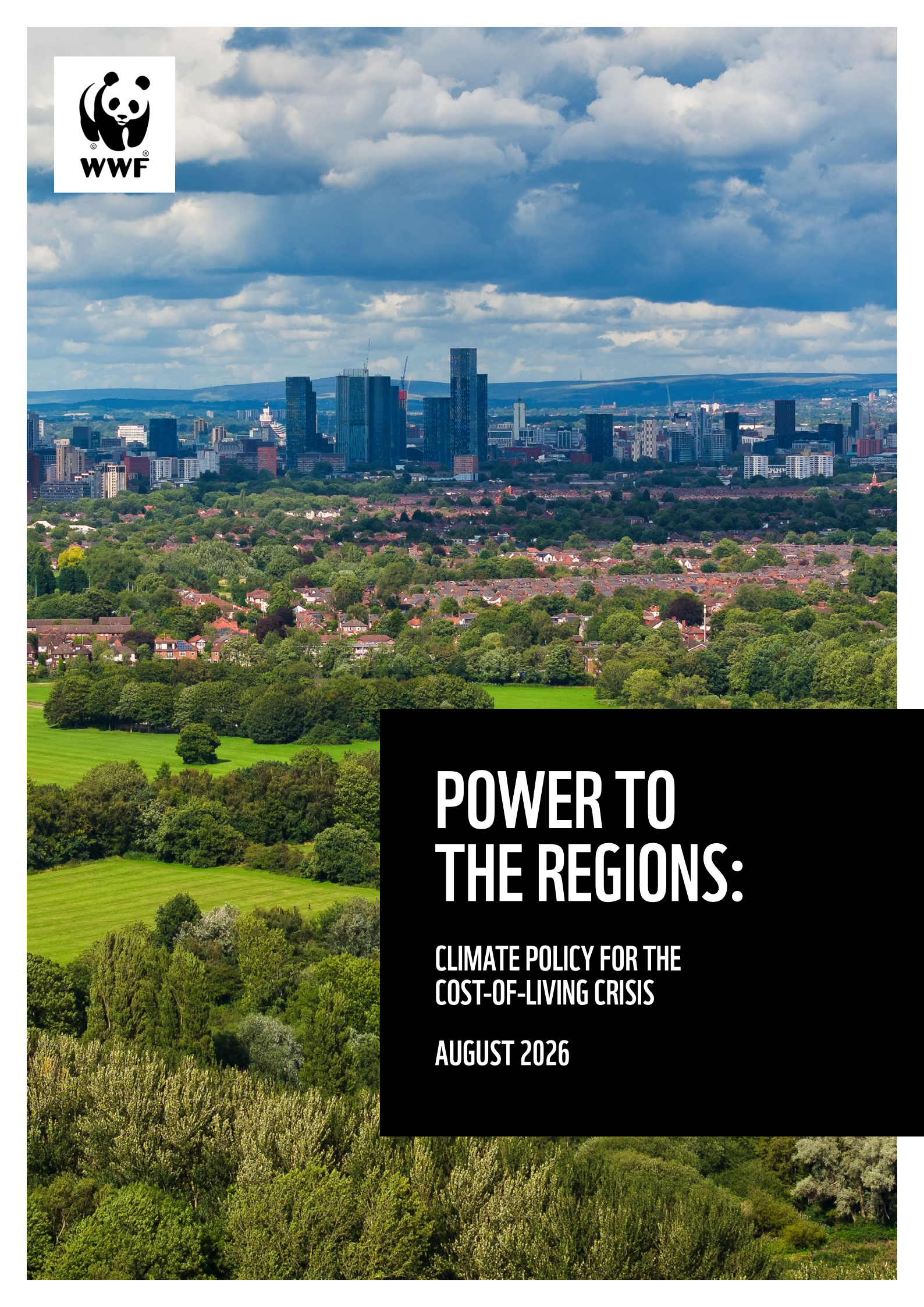


An aerial photograph showing a dense green forest in the foreground, a residential area with red-roofed houses in the middle ground, and a city skyline with several tall skyscrapers in the background under a blue sky with white clouds.

POWER TO THE REGIONS:

CLIMATE POLICY FOR THE
COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

AUGUST 2026

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About WWF

We're WWF, the leading global environmental charity and we're bringing our world back to life. We are tackling the causes of nature loss. And we're finding solutions so that future generations inherit a world where nature is thriving and the climate is stable.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WWF-UK's *Pounds in Pockets* report demonstrated that climate and nature policy can reduce household bills, increase energy and national security, and protect our natural environment. In the year since its publication, the need for policies that deliver for this agenda has only grown.

The cost-of-living crisis remains the public's top concern, with increasing demands that government do more to address the underlying causes. Doing so will not be easy - many of the drivers of high energy, housing, and food costs, including geopolitical instability, are difficult for policymakers to address and fiscal space is limited. **But without action it will be impossible to deliver good growth in every postcode** - households will face crushing bills, businesses will delay investments due to uncertainty around energy prices, and farmers will be increasingly exposed to extreme weather and volatile commodity markets.



Geopolitical instability has caused fossil fuel prices to rise for the second time in four years, exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis.

The correlation is clear, as is the solution - reducing the UK's dependence on fossil fuels by switching to clean, homegrown energy.

Given that climate policy will continue to be a political battleground in the run up to the next election, **it is essential that the public see tangible proof that the transition will lower their bills in the short term, as well as setting the UK up for success in the medium-term.**

The lessons of the 2022 energy price shock must be learned to ensure that public spending delivers a return on investment that brings bills down for good.

IN THIS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT, CLIMATE POLICY MUST DELIVER REDUCED HOUSEHOLD BILLS, ENERGY SECURITY, ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, AND VISIBLE BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES.

Power to the Regions demonstrates that **well-designed climate policies can reduce bills quickly and across the UK, delivering concrete economic benefits for households and farmers.**

It updates the original *Pounds in Pockets* policy package, assesses the national and regional benefits of delivering it, and tests public reactions in four Combined Authority areas: the North-East, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, and the West Midlands. These regions were selected because they are economically, socially and electorally significant, and because they reflect different parts of the UK's wider challenge: a feeling across many rural communities, suburban towns, and major urban areas that they have too often been neglected by national policymaking.

It is clear from the focus groups conducted as part of this report that, **while public support for climate and nature action remains strong, support for specific policies is often conditional on whether they deliver visible, near-term financial benefits in people's everyday lives.**

This is especially true for households already struggling with high food, energy, and housing costs, who are understandably wary of any policy perceived to add further pressure.

Across the energy proposals, the central aim is to make the benefits of clean energy available to people regardless of their housing situation, including to social housing tenants and private renters, as well as homeowners.

The report also makes the case for universal affordability measures, including reforming electricity bill levies and introducing a simple social energy tariff, to directly reduce pressure on household budgets and help tackle fuel poverty across the UK.

The report's regional modelling shows that these interventions could lift hundreds of thousands of households out of fuel poverty.

The land and agriculture proposals apply the same logic to rural communities. **Farmers are central to climate and nature recovery**, but many face severe financial pressures and growing exposure to climate impacts, degraded ecosystems and volatile fossil-fuel-linked input costs.

The report argues that farmers should be treated as foundational partners in the transition, with policy designed to strengthen farm resilience, unlock private investment, reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilisers and remove unnecessary barriers to sustainable infrastructure.

Together, these recommendations show how well-designed climate and nature policies can help to deliver a credible poverty reduction and living standards agenda.

The strongest climate policies are those that make people better off, protect them from volatile fossil fuel markets, improve the resilience of local economies and make delivery simple.

The Government has an opportunity in this Parliament to deliver visible benefits for households, farmers, and communities while building a cleaner, more secure and more prosperous UK.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

AFFORDABLE ENERGY:

- A Renters' Energy Dividend, using Great British Energy-backed Power Purchase Agreements to **give private renters access to cheaper solar electricity**, saving them around £120 per year
- A Home Upgrade Stamp Duty Rebate of **up to £3,750 for homeowners** who make energy upgrades within five years of purchase
- Government-backed Heat Pump Subscriptions, **reducing the monthly cost of clean heating subscriptions by 13%** through risk guarantees
- **Removing policy levies from electricity bills**, cutting household electricity costs for all by around £175 per year
- **A simple, automatic Energy Social Tariff** saving eligible low-income households around 25% on their energy bills

We also recommend that the National Wealth Fund's financial guarantee scheme for social housing retrofits should be expanded and rebranded to give it a more visible identity.

LAND USE AND AGRICULTURE:

- Farm Resilience Partnerships, enabling farmers to blend public environmental payments with private supply chain investment, with the potential to **mobilise hundreds of millions in additional funding for sustainable agriculture**
- Targeted incentives for farmers to **reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based fertilisers**, cutting input costs by up to £60 per hectare while reducing emissions intensity by up to 80%
- Fast-tracking rural planning for some forms of on-farm environmental infrastructure, **cutting planning costs by around 85%** and reducing approval timelines by up to five weeks



THE CONTEXT

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Climate action is foundational to prosperity and energy security, and is already raising living standards across the UK.

The need for climate action has never been more urgent. Climate impacts are becoming more severe, bringing extreme temperatures, natural disasters, and growing risks of irreversible tipping points.

Geopolitical turmoil has reinforced the importance of energy independence, resilient supply chains, and protection from volatile fossil fuel markets. Delaying action creates major risks to both security and growth: higher costs, disrupted supply chains, and greater pressure on public finances. **Evidence shows that the cost of inaction far exceeds the cost of action,** with OBR analysis warning that delayed action could increase public sector debt by 23% by 2050.¹ Short-term decision-making risks low productivity, weak growth, and missed investment.

By contrast, **the transition to a clean economy offers huge growth opportunities,** including the chance to build robust supply chains across a range of low-carbon technologies, create thousands of well-paid green jobs, and catalyse substantial inward investment in the UK.

It addresses many of the root causes of the cost-of-living crisis, including the UK's dependence on volatile global fossil fuel markets and rising food prices resulting from extreme weather. And it benefits public services by tackling injustices like damp homes and food insecurity, which disproportionately impact the most vulnerable and put pressure on essential services. **Simply put, the clean transition offers the only realistic path to shared, sustained prosperity and higher living standards.**

The transition is already delivering benefits across the UK, supporting investment and innovation, while reducing exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices and stabilising bills. **Now we need to go further and faster, ensuring that communities across the UK feel the economic benefits of climate action.**

With the right targeting and training, investment can deliver thousands of skilled jobs across the UK, from electricians to engineers, creating employment opportunities in every region.

By linking climate policy to skills development, apprenticeships, and local procurement, we can ensure that the benefits of the transition are widely shared.

**IN A COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS,
IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT THE
BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION
ARE MORE WIDELY FELT AND
MORE TANGIBLE.**

Speaking to members of the public across four regions, the message was consistent: energy costs remain households' foremost concern, with most expecting their financial situation to worsen and lower-income households facing particularly acute pressures.

While support for climate and nature action remains strong, backing for specific policies often depends on them delivering visible, near-term improvements to living standards.



In a cost-of-living crisis, demonstrating these benefits is essential.

The policies in this report are designed to do exactly that: **cut costs for households, build support for the net zero transition and deliver growth and resilience across the UK.**

They can help bolster people's sense of pride in their homes and communities, revitalise creaking infrastructure, and enable people to do their bit to build a better world.

They are vital to delivering strong growth, alleviating the cost-of-living crisis, and reducing pressure on public services - the issues that will decide the next election.

CASE STUDY:

CLIMATE POLICIES ARE ALREADY HELPING WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Government backing is unlocking billions in private investment to make social homes cheaper to run, greener, and well-insulated, so they stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Since October 2024, the National Wealth Fund has guaranteed up to £1.65 billion of lending from major banks to help housing associations and councils retrofit social housing with solar panels, insulation, heat pumps, and battery storage.

The model is simple and effective: government reduces risk by guaranteeing the loans, banks lend at scale, and tenants benefit from lower bills and warmer homes.

Government should build on the scheme's success and open the opportunity up to more people by:

1. **Committing to renew and grow it:** guarantee that as each bank's envelope is drawn down, government will back a further round.
2. **Give it a single, recognisable national identity,** so tenants and housing providers know what to ask for.

The scheme's rapid take-up demonstrates that the demand is there - now a concerted effort is needed to ensure communities across the UK feel the benefit of schemes like this.

The policies recommended throughout this report follow the same principle: when government makes the sustainable choice the easy and affordable one, people respond.

The National Wealth Fund's retrofit scheme shows how well-designed policies can deliver tangible benefits at scale, providing a model for what comes next.

METHODOLOGY

This report updates the original policies where appropriate, assesses the benefits of them at national level and in selected regions, and tests their popularity with members of the public in those regions.

It shows the potential on-the-ground impact of these policies, **cutting costs for households in some of the most electorally and socio-economically significant parts of the country.**

It focuses on four Combined Authority areas: the North-East, South Yorkshire, the West Midlands, and Greater Manchester. The areas have been chosen to cover a range of situations: large rural hinterlands, major cities, suburban commuter towns with different levels of income and deprivation, and collections of large towns that are perceived to have been neglected by national policy.

Any path to good growth and equalising living standards across the country must deliver for these areas.

While we have chosen four regions to focus on, it is vital that the benefits of these policies for living standards are felt across the UK.*

* To model this policy, we used a default rate consistent with the British Business Bank's Growth Guarantee Scheme. It is worth noting that default rates on comparable household lending, such as residential solar loans in the United States, have recently run higher, with Kroll Bond Rating Agency's Solar Loan ABS Index recording net losses of 4.49% in April 2026. Actual costs to the Exchequer could therefore be higher than modelled here.

Our modelling therefore allocates the required budgets proportionally across the UK, rather than assuming that all spending is allocated to the regions of focus. **Where possible, the policies should be delivered at a local level, by those who truly understand their area, to ensure the best outcomes.**

National funding should be fairly and proportionately distributed, for example by rates of social housing, and Local Authority involvement should be encouraged and supported with additional resources and expertise where needed.

APPROACH TO POLICY DESIGN:

This report explores how to design people-centred policies for today's economic and political realities.

This means policies that:

- **Deliver tangible benefits to households in the near-term**, for example by addressing cost-of-living pressures.
- **Fit the economic and fiscal context.** Most policies included use existing funding schemes, leverage private investment, are revenue-neutral, or use non-spend levers like regulation and planning.
- **Fit the political context.** Policies should strengthen energy security and economic resilience, help tackle the cost-of-living, and help revitalise local areas. Taking this approach will help maintain public support for the net zero transition.



COST AND BENEFIT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY:

- Sourcing for all data used is included in this report.
- We have updated the national benefit calculations from the original report.
- We have also conducted new research into the regional benefits of these policies - the impacts of these are discussed throughout the report.
- Wherever possible we have prioritised Government or regulator data points in our research.

PUBLIC INSIGHTS METHODOLOGY:

- We conducted four online focus groups with residents of four Combined Authority areas: the North-East, South Yorkshire, the West Midlands, and Greater Manchester.
- Groups were split by household income, with two higher-income groups (household income above £40,000) and two lower-income groups (household income below £40,000).
- Each group comprised six participants and ran for approximately 90 minutes via Zoom.
- Participants were recruited via a specialist panel provider against a screening questionnaire designed to capture a mix of ages, genders, political opinions, and housing tenures. All participants were required to be responsible for or involved in household energy bill decisions.
- Attitudinal screening was applied to ensure groups reflected a range of opinions on climate and energy, rather than being dominated by those with fixed positions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Domestic heating accounts for around 15% of UK emissions, yet most homes still rely on fossil fuel heating, and many are poorly insulated.

High upfront costs prevent many households from upgrading their home, while rising energy prices are increasingly forcing people to cut back on heating usage, creating health and wellbeing impacts that can increase pressures on public services.² Energy bills remain the biggest household financial concern across all age groups.³

The clean energy transition is the only way to materially reduce the UK's exposure to volatile fossil fuel markets and deliver more stable, affordable energy bills for households. Ensuring that it does so quickly and visibly is vital to maintaining public support.

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1. A RENTERS' ENERGY DIVIDEND

Private solar firms install and own panels on low-income, privately rented blocks of flats, selling the electricity generated to the residents at a Government-backed discount rate. Saves private renters at least £120 a year, with no upfront cost or new provider to manage.

CONTEXT

Solar and storage can cut energy bills and boost support for the clean energy transition, but most renters are excluded from accessing its benefits. Building on the work already done to support renters' rights, the Government should develop mechanisms enabling renters in low-income blocks of flats to receive bill credits from locally-generated solar power.

Great British Energy has already allocated significant sums for community projects, including solar installations, so the proposed approach draws on well-established pots of money and existing infrastructure.

Enabling households who do not own properties to reap the **benefits of the clean energy transition** aligns well with the Government's determination to improve living standards for underserved communities.

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

The scheme would be delivered through partnerships between Great British Energy, housing providers, and private solar developers.

Great British Energy would establish a framework setting out standardised terms, eligibility criteria and strong consumer protection standards, while private developers would install and operate solar systems serving low-income blocks of flats.

A small Great British Energy subsidy would enable the electricity generated to be purchased by residents for at least 20% below the standard grid tariff.

Only the subsidies would represent a public fiscal cost, which we estimate would amount to around £65 million per year over three years.

By transferring installation costs and operational responsibility to the solar provider, the model enables low-income renters to access cheaper clean energy with no upfront investment.

The scheme would cut bills, support energy security goals, and help ensure tenants share in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

CASE STUDY:

A comparable model is already operating at scale overseas.

New York State's Community Solar programme allows renters and low-income households to subscribe to a nearby solar installation and receive bill credits for their share of the electricity generated, with no upfront cost and no new provider relationship to manage.⁴

Eligible low-income households typically save up to \$180 a year through automatic bill credits.⁵

By the end of 2023, the programme had supported two gigawatts of installed capacity - enough to power nearly 400,000 homes - and has continued to grow since then.⁶

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

Savings for renters would be at least £120 per year, helping to reduce the number of low-income households in fuel poverty.

Around 80% of these savings is likely to then be spent in the local economy, delivering multi-million-pound boosts in each region, such as around £4.7 million per year in the West Midlands.

Region	Households lifted out of fuel poverty	Estimated local economy impact
North East	37,200	+£3.6m annually
South Yorkshire	21,600	+£2.1m annually
Greater Manchester	43,900	+£4.2m annually
West Midlands	48,500	+£4.7m annually
TOTAL	151,200	+£14.6m annually

FOCUS GROUP VIEWS

The Renters' Energy Dividend generated the most varied response of any policy tested, and that variation is itself informative.

The response was strongly positive when it was framed as a fairness measure, giving renters access to the benefits of solar energy that are often unavailable to them.

The scale of the model, with a single installation serving an entire building, is seen as efficient and fair.

The absence of any upfront cost reinforced the sense that this was a low-risk proposition.

For some renters, the idea that a solar policy could include them at all was a genuine, and positive, surprise.

Private renters identified themselves as sitting between social housing and homeownership, unable to benefit from schemes targeting either tenure.

Communicating this policy as the private renter component of a tenure-spanning package (with the Stamp Duty Rebate benefiting homeowners and the extended National Wealth Fund scheme benefiting those in social housing) gives it a distinct and defensible role.

The delivery mechanism is where clarity will be essential. Focus groups raised concerns about potential complexity resulting from the involvement of multiple parties and a lack of tenant control.

These reduced when participants understood that the savings would be applied automatically to existing bills, without requiring a new provider relationship.

Communication should focus on the tenant experience rather than the institutional arrangements.

The £120 annual saving was received most favourably when put in context: for a small flat the proportional impact is greater than the headline figure suggests, and the aggregate benefit across a building is substantial.

Framing the saving at building level as well as household level strengthens the proposition.



2. A HOME UPGRADE STAMP DUTY REBATE

Homebuyers can claim back up to £3,750 in stamp duty for energy upgrades made within five years of moving in. This can fully cover the cost of some types of upgrade or cut the cost of a heat pump by up to 87% when combined with the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

CONTEXT

The UK's housing stock is among the leakiest in Europe, with residential buildings accounting for around 15% of the UK's carbon emissions. Retrofitting homes can address these issues and create bill savings, but homeowners are often deterred by upfront costs, the potential disruption involved, and limited financial incentives for delivery.

Research suggests that consumers are substantially more willing to change energy behaviours and invest in energy efficiency immediately after moving house, when there is greater focus on property value and future home renovation.⁷

Introducing an energy saving stamp duty rebate would create a clear incentive for homebuyers to invest in these energy improvements.

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

A time-limited rebate would apply to homebuyers who complete qualifying energy improvements within five years of purchase. This is a longer time limit than suggested in *Pounds in Pockets*, recognising that making investments within the first two years of purchase is challenging even with incentives, given the costs of moving.

Eligibility could be restricted to owner-occupied primary residences purchased for less than £1 million, with rebates capped at £3,750 to focus the support on low and middle-income groups.

This ensures that the policy is progressive, with **lower-cost homes receiving a larger rebate relative to their stamp duty** (national average stamp duty sitting at £5,800). First-time buyers would receive a rebate based on rates before first time buyer relief is applied.

Homeowners would need to provide proof of upgrade, for example, a new EPC certificate or an invoice from an accredited installer with a unique job reference code which could be crosschecked in a government database to deter fraud.

HMRC would be responsible for administering and validating the rebate, using data already available to the department (via the EPC Database). Only one rebate, which could encompass multiple upgrades, would be permitted per property transaction to prevent repeat claims on the same sale.

CASE STUDY:

A comparable incentive operates in Belgium's Brussels-Capital Region, where homebuyers who improve their property by at least two EPC classes within five years of purchase get an additional deduction from the taxable base of their registration duty (the Belgian equivalent of stamp duty), worth €25,000 per class.⁸

Since the duty is charged as a percentage of that base, the actual tax saving is smaller and around €6,250 in practice.

Unlike the UK proposal, this reduces the taxable amount rather than rebating the duty directly, but it demonstrates how linking property transaction taxes to energy upgrades via existing EPC infrastructure can work at scale.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

A rebate of up to £3,750 would substantially reduce the cost of installing energy efficiency upgrades or cut the cost of a heat pump installation by around 30% (based on an assumed installation cost of £13,000)⁹. When combined with additional support from the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, it could cut the cost of a heat pump installation by up to 87%.

The rebate would incentivise upgrades which would **deliver savings of hundreds of pounds a year on household energy bills**. Assuming an uptake similar to the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, this could generate around 30,000 additional retrofits each year.

The fiscal cost is likely to be around £113 million per year for the Exchequer.

It is plausible that uptake could be higher than 30,000 per year, given the incentive applies at the trigger point of a house purchase, when people are more likely to consider home upgrades. In a scenario where uptake is higher, more household and regional economic benefits would be unlocked, albeit at a higher cost to the Exchequer. To stimulate the retrofit market, Government could guarantee the scheme for the first three years, reviewing progress in 2030 to check that it is delivering as expected.

Households would see major gains from this policy, with millions of pounds saved, much of which would then be spent within regional economies. This would help to boost local businesses quickly and effectively.

Region	Number of residential property sales, annually	Impacted households over five years	Impacted households × £3,750
North East	25,000	3,400	£12.8m
South Yorkshire	16,000	2,200	£8.2m
Greater Manchester	30,000	4,100	£15.4m
West Midlands	65,000	8,900	£33.4m

FOCUS GROUP VIEWS

When tested in our focus groups, the stamp duty rebate was one of the most positively received proposals, particularly among homeowners and aspiring buyers.

The rebate figure was seen as meaningful, especially when combined with other schemes like the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

The five-year window is viewed as reasonable, giving households time to settle before committing to upgrades.

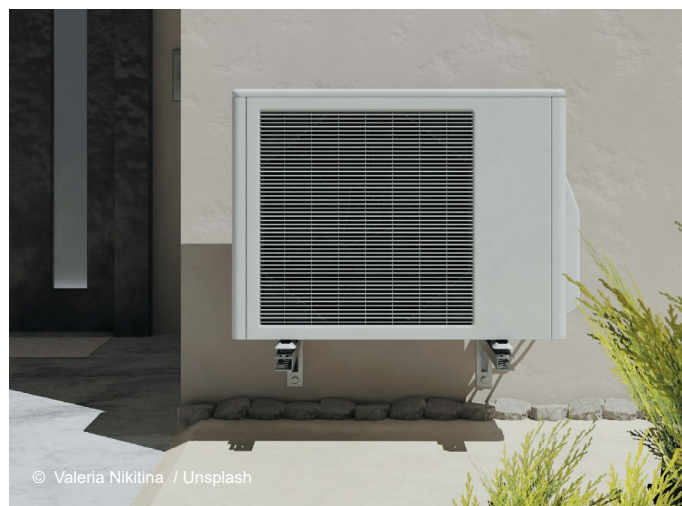
The main concern expressed around this policy did not relate to the policy design, but simply to the financial reality many face after making a house purchase.

Households that have just bought a home have typically exhausted their savings, and energy upgrades are not the immediate priority.

Communication of this policy should emphasise that the five-year window is specifically designed to accommodate this, and that upgrades do not need to happen immediately after purchase.

The policy is most relevant to those on or consider joining the property ladder.

Some renters noted it did not apply to them - while this was raised as an observation rather than an objection, it reinforces the importance of presenting the rebate as one element of a broader package that includes measures for other housing tenures.



3. GOVERNMENT-ISSUED GUARANTEES TO REDUCE THE COST OF HEAT-AS-A-SERVICE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Government-backed guarantees bring down the financing costs behind “pay monthly” clean heat subscriptions. Cuts monthly subscription costs by 13%, worth around £230 a year.

CONTEXT

Heat-as-a-Service (HaaS) models **address a key barrier to the adoption of clean heating technologies** - the relatively high upfront cost of purchasing and installing heating equipment and any associated home energy improvements.

Under a HaaS model, households pay a monthly subscription fee for heating services rather than purchasing heating systems outright. The approach is analogous to buying a mobile phone on contract, rather than purchasing the handset outright.

The subscription would typically cover the installation, maintenance, and operation of the heating system, reducing the need for significant upfront expenditure.

This model has the potential to improve access to low-carbon heating technologies, particularly for households that may be unable or unwilling to fund large capital investments.

Currently, however, HaaS providers face relatively high financing costs due to the risk of customer defaults and early contract terminations. These costs are reflected in subscription prices, limiting the affordability and attractiveness of the model.

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

A government-backed guarantee scheme could help to address this issue, supporting the growth of Heat-as-a-Service (HaaS) models and accelerating the adoption of low-carbon heating technologies.

The government should provide partial guarantees, covering around 40% of providers' losses if households default or terminate subscriptions early.

By reducing lenders' exposure to risk, **the guarantee would lower financing costs for providers**, enabling these savings to be passed onto households through lower subscription fees.

Capping the coverage at 40% balances meaningfully reduces risks and the cost of capital with limiting public exposure and fiscal impacts.

The scheme should be administered through an appropriate public body and would be available only to accredited providers meeting specified performance and service standards, including metrics like efficiency, temperature delivery, and heat availability. Participating households should remain subject to basic affordability and credit assessments.

The fiscal cost to the Exchequer because of defaulted borrowing is minimal.

If half a million households took up HaaS subscriptions backed by a government guarantee, we would expect the cost to the Exchequer to be around £113 million over the contracted term.**

This does not factor in the potential economic benefits resulting from this increased uptake and the resulting boost to the low-carbon installation sector.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

A government-backed guarantee scheme could benefit households who wish to install clean heating but cannot afford the upfront cost as one lump sum.

** To model this policy, we assumed an average retrofit spend of £15,000 and used a default rate of 1.5%, consistent with the British Business Bank's Growth Guarantee Scheme. It is worth noting that default rates on comparable household lending, such as residential solar loans in the United States, have recently run higher, with Kroll Bond Rating Agency's Solar Loan ABS Index recording net losses of 4.49% in April 2026. Actual costs to the Exchequer could therefore be higher than modelled here.

Increased uptake would support the transition to a lower-carbon housing stock and accelerate the electrification of home heating, reducing household exposure to fossil fuel price spikes and boosting the UK's energy security.

Reducing the UK's dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets is the only way to deliver long-term energy security and stable bills.

CASE STUDY:

Subscription-based models are already operating in the UK.

Among others, Aira, a Swedish clean energy company, offers heat pumps on a monthly payment plan from hubs in Manchester, Sheffield, London, and Stirling, with no large upfront cost, covering installation, servicing, and aftercare over the contract term.¹⁰

This is a good example of a scheme where the upfront cost barrier is removed, and **the consumer experience is simplified to a predictable monthly payment.**

A government guarantee would make the benefits of such a scheme accessible to more people across the UK.

A HaaS subscription with comprehensive retrofit currently costs around £150 per month for a three-bedroom semi-detached home, depending on the extent of retrofit.

With a guarantee in place, modelling based on another government guarantee scheme run by the British Business Bank suggests monthly costs could fall by 13%.

This could equate to an annual reduction in subscription costs of £230 compared to current market rates.

FOCUS GROUP VIEWS

The subscription generated interest, but public support will depend on how the offer is communicated.

Some participants viewed the monthly subscription fee as an additional cost, rather than a saving, noting that it was comparable to their existing combined energy bills.

Communication would need to clearly show the difference between what households pay now (including upfront and maintenance costs of heating technologies) versus what they would pay under the subscription.

The concept of spreading costs over time resonated particularly when compared to familiar models such as phone contracts or car finance, where monthly payments replace a large upfront expense.

This framing shifted initially cautious views and could inform how the model is presented publicly.

Participants also wanted clarity on practical issues like contract duration, ownership at the end of the term, what happens if a subscriber moves house, and what happens if payments are missed.

Addressing these questions upfront in public communication would help position the subscription as a straightforward consumer product.

The Green Finance Institute's [work on property-linked finance](#) may be a useful source to draw on in this regard.



4. REMOVING POLICY LEVIES FROM HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY BILLS

Gradually moves policy costs off domestic electricity bills and into general taxation, saving households money and accelerating electrification. Cuts the average household electricity bill by around £175 a year.

CONTEXT

Accelerating the electrification of heat, transport and industry is essential to stabilising bills, strengthening energy security, and tackling climate change.

Yet policy levies still fall disproportionately on electricity bills, increasing costs for households and discouraging the switch to cleaner technologies.

Whilst gas price volatility drives a large portion of energy bill rises, levies make up around 9% of a typical household energy bill and penalise electricity over gas, hitting the cleaner, more efficient option.

These levies support vital programmes that benefit all households, including renewables, energy efficiency, and support for vulnerable households, so **they should not simply be cut.**

Moving them away from electricity bills and into general taxation, however, would reduce bills, improve fairness and incentivise the switch to clean heat and transport.

Levy reform is also a fairness issue. Levies are regressive and worsen fuel poverty, with low-income households now spending more on them than on basic foodstuffs, like bread, rice and cereals.¹¹

Households with electric heating are twice as likely to experience fuel poverty (as most have inefficient old heaters or electric boilers) and some pay nearly eight times more in levies than those with gas heating.¹²

Levies have the potential to worsen inflation and undermine growth. Higher bills feed through into higher inflation and interest rates, as well as the wider cost of goods and services, causing price inflation and worsening the cost-of-living crisis.

Because energy demand is inelastic, high bills reduce household spending elsewhere, weakening growth and tax revenues.¹³
They also hold back electrification, leaving the UK more exposed to fossil fuel price spikes.

There are also clear political risks to inaction. The public consistently cites the cost-of-living crisis as their top concern, with energy bills the primary driver.¹⁴

This risks creating real political backlash, with 77% of Britons feeling that the government is at least partly responsible for the UK's high household energy bills.¹⁵

Voters are pessimistic about whether energy bills will get more affordable¹⁶ – the sense of a system that isn't working for ordinary people is driving voters away from established parties.

This does not mean that the push to deliver energy security and affordability through clean power is unpopular – **most Britons want to replace imported gas with renewables**, rather than extracting more gas in the UK.¹⁷ But it does mean that it's vital to cut levies, which would deliver an immediate bill reduction while incentivising the uptake of technologies that can drive further savings.

The Government has already taken important steps, removing around £150 from average household energy bills in the 2025 Autumn Budget and moving them into general taxation. The recent temporary VAT cut on domestic electricity bills is also welcome, reducing a typical household's annual bill by around £45. This policy would build on those steps.

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

The Government should commit to gradually move the legacy cost of levies off domestic electricity bills over the course of the Parliament.

This should include all Renewables Obligation costs (i.e. making the current temporary removal of 75% of costs permanent and removing the remaining 25%) as well as legacy costs for the Feed-In Tariff, Warm Homes Discount, early-stage Contracts for Difference (CfD) and Nuclear Regulated Asset Base (RAB).

Removing these levies from household electricity bills and moving the costs to the Exchequer gradually represents the most equitable and progressive approach. Removing these legacy costs would add around £5 billion per year to the Government's balance sheet based on current levy costs, tapering down in the early 2030s as legacy contracts expire.

Government should also seek to minimise the impact of future costs and any new schemes on household bills, considering where funding via general taxation is the more appropriate mechanism.

Action is vital economically, fiscally, and politically. Levy reform is one of the only policies that can deliver rapid, large cuts to bills and is critical to building sustained resilience to fossil fuel price shocks through electrification.

Greater resilience would deliver better outcomes for both households and Treasury, reducing the level of direct energy bill support needed, which proved a necessary but expensive sticking plaster solution in the last fossil fuel price crisis, requiring over £60 billion in support.¹⁸

It is important to acknowledge that fiscal space remains tight, hence the need for a gradual process. WWF-UK has previously explored a fiscally neutral approach, in which Ofgem sets the p/kWh rates for electricity and gas at the appropriate level to recover policy costs and support electrification while not adding unmanageable costs to gas bills.

Gradual rebalancing of levies from electricity to gas could cut electricity bills by up to £59 a year, but would lead to an increase in gas bills for households remaining on gas heating.

While a well-designed social tariff, discussed below, could partially mitigate some of these impacts, it would not address them all. We therefore **strongly recommend moving levies into general taxation as the lead approach.**

The wider fiscal context is also why our proposed approach does not involve removing levy costs from businesses' electricity bills. Clearly this would be desirable if fiscal space allows, helping ease inflationary pressures on goods and services and boosting the economy.

It would significantly increase the cost of the approach, however, and would likely be a lower order priority in a fiscally constrained economic picture.

We remain supportive of incentives to enable more businesses to electrify where fiscal space allows.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

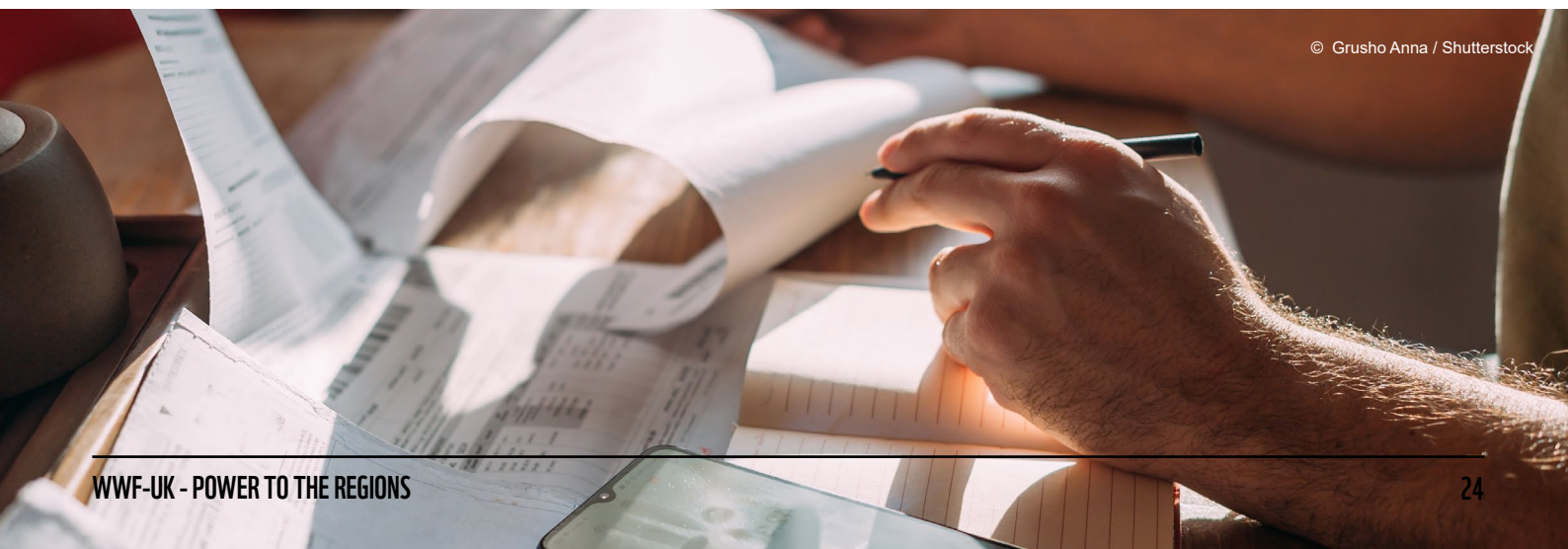
Removing the levies discussed above, would reduce household electricity bills by around £175 per year.¹⁹

This would be a highly effective approach to bill reductions, creating clear economic benefits for all households and particularly benefiting those using inefficient old heaters or electric boilers, who are twice as likely to be in fuel poverty.

It would also create clear incentives to switch to clean heating and transport, helping deliver against the Government's energy security and decarbonisation objectives.

This policy would **immediately and significantly benefit household finances, with the benefits felt most acutely at the lowest end of the income spectrum.**

The projected reduction in electricity bills could see **fuel poverty in the places we modelled roughly halved.**



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REGION	Households taken out of fuel poverty by £175 saving	Reduction in rate of fuel poverty
North East	54,500 households	9.4% → 3.5%
South Yorkshire	31,100 households	11.1% → 6%
Greater Manchester	64,600 households	10.5% → 5.3%
West Midlands	70,200 households	12.4% → 6.5%

FOCUS GROUP VIEWS

Removing levies from electricity bills was the most widely supported proposal of those tested. The appeal was clear - the policy benefits everyone, regardless of housing tenure, income, or circumstance, and requires no action from the household.

The savings figure, while comparable to other policies, felt more worthwhile precisely because it was automatic and universal.

The funding mechanism is the only clear vulnerability of this policy.

The phrase 'general taxation' prompted assumptions amongst our focus group participants that taxes would rise to cover the saving.

In one group this was sufficient to undermine support for the concept entirely, even after clarification.

Any communication around levy reform will need to proactively frame the mechanism as a reallocation of existing costs rather than just new public spending.

On the alternative of moving levies onto gas bills, the public was largely unpersuaded.

The dominant view was that transferring costs between bills offered no real benefit, and some raised the practical point that households without gas connections would not be subject to the charges.

The evidence suggests that **the Exchequer-funded route, while more fiscally demanding, is significantly more likely to command public support.**

5. ESTABLISHING A SIMPLE SOCIAL ENERGY TARIFF

An automatic bill discount for eligible households, with no application needed. Saves eligible households around 25% off their energy bill, worth roughly £415 a year on average.

CONTEXT

Spiking fossil fuel prices have resulted in a second energy affordability crisis in four years.

In an era of geopolitical turmoil, there is a need to move beyond reactive and temporary relief and introduce a long-term, targeted mechanism to ensure that vulnerable households can afford essential energy.

Without action, millions of households will continue to face unaffordable bills - exacerbating health inequalities, impacting economic recovery, and risking public consent for the transition to net zero.

A social tariff would promote greater equity within the energy market, ensuring that all households have access to the energy they need, regardless of income.

This would support the broader goal of a fair and just energy transition.

Similar approaches to support vulnerable customers already exist in the water and telecommunications sectors, demonstrating that it is both feasible and effective.

The policy would address both the immediate cost-of-living crisis and the long-term need for a fair energy system.

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HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

The Government should introduce a targeted, simple, and easy to use social tariff, providing automatic discounts for the households who need it most.

This includes households on means-tested benefits and pensioners on low incomes.

Eligible households should be automatically enrolled in the tariff, with data matching improved over time to capture those low-income households who fall outside the benefits system, as well as some disabled households with high energy usage.

Capturing the latter categories will require more advanced data matching – for this reason, we have not included them in our modelling at this stage, limiting our calculations to those in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) and Pension Credit (PC).

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) UC and PC data should be used to identify eligible households in the first instance.

It is clear from the Winter Fuel Payment changes that it is feasible to identify low-income pensioners using existing data. We expect this initial matching to identify around 8.5 million eligible households in receipt of UC or PC.

The tariff rate should be set to deliver an average saving of 25% for eligible households. The cost of this policy annually would be around £3.5 billion, based on the cohort modelled - this should ideally be funded through general taxation. While it would be possible to fund the policy via the bills of non-eligible households, this would be deeply unpopular and risk slowing the electrification of heating and transport.

A social tariff would provide valuable support to vulnerable households but should be accompanied by a long-term plan to permanently reduce their energy bills, so that most do not need to remain on the tariff.

This will involve rapid deployment of renewables, electricity market reforms, and scaling up home insulation and the electrification of heat and transport. **In the longer-term, this approach is likely to minimise costs to taxpayers.**



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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

The social tariff rate should be set with the goal of delivering an average saving of 25% for eligible households.

Modelled on current household energy usage and prices, this would result in an **average saving for eligible households of £415 annually** against the energy price cap.

The number of eligible households varies across regions, as rates of welfare claims and poverty fluctuate. Across the four regions featured, this policy could **lift over half a million households out of fuel poverty**.

REGION	Total eligible households (Universal Credit or Pension Credit recipients)	Estimated households lifted out of fuel poverty by £415/year bill reduction	% of eligible households lifted out of fuel poverty
North East	335,000	c.129,000	38.4%
South Yorkshire	225,000	c.75,000	33.2%
Greater Manchester	515,000	c.149,000	29.0%
West Midlands	590,000	c.168,000	28.4%
TOTAL	1,665,000	c. 520,000	31.3%



CASE STUDY:

The principle of an automatic social energy tariff is already working overseas.

Portugal's Automated Social Energy Tariff, which won a UN Public Service Award, uses government-held tax and benefits data to proactively identify eligible households and apply the discount automatically, with no application required.²⁰

The Portuguese experience demonstrates that automatic enrolment is not only fairer but more effective at reaching the people the policy is designed to help.

This aligns with what we heard from the public, where automatic enrolment was the single most praised design feature of any policy tested.

Support for pensioners and disabled people was broadly accepted across all income levels, but some higher-income households questioned whether working-age Universal Credit recipients should be automatically eligible.

This suggests that communications should lead with emphasising the benefits for pensioners and disabled people of this kind of targeted support.

The 25% savings figure resonated more strongly in our focus groups than the flat pound figures used for some other policies. Once translated to a monthly equivalent, the pound figures lost some of their impact, while the percentage framing held.

This suggests that percentage-based communication may be effective across the package.

Automatic enrolment was the single most praised design feature of any policy tested across our focus groups.

It was felt that the groups most likely to be eligible are also those most likely to struggle with application processes - the fact that the discount would apply without requiring any action was seen as both practical and compassionate.

This supports the case for DWP data matching and automatic eligibility and suggests the simplicity of the delivery mechanism is as important as the level of the discount.

FOCUS GROUP VIEWS

This policy was generally viewed positively across our focus groups, particularly among those from lower-income households, who felt that the policy was targeting support where it was most needed.

LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Farmers play a key role in securing the UK's food supply and protecting its natural capital.

With many facing severe financial strain and increasingly exposed to the consequences of climate change and nature degradation, it is clear that **business as usual is not working**.

The UK's food supply faces material threats - extreme weather driven by climate change, ecosystem degradation and collapse, and volatile fossil fuel markets inflating food prices for households and driving farmers out of business.

This exposure to fossil fuel markets is felt most directly through fertiliser costs.

Most synthetic fertiliser is manufactured using natural gas, meaning that gas price spikes translate quickly into higher input costs for farmers.

In this context, it is vital to enhance **farming profitability and resilience in ways that support system-wide benefits**, including nature recovery, progress towards net zero, and greater nutritional security.

Given the multiple pressures converging on the land use system, it is critical that farmers are seen as foundational partners in policy design.

Methodological note: *The qualitative research element of this report focused on the six household energy policies, where direct public feedback on the proposed mechanisms and savings was most attainable.*

The agriculture and land use proposals operate at a different scale, affecting farming practices, supply chains, and land management rather than individual household bills, so were not tested via focus groups at this stage.



1. FARM RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIPS TO CROWD IN SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCE

Enables farmers to combine public Environmental Land Management (ELM) payments with private investment from food businesses wanting to fund verified environmental outcomes. Could unlock hundreds of millions in private investment for sustainable farming.

CONTEXT

To ensure resilient food production in the UK, agriculture and land use policy must **support farmers to adopt practices that restore soil health, reduce reliance on synthetic fossil-fuel based fertilisers, help nature to flourish, and build resilience to extreme weather events.**

Public funding like Environmental Land Management (ELM) payments play a vital role in encouraging and supporting the implementation of these kinds of practices. **Downstream supply chain actors also reap their benefits, including reduced emissions and improved soil health.**

To reflect this, Government should create structures that enable corporates to co-invest in these outcomes through 'insetting' finance - making interventions within their value chain that reduce or remove scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions and improve the resilience of landscapes, communities and ecosystems.

Mandatory scope 3 reporting (covering emissions arising within a company's value chain), transition plans, and Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures-aligned disclosures are all important enablers in increasing the supply of insetting finance.

Designed right, insetting finance would address a structural funding gap in agricultural transition finance.

Enabling businesses to invest directly within food production supply chains would allow UK farmers to stack long-term private revenue streams alongside public support, multiplying its impact, smoothing farm cashflow, and **unlocking significant sums to support farm-level climate and nature outcomes.**

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

Under this policy, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) would formally enable a mechanism for Value-Chain Insetting Partnerships (VCIPs), **enabling farmers to blend ELM scheme payments** - particularly the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship - with private insetting finance from food retailers, processors, brands, and food service (e.g., restaurants).

These corporates would pay farmers for implementing practices beyond those already supported through ELM, delivering improved outcomes for climate and nature while ensuring funded interventions have additionality.

KEY FEATURES SHOULD INCLUDE:

- **A standardised contract template** to support co-claiming of outcomes.
- **Use of a Land Management Plan/Whole Farm Plan** as the single monitoring, reporting and verification gateway, reducing administrative burden.
- **Contracts that reflect the time horizon of private supply-chain investment** (5-10 years), while also dealing with the complexity of tenant/contract farming models, complementing policies like SFI's three-year payment structure.
- **Eligibility for farms acting alone or in landscape-scale groups**, with higher eligibility scores awarded for aggregations of small-scale farmers and where collective action is contributing to the delivery of tangible wholescape outcomes.

Under this model, private capital would support outcomes such as **soil health improvement, biodiversity enhancement, water quality protection, and emissions reductions.**

These investments are structured to reduce risk for farmers by diversifying income streams and reducing reliance on volatile commodity markets.

Landscape approaches should be prioritised to help ensure that private investment delivers positive environmental and social outcomes.

WWF-UK have developed the wholescape framework, which provides a **best-practice landscape framework** for the UK context, setting out a comprehensive approach that recognises the interconnectedness of natural and human systems across different scales.

It supports a systems approach to consider the biological, chemical, and physical connections from land to sea, as well as social and economic factors that impact nature and people.



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CASE STUDY:

Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) provide an example of how a landscape approach can work on the ground, laddering insetting finance to farmers with ELM payments to ensure the practices rewarded are genuinely additional and generate impact for climate and nature.

It works by allowing businesses to co-fund shared land management needs across a region, such as flood risk, water quality and emissions reductions, with farmers bidding together to implement measures across multiple farms.

LENs delivered almost 50,000 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) reductions or removals in 2024 alone.²¹

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

Indicative modelling suggests that this approach could mobilise up to £480 million per year in private sector investment into sustainable agriculture.

It is important to note that this figure is heavily driven by assumptions and likely represents the upper range of what is possible.

The modelling assumes continuous ELM funding, including sufficient investment in the landscape recovery tier. It then estimates the scale of investment achievable by modelling a potential public/private leverage ratio, using a 1:3 public private leverage ratio, based on the National Wealth Fund's target.

This approach is expected to complement existing public ELM expenditure rather than replace it, thereby increasing total funding available for land management without equivalent increases in public spending.

SFI and ELM would continue to cover income foregone and costs incurred, while the policy will then additionally target increased private and public co-funding for actions such as woodland creation or soil carbon sequestration.

For the private sector, this policy can unlock a range of benefits. Financial returns can be safeguarded through increased supply chain resilience to extreme weather events and external input price shocks, such as spikes in the cost of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, which are directly linked to volatile fossil fuel prices.

For food businesses, evidence that they are derisking their business by increasing supply chain resilience may also lead to a lower cost of capital.

2. INCENTIVES FOR FARMERS TO OPTIMISE AND REDUCE USE OF FOSSIL-FUEL BASED FERTILISER

Financial incentives help farmers cut or replace fossil-fuel-based fertilisers with low-carbon alternatives. Could cut costs by up to £60 per hectare and emissions intensity by up to 80%.

CONTEXT

Fossil-fuel based fertiliser has a significant environmental footprint and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Meanwhile, soaring fossil fuel prices due to geopolitical tensions have increased the cost of these fertilisers, impacting farmers' financial viability and contributing to food price inflation.

In this context, encouraging farmers to diversify away from fossil-fuel based fertilisers **helps address both the high emissions intensity of these fertilisers and the economic vulnerability of farmers to volatile global prices.**

The best way to reduce synthetic fertiliser use is through cutting waste and moving to a regenerative agriculture model.

Within future iterations of the SFI scheme or other farm payments, the Government should prioritise the actions with the strongest evidence of reducing fossil-fuel based fertiliser application and nutrient pollution - wooded and scrub buffer zones,

constructed and restored wetlands, cover crops, legumes - and protect their payment rates against further erosion.

Increased uptake of seaweed biostimulants, which reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers by enabling more effective nutrient uptake and increased drought resilience, should also be encouraged.

In some scenarios, however, this approach will need to be complemented with replacing fossil fuel fertilisers with low-carbon organic ones.

This will still deliver clear benefits, particularly for CO₂ emissions, while reducing costs for farmers.

To enable this, Government should introduce targeted financial incentives to accelerate the adoption of robustly certified low-carbon fertilisers where appropriate.



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HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

The policy would introduce a new Sustainable Farming Initiative action that specifically rewards farms achieving demonstrable reductions in fossil-fuel based fertiliser use.

Defra should establish a clear certification and standards framework to define what qualifies as a low-carbon organic input. Farms adopting these certified inputs, in combination with approved nutrient management plans, would become eligible for financial support.

Support should be structured as per-hectare transition payments or tax relief schemes, recognising that shifting to organic inputs can have some short-term yield risk, upfront learning costs, and potentially machinery costs for different application methods. Verification of reduced fossil-fuel based fertiliser use could be facilitated through existing record-keeping requirements under farm assurance schemes, such as Red Tractor, which mandate documentation of fertiliser applications, purchases and storage practices.

There must be collaboration between Defra, local authorities, and waste contractors to improve the separate collection of household food waste, with a renewed emphasis on routing this waste toward composting, particularly where life cycle assessments suggest better environmental returns than fossil fuel-based fertilisers.



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

Full adoption of robustly certified low-carbon fertilisers could achieve cost savings of approximately £60 per hectare, depending on crop type and baseline fertiliser usage. In addition, it could reduce emissions intensity by up to 80% per kilogram of fertiliser used.

This policy also improves resilience by **reducing exposure to fossil fuel price volatility**, which has been a significant driver of farm input cost inflation in recent years. Over time, improved soil health would translate into higher farm productivity, greater crop resilience, and further reductions in input costs, contributing to the long-term sustainability of farm businesses.

Given the policy is designed to reallocate fiscal costs already embedded in Defra's Departmental Expenditure Limit, **no additional costs to government would be incurred.**

3. FAST-TRACKING RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Extends permitted development rights so farmers can implement interventions like ponds, wetlands, and horticulture sites without a full planning application.

Cuts planning costs significantly and speeds up approval by 2–5 weeks.

CONTEXT

Planning remains a barrier for farmers who are seeking to undertake nature-based solutions and farm efficiency improvements.

Farmers often face delays, fees and inconsistent planning decisions whilst trying to implement interventions such as ponds and wetlands, which can help to deliver soil and water quality improvements. These barriers are particularly significant for smaller farms and those with limited administrative capacity.

While the planning regime contains important backstops, including core protections such as the Habitats Regulations, **there is scope to streamline some obligations through selective reforms** to permitted development rights to encourage adoption of climate and nature-friendly activities.

This includes creating new pre-approved categories for interventions delivering clear environmental benefits, which could increase participation in Environmental Land Management Schemes and enable more efficient rollout of nature-based solutions.

HOW THE POLICY WOULD WORK

The policy would **revive and build on the 2023 consultation** on additional flexibilities to support the agricultural sector under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, which included a call for evidence on nature-based solutions and farm diversification.

This evidence base would be taken forward into a targeted consultation, focusing on expanding permitted development rights or creating new prior-approval categories for on-farm interventions that deliver clear environmental benefits.



EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES COULD INCLUDE:

- **Farm ponds, wetlands and small reservoirs**
- **Slurry stores and covered manure storage** (where used to mitigate current risks and impacts, not to expand herd size)
- **On-site composting areas**
- **Farm efficiency infrastructure** (e.g. rainwater harvesting)
- **Rooftop solar PV installations** on farm buildings
- **Horticulture sites**

To maintain public trust and environmental safeguards, **prior-approval routes should be restricted to actions that meet pre-agreed design and location criteria**, with standard conditions attached (e.g. size limits, setback distances, biodiversity protection, consideration of Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities).

A national code of good practice could be developed with input from Defra and relevant stakeholders.

For Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements, the policy would seek to clarify that nature-based interventions supported through ELM schemes, such as the SFI and Countryside Stewardship (CS), should not be subject to duplicative

BNG obligations. Overall, the highest environmental standards should be upheld.

This approach recognises that these interventions inherently contribute to **biodiversity enhancement**, where designed and delivered appropriately, and additional BNG requirements may create unnecessary barriers for farmers.



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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS

This reform would significantly reduce the cost and complexity for farmers seeking to adopt sustainable practices on their land.

Planning applications can currently take over two months and cost thousands in professional fees, with some applicants facing delays or rejections that ultimately prevent delivery of projects tied to SFI or CS funding.

Removing these barriers would accelerate uptake of nature-based solutions such as ponds and wetlands that improve flood resilience, water quality and soil health, directly contributing to the goals of SFI and CS schemes.

Farmers switching from the regular planning system to permitted development rights would pay a flat prior-approval fee of £249, regardless of the size of the site.

This compares to full planning application fees of over £600 per 0.1 hectare.

For a typical farm infrastructure project like a 0.3-hectare pond, this could represent **a saving of over 85% in planning application costs.**

In addition, the policy is expected to reduce approval timelines by 2 to 5 weeks per application.

This policy could increase participation in the ELM scheme by lowering upfront transaction costs and **giving farmers greater confidence to proceed with infrastructure that supports long-term environmental outcomes.**

Reducing the need for full planning applications would also ease burdens on local planning authorities, supporting wider government efforts to modernise the planning system.

CONCLUSION

THE CASE FOR ACTION NOW

It is vital to accelerate delivery for climate and nature while unlocking direct benefits for households in this Parliament. Demonstrating how policies improve everyday life, strengthen economic security, and deliver local benefits is crucial to maintaining the public mandate for climate action.

This report sets out a series of policy proposals that would deliver **clear benefits, both nationally and in some of the most economically and electorally significant regions of the country.**

It demonstrates potential public support for the policies, and where public support is more hesitant, the conditions under which it can be built.

This includes clear insights into the policy design choices and narratives necessary to ensure support is actionable in the current political context.

Collectively, these policies would unlock a range of benefits for the public, including **lower bills, warmer homes, and more resilient farms.** In an increasingly volatile world, it is critical that Government acts with **boldness and ambition to boost living standards, revitalise neighbourhoods across the UK, and unlock economic growth.**

Implementing these policies would address the defining challenge of our time - tackling climate breakdown and nature loss to create the conditions for shared prosperity, now and in the future.





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