

A green and digital future



Great opportunities are within our country's reach.
Only Labour can seize them, and build a new Britain which
guarantees security, prosperity and respect for all.

As we emerge from the pandemic, find a new place in the world outside the European Union and transition to a carbon neutral economy, we need a Labour government that would rise to the moment with ideas that meet the aspirations of the British public. A Labour government that is on your side. A Labour government that would give people much greater power over the issues that affect their lives. A Labour government that would tackle the cost-of-living crisis head on, get Britain growing again after 12 years of failure and improve public services so they deliver for the people paying for them.

This year's National Policy Forum, alongside Stronger Together – the policy review led by our Party Chair Anneliese Dodds – is a vital opportunity for us to develop the ideas that will form an election-winning platform on which a Labour government would build that new Britain.

The six consultation documents demonstrate the scale of the challenges we face but also the breadth of the opportunities available to us. They range from harnessing the potential of the green and digital revolutions to making sure the workplace of the 2020s offers working people the security and prosperity they deserve. They look at how the criminal justice system can keep our communities safe and secure, and how we can build first-class public services fit for the future after years of Conservative neglect. They consider how we can guarantee families up and down the country financial, social and housing security, and how we can protect our national interest while promoting Labour values abroad.

As Party members, supporters and stakeholders your voice in these debates is absolutely critical, and I encourage you to get involved. Please consider submitting your views either individually or as part of your CLP or organisation, or perhaps attending one of the online members' events to hear from one of my Shadow Cabinet colleagues. The strength of our movement is its diversity, and the breadth and depth of our collective knowledge, passion and insight. It is by working together that we will develop the ideas that underpin our vision of a new Britain – one that guarantees security, prosperity and respect for all.

Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party



Thank you for getting involved in the Labour Party's 2022 National Policy Forum (NPF) consultation. It's a really important opportunity for us to hear from our members, supporters and stakeholders on how the next Labour government can build a new Britain which guarantees security, prosperity and respect for all.

This paper is one of six policy documents published by the Labour Party as part of this year's consultation. Each document will ask a set of questions on specific policy issues, followed by detail on the context, the challenges we face and Labour's proposed way forward to help inform your answers. For further information, you may wish to refer back to the relevant sections of the two reports we published at Conference 2021 looking at the same six themes:

- *Britain in 2030*, which contrasted life at the end of the decade under continued Conservative rule with how things could look under a Labour government: <https://labour.org.uk/stronger-together/britain-2030/>
- *Labour Works*, which showcased inspiring examples of the difference Labour is already making across the country where we are in power: <https://labour.org.uk/stronger-together/labour-works/>

You don't need to answer every one of the questions in the document, nor answer them in a specific way. We suggest using the questions to stimulate your thoughts on what you think the main issues are in the document's policy area.

You can write your response as an individual, or as a collective through your local party or organisation. Once you have drafted your response, please submit it to us through Labour Policy Forum: www.policyforum.labour.org.uk. For more information on how to make a submission, see www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/consultation-submission-guide.

On the Policy Forum website you can find out about other ways to get involved with the consultation, including our programme of online members' events. You can also read this year's five other NPF consultation documents which might be of interest. If you have an idea on an issue or topic that isn't covered by a specific consultation, then you can submit those too – the website lists which policy areas are covered by which NPF commission.

Thank you again for taking the time to take part in the NPF. It is through the contributions of members, supporters and stakeholders like you that Labour will develop the policy platform that will build a new Britain which guarantees security, prosperity and respect for all.

Want to know more about how Labour makes its policy?

You can learn more about the Labour Party's policy-making processes on our online Resource Hub: www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/resource-hub.

You can also follow us on Twitter [@labpolicyforum](https://twitter.com/labpolicyforum) for all of the latest policy development news and events.

Accessible Materials

The Labour Party is an inclusive, member-based organisation that prides itself on being accessible to all who share its values. If you would like an accessible version of these documents, please email us at **policydevelopment@labour.org.uk** to discuss how we can best accommodate your requirements.

Creating green jobs

Questions

1. Which industries, sectors or technologies present the biggest opportunities for the UK's green economy?
2. Where are these opportunities concentrated in particular regions, towns and cities?
3. How can government support the growth of business and the creation of good jobs in these sectors?
4. What can we learn from current and previous initiatives to create jobs in the green economy?
5. How can we ensure jobs created in the green economy set a higher standard for security, pay and progression?

The context

Since the last NPF cycle, the climate crisis has become intertwined with the twin challenges of a cost of living crisis and Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Families across the country are feeling the pinch from record-high energy bills and rocketing petrol prices. 2022 is set to be the worst year for living standards on record.

Our reliance on expensive, imported fossil fuels has been further exposed by the invasion of Ukraine, with Europe's dependence on oil and gas imports exposed by Russia's aggression.

The UK has been particularly exposed to volatile fossil fuel prices because of a decade of failure on green energy and energy efficiency.

The Government effectively banned onshore wind in 2013, with a steep fall in the deployment of new capacity. Independent estimates suggest that foregone capacity as a result of this equalled the UK's total imports of Russian gas last year.

Similarly, changes to energy efficiency schemes in 2013 led to an immediate 92 per cent fall in home installations in that year and have left us with the draughtiest homes in Europe.

As a result, we saw the unedifying scenes of the Prime Minister going cap in hand from dictator to dictator trying and ultimately failing to secure new sources of energy.

This year has shown decarbonisation is not only essential for the future of our planet, but for our national security. Rapid decarbonisation also has the potential to guarantee abundant sources of cheap, clean power for families and businesses.

Amid all this was a damning report from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, which warned earlier this year that drastic action was needed this decade to tackle the climate emergency.

While the focus right now is understandably on the immediate crises, we must not lose sight of the deep-seated structural problems that have left us so exposed.

Underlying the cost of living crisis is a decade of wage stagnation and an economy with too few good jobs in too few areas of the UK. Millions of workers are facing the current crisis on insecure or precarious contracts, not knowing how much they'll make this week or this month.

The drive to net zero presents an opportunity to tackle these underlying economic weaknesses and inequalities. Decarbonisation presents an opportunity to build a national economy that is more prosperous, one that is fairer, and one that puts working people first.

The green economy has the potential to create secure, well-paying and highly skilled jobs in all areas of the UK. The UK already has a crucial head start in many areas and has the potential to lead the world in many more.

The green economy can also thrive in all corners of the UK, rebuilding our industrial heartlands with a proper industrial strategy delivering prosperity for every region.

The challenges

The Conservatives have shown they are unwilling and unable to claim these economic spoils and are instead leaving working people to bear the costs of these multiple crises on their own.

The Government has become increasingly willing to bow to the pressure of Conservative backbenchers. It has reopened the case for fracking and refused to back onshore wind, the cheapest and quickest form of home-grown power.

The Treasury's own Net Zero Review recognised the potential of green investment in tackling our structural economic flaws, noting "a step change in investment and the creation of new markets can catalyse innovation and lead to productivity growth".

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) also calculated that delaying action would end up doubling the cost down the line, given with the scaling up of investment needed before the end of this decade.

Despite this, the Chancellor has barely mentioned the green economy. He has consistently failed to back investment in areas like energy efficiency, electric vehicles and renewable energy.

The Government's only real attempt to spur green jobs, via the Green Homes Grant, actively cost jobs in the sector, as the administration was contracted out to a distant multinational and not enough was done to develop the workforce.

Similarly, the Government is moving too slowly to secure jobs and investment in other key areas of the green economy, such as electric vehicles.

The UK is dragging its heels on policies that would support demand and a domestic market, such as charging infrastructure, while we also fall behind in the drive to establish giga-factories and electric vehicle manufacturing.

The Government's paper-thin Energy Strategy also contained nothing on how the drive to clean energy can support jobs across the UK, with no plan to support the development of British industries in areas such as onshore wind.

Instead, it's sat idly by while many good green jobs have been sent offshore, with parts for Scottish wind turbines shipped in from the Middle East and China and no plan to grow and develop supply chains.

Similarly, the Government convened a Green Jobs Taskforce in late 2020 that has made only limited progress in supporting the development of a green skills pipeline and looks to be only tangentially involved in wider net zero policymaking.

The way forward

Labour set out plans last year for a Climate Investment Pledge, committing to a transformative programme of investment over the course of the decade to accelerate the drive to net zero and spur rapid decarbonisation across the economy.

Labour's pledge is in line with credible independent estimates made by organisations like the Committee on Climate Change and the OBR, and provides the scale of action needed to tackle the climate crisis.

The Government's inaction has shown that it is not inevitable the UK will be a leading player in the green economy.

The UK should be well-placed with leading businesses, a skilled workforce and strong research capacity. However, countries across the world are looking to forge ahead, with concerted strategies to create green jobs and establish leading green industries.

Labour's Climate Investment Pledge is an important stake in the ground in this context and it matches the scale of the ambition seen across the world.

As part of this pledge, Labour has begun to spell out some of the areas and industries where it would invest, including electric vehicles, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Investment in these areas will not only accelerate decarbonisation but also create the good, secure jobs that are sorely lacking in many parts of the country, rebuilding our industrial heartlands.

Insulating Britain's 19 million draughty homes, for instance, will require skilled, well-trained workers in a variety of trades and services, including construction, manufacturing, design, finance and surveying.

Similarly, the UK's world-leading automotive industry could supply the world with clean, low-emission vehicles, supporting thousands of jobs in manufacturing and accompanying high-tech services.

Labour has also already outlined its plan for the world of work with its New Deal for Working People, a programme of policies to make work secure and well-paid for all (covered in more detail under the Better jobs and better work commission).

The work of this commission complements these plans and will look at how the drive to net zero and the increasing size of the green economy can support good jobs in all corners of the UK.

As some recent policy failures have shown, this is not straightforward. A careful consideration of the workforce dynamics and pipeline of skills needed in each sector is vital to the success of programmes designed to support the green economy.

This year's consultation will look at how the Climate Investment Pledge can be used to create good, green jobs and how we can invest effectively to secure world-leading green industries, including a focus on jobs for under-represented groups such as women, disabled people and Black, Asian and ethnic minority people.

It will explore the industries and technologies of the emerging green economy and seek to identify areas across the UK where we already excel and where we have the potential to push further ahead.

It will explore how tackling the climate emergency can deliver a just transition that puts working people first, tackling inequalities of wealth and power that for too long have scarred our economy and society.

It will also consider some areas of the green economy, looking at how local Labour leaders are supporting the growth of these sectors in their patch.