

Bring Down Bills



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Introduction


Energy bills are too high.

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is the number one issue for people across the country. More than six million households are in fuel poverty, and energy debt is surging towards £5 billion.

The impacts of this are felt across society: constricted growth, high inflation, and damaged living standards. Businesses are struggling and bills have been too high for too long for millions of households, leading to record levels of customer debt.

Immediate and sustained action to bring down bills for people and businesses is needed now.

The good news is there are savings to be made across the entire energy system. From generation



and transmission to storage and retail, the industry is already working hard to bring down bills.

The significant intervention made on energy bills in the Autumn Budget shows the Government is taking the issue seriously and an expected £150 reduction in bills represents a positive and welcome first step. But there is more to be done.

Bring Down Bills: Views from across the sector outlines the ways in which bills can be reduced even further in the short term and the longer term, with contributions from across the sector, charities, and consumer bodies. Their ideas are diverse, but together they present a united effort and desire to bring down energy bills for good.


British Solar Renewables



Rob Peters

Chief Commercial Officer,
British Solar Renewables

By powering the UK with large-scale renewables and a smarter, connected grid, we can build an energy system that protects consumers from price shocks and rising bills. Investing in clean, home-grown power means a future of stability,



security, and sustainability; where affordable energy supports every home and community across the country.

Citizens Advice




Gillian Cooper

Director of Energy, Citizens Advice

With energy bills still far higher than before the crisis and millions in energy debt, Citizens Advice is bracing for another tough winter helping people heat their homes and keep the lights on.

Making electricity bills cheaper is a welcome move that will ease the pressure on struggling



households. But our advisers know we need to go further, by breaking the cycle of fuel poverty and energy debt. Energy debt is still the most common type of debt our advisers help people with; a debt relief scheme will help put those households on a surer footing.

The Government should bolster the Warm Home Discount to a level that meaningfully tackles fuel poverty, continue to incentivise electrification, and use the Warm Homes plan to help people sustainably cut their bills by making their homes easier and cheaper to heat.




Miguel Veiga-Pestana

Chief Sustainability Officer, Drax

Reducing energy bills is of critical importance to ensuring a prosperous future for the UK, alongside easing the cost-of-living crisis faced by millions of people.

A key component to reducing energy bills is decreasing the UK's reliance on gas, and focusing



on the use of lower carbon, and lower cost, renewables such as wind and solar, complemented by reliable flexible generation technologies.

At Drax, we're investing in flexible energy solutions which support the rollout of intermittent renewables. By investing in technologies such as hydro, pumped storage, biomass, and batteries, we're helping to ensure that the UK can maximise its deployment of renewables, resulting in a lower carbon and lower cost energy future, while maintaining the UK's security of supply.




Philippe Commaret

Managing Director of Customers, EDF

As an industry we must work together with policy-makers to tackle the rising cost of energy bills. There's not an easy, one-fix-all solution, but we should look at a range of measures that can bring costs down.

The cost to supply British consumers is unnecessarily high – it's roughly double the cost



than in France. This is in part because our overly complex and rigid regulatory framework has significantly limited suppliers' ability to recover debt, increasing costs for all. We must deliver on the proposed Debt Relief Scheme, commit to reducing the burden of energy regulation by 25% by 2030, and reform the smart meter roll-out. Additionally, energy suppliers need a cross-sector, government-led Priority Services Register to identify vulnerable customers so we can effectively target support to those who need it.

In the longer term, building an electric Britain and delivering on electrification will be key to bringing down bills.


Energy UK



Dhara Vyas

Chief Executive, Energy UK

Recent announcements about the removal of some policy costs on bills is very welcome. The Government has listened to the concerns of consumer groups and the energy industry, but the job is far from done. Taking action to make energy bills more affordable for all customers requires a continuation of this decisive approach



– which should include further reducing the cost of electricity relative to gas and making use of income data to better target support to those in most need.

We've often talked about the potential to use existing data if it can be shared between departments – and it's one reason why we need a National Strategy on Energy Bills, led by No.10 or HM Treasury, to coordinate cross-government action. Taking action to identify and offer support to households who need it most is crucial, alongside continuing to invest in the transition to a clean power system which will deliver security, resilience, and stable bills for the long term.




Chris Norbury

Chief Executive, E.ON UK

With over six million households in fuel poverty and electricity prices tied to volatile gas markets, energy affordability remains a critical issue. A clean energy future is the ultimate route to lower bills, but we must act now to cut costs and make a difference.

The biggest savings won't come from a single fix, but from bold, joined-up action. Removing



legacy costs is an important step towards fairer bills and supporting electrification, and we should go further by eliminating the influence of gas generation in the wholesale market. But that alone isn't enough. We need to unlock in-home flexibility so customers can use and store energy when it's cheapest and cleanest. And we need targeted, co-funded price protection, building on schemes like the Warm Home Discount and using smarter data to reach those who need help most.

With the right policies, investment, and partnerships, we can deliver lower bills today, alongside cleaner power and energy security for all.

Haldane Energy



Lawson Steele

CEO, Haldane Energy, part of Windward Energy Group

The UK's energy system is evolving, with renewables now delivering nearly half of electricity generation. Yet, this progress brings new challenges: periods of oversupply and undersupply. By the 2030s, this mismatch could reach tens of terawatt hours annually, driving volatility and higher costs.

To manage this, the UK needs far greater flexibility. Without long duration electricity storage (LDES), the system will struggle to remain stable, affordable, and resilient – risking wasted renewable energy, supply shortfalls, and price shocks. By the 2030s, hydrogen-derived long duration electricity storage (H₂-LDES) alone could cut curtailment by up to 20TWh.

Dispatchable power is still largely provided by gas fleets. As these assets near the end of their operational life, the UK faces a strategic choice: how best to replace this capacity while maintaining affordability and security. Future-proof, dispatchable technologies such as H₂-LDES can store surplus energy and return it to the grid when needed, helping to build a more resilient power system.


InterGen



David MacDonald

Chief Legal Officer, InterGen

Bills fall when markets are stable, competitive and designed to reward efficiency. Interventions have a role, but only where they are necessary – and they should work with competition, not against it. Every intervention should deliver meaningful carbon savings for its cost.



Consumers want decarbonisation, but they are also being asked to pay for it and they should be entitled to see that money spent on genuinely proven technologies which deliver value for money. By keeping price signals clear and competition technology-neutral, we can lower bills while building a cleaner, more resilient energy system.


National Energy Action



Adam Scorer

Chief Executive, National Energy Action

Three things feel crucial. Firstly, millions of households are drowning in a total of £4.5 billion of energy debt. They won't be able to have affordable bills without first being helped out of this mire, which is costing bill payers £50-£70 a year.



Secondly, the Warm Homes Plan must live up to its name. Its success must be judged on whether it delivers lasting savings for the poorest households along with healthier living conditions and lower carbon emissions. This is especially important now that funding is more constrained.

Finally, if heat pumps are going to be key to how we heat our homes, then lower electricity costs and better insulation will be essential. The Government must go further to reduce the price of electricity for the poorest households and deliver bigger and better schemes to support low-income households.

National Grid




nationalgrid

Alice Delahunty

President of National Grid Electricity Transmission,
National Grid

National Grid is building the energy networks of the future to cut constraint costs, lower bills, and support economic growth. We are deploying new technologies to get the most out of the existing grid – driving efficiency, creating capacity and



increasing resilience. Networks are, however, a relatively small part of the total bill.

That's why we're urging the Government to tackle the bigger picture and remove or reallocate costs to reduce the burden on consumers. Affordability isn't something any one player can solve alone; industry, government, and regulators must work together. National Grid is ready to play its part.


Natural Power



Jeremy Sainsbury

Director, Natural Power

Natural Power is a consultancy working to deliver renewable energy projects at least cost to consumers with clients across the globe. It is clear from our work over the past 30 years that wind and solar energy are now the cheapest forms of new build generation available and provide energy security when gas and other



forms of fossil fuel are influenced by global shocks. The Contract for Difference Scheme in the GB market gives a certainty of price and acts as a consumer hedge, helping break the grip fossil fuels have on the market as price maker for our energy system.

It is common sense to harness the UK's plentiful natural resources to produce cheap electricity from resources which will never run out or add to global warming, providing the foundation to a successful growing economy.




nesta

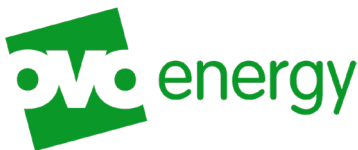
Ravi Gurumurthy

Chief Executive Officer, Nesta

Electricity is the fuel of the future, and yet it's taxed far more than fossil gas. The January price cap will see policy costs rise to 18% of a typical electricity bill, compared with just 8% of a typical gas bill, making electricity 4.7 times the price of gas per kWh – easily the widest price ratio we've seen since the energy crisis.




The Government's decision to remove the majority of the Renewables Obligation from electricity bills from April is highly welcome, but it must continue to shift policy costs away from electricity, and avoid loading new costs onto electricity bills. Bringing down the price of electricity relative to gas would benefit hundreds of thousands of households in the deepest fuel poverty, and would be a gamechanger in the uptake of low-carbon technologies like heat pumps.



Mary Starks

VP Regulation, Policy and Risk, Ovo

Over the long-term, we need to ensure that we continue to invest in energy efficiency, reducing energy use for households overall, and bringing down individual bills permanently. However, there are near-term actions that we can take that will reduce bills immediately.



Lowering the level of consumer debt that was accumulated during the energy crisis, through the implementation of an ambitious debt relief scheme, will bring down bills for everyone, whilst supporting those that were hardest hit by the unprecedented rise in gas prices.


And we can take steps to protect the most vulnerable households through better targeting of the existing Warm Homes Discount in the near term, whilst working toward the implementation of a robust social tariff in the longer term.



Lucy Whitford

Managing Director of Development
and Construction, RES

RES is proud to support Energy UK's Bring Down Bills campaign, which identifies practical measures we can take today to bring down bills for households.



We back reforms that will enable the most efficient use of existing flexibility on our grid and the rebalancing of policy levies for domestic users. This will bring greater cost efficiency and fairness to the system.

To embed the lower costs for the long-term we need continued focus on delivering clean, cheap renewables, and support grid build-out. This will allow us to move away from our reliance on volatile gas and towards more stable prices delivered by home grown renewables.



RWE

Tom Glover

UK Country Chair, RWE

As we look for effective ways to reduce energy bills, we must ensure a stable and supportive policy framework to guarantee continued investment in renewables. These cost-competitive technologies can be deployed at scale, reducing exposure to volatile international gas prices and bringing lasting benefits to

consumers and communities, while stimulating economic growth and creating high-quality jobs across the country.

Cutting red tape for developers of new technologies and streamlining the planning process for new investments would bring further benefits. Ensuring energy efficiency remains a priority, and providing targeted support, can help vulnerable households to cut costs. Removing legacy costs from electricity bills into taxation encourages the transition to electrification, helping spread fixed system costs over a broader base and making it fairer for everyone.

By taking these steps, we can build a future where energy is affordable and secure, clean and accessible for all.


ScottishPower



Andrew Ward

CEO ScottishPower Customer Business

The Government needs to rethink its approach to the rollout of domestic smart meters. We're already at 70% rollout, but introducing annual deployment plans with binding milestones to get to 100% by 2030 will lead to disproportionate costs for suppliers. That means extra costs on consumer bills. This approach is misguided.



We've contacted some customers more than 100 times and there's clearly a significant subset of customers who simply don't want smart meters. Instead, the Government should limit opportunities for smart meters to be rejected, like when a traditional meter needs replacing and in all Local Authority housing stock. And suppliers should be allowed to focus on innovation, like ScottishPower's popular Half Price Weekends offer, which gives customers a genuine reason to want a smart meter.


A change in approach would lead to a modest bill saving, around £5-10 per customer, but in these challenging times we need to seize every opportunity we can.



Finlay McCutcheon

Managing Director, SSE

The UK's energy system is undergoing a transformation that's already helping to protect households from global price shocks. By investing in renewables and upgrading the grid, we're helping to unlock cheaper, homegrown energy.



But we must move faster. Every delay adds cost and risk. A fair transition means shifting levies to ease pressure on electricity bills and introducing targeted support for those who need it most. With the right choices now, we can build a cleaner, more secure system that delivers lasting savings for consumers



Bill Bullen

Chief Executive, Utilita

The Government is starting to recognise the primary reason for high bills isn't wholesale costs, but the added burden of government policies. We risk sleepwalking into a scenario where low-income households shoulder all the costs while receiving none of the benefits.

To reduce bills, we need to bring the rooftop solar revolution to low-income households. Installing solar and battery systems can substantially lower costs. The additional £1.5 billion for capital investment in the Warm Homes Plan should be focused here, ensuring those who can't afford to invest in low-carbon technologies also share in the benefits of Clean Power 2030.

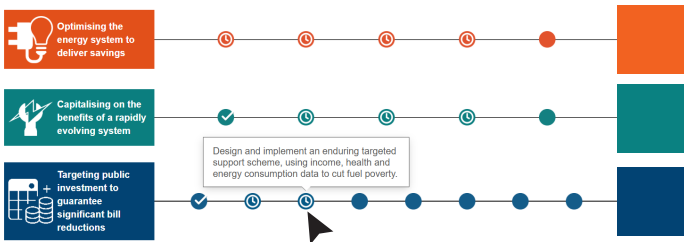
We face an affordability crisis, not an energy crisis. We must reform the Warm Home Discount into a meaningful social discount: targeted support for those most in need, funded by the Treasury rather than customers. The current proposals lack the necessary ambition. The payment has risen only £10 in a decade; £150 is far from sufficient.

Follow policy progress to **#BringDownBills**

From evolving our energy system to making sure suppliers can reach customers who need help, we've shared recommendations with the Government to bring down bills.

Progress is being made, but there is more to be done.

Follow the latest policy developments with our interactive #BringDownBills action scorecard.





**Scan to visit and explore,
bookmark to follow progress**

The UK has some of the highest energy prices in Europe. The energy industry continues to do all it can from investing billions in more British power to directly supporting customers. However, the problem of households and businesses struggling with high bills is more than the sector alone can resolve.

In **Bring Down Bills: Views from across the sector**, we have gathered insights from senior figures across the energy industry and wider sector that illustrate the multitude of savings available to consumers across the full spectrum of the energy system, from generation, transmission and supply.



The voice of the energy industry

www.energy-uk.org.uk



Follow us on Bluesky



Energy UK

Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry, representing companies investing billions of pounds to secure our country's current and future energy needs.

We provide a collective voice for the sector working with governments, regulators, charities and other organisations to provide crucial insight that shapes policy, offers solutions and promotes best practice.