



GENERAL  
ELECTION  
  
2015

# Dods Monitoring

## The 2015 Manifestos - Energy and Water



April 2015

# Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Plaid Cymru](#)

[Labour](#)

[Green Party](#)

[Conservative](#)

[Liberal Democrat](#)

[UK Independence Party \(UKIP\)](#)

[Scottish National Party \(SNP\)](#)

[The Water Industry](#)

# Introduction

By Mark Jenner  
Political Consultant



The raft of political parties vying for support at this election provide for a fairly broad offer in terms of energy policies.

Among other things, the Conservatives plan the expansion of new nuclear and gas, will 'go all out for shale', will continue to support the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008, but roll back on new onshore wind and address carbon emissions at the 'minimal possible cost'.

Labour castigates the coalition's record on energy policy, takes aim at the energy companies 'ripping people off', focuses on energy efficiency, and urges leadership at home and abroad when it comes to tackling climate change.

Meanwhile the Lib Dems place the front page of their manifesto (a red line?) a pledge to protect nature and fight climate change with five green laws, touching on energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and boosting green transport.

Conversely UKIP argue energy prices are higher than they need to be because of green policies, and want to scrap the Climate Change Act and the current subsidy system for renewable energy.

Meanwhile the Greens argue for a step change in investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, and an end to the exploitation of fossil fuels and nuclear.

To a large extent, despite their various nationalist twinges, the SNP and Plaid ape the thrust of the Green Party, in their support for renewables, in their rejection of nuclear and fracking, and in their disdain for a perceived lack of ambition on offer from the major parties.

Despite these variations, it's clear there are areas where the parties could do business together in the event of a hung parliament.

All parties (asides from UKIP) are clear about the need to reduce carbon emissions, support the provisions in the Climate Change Act and seek to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources. All parties have plans to bear down on energy demand (while the ambition in their energy efficiency policies vary wildly) and control costs on the consumer (though they have different approaches on how to do so.)

The main parties and the SNP are clear about their continuing support for the North Sea oil and gas industry; the Conservatives, Lib Dems and Labour all back investment in new nuclear power; they support, with safeguards, the development of the shale gas industry, and all place a value on protecting the environment.

The last few years have been turbulent in terms of the development of energy policy. The demands for greater action on climate change intensified. The fluctuation in electricity and oil prices, combined with a focus on cost of living and cold winters, shone the spotlight on the consumer experience and costs like never before, and put pressure on industry.

The emergence of a nascent onshore oil and gas industry and proliferation of onshore wind created unlikely alliances and divided opinion. Reforms to the electricity markets aimed to ensure adequate energy supply and capacity; the market for renewables grew; and a new nuclear renaissance is under way.

It's likely that whatever the result of the election, the next five years and beyond will be just as tumultuous, as policy makers, industry, and consumers alike struggle to deal with some of the toughest and most intractable policy challenges of the 21st Century.

# Plaid Cymru



[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Renewable energy

The party's energy policy will see the prioritisation of renewable energy, with a particular emphasis on **hydro** and **tidal**, and efforts to reduce Wales' reliance on **fossil fuels**. (p45)

The party will introduce a **not-for-dividend energy company** - Ynni Cymru - to put natural resources in the hand of Welsh people and also introduce a **Climate Change Act for Wales**. (p45)

The party wants to increase support for communities who want to be involved in **local energy projects**. (p45)

## Electricity

The party will look into establishing **local power grids** and a Wales-wide national energy grid, and also make access to the grid easier for renewable energy projects. They will also continue promoting the 'Get on the Grid' Campaign. (p45)

The party opposes the use of **pylons** in national parks and AONBs and support the use of underground and undersea cables instead. (p45)

## Energy efficiency

The party will work with local business to help make homes more **energy efficient**, and with industry to reduce energy consumption. (p45)

All **NHS buildings** will be required to be energy efficient to cut waste and ensure more money for patient care. (p19)

## Fracking

They support a **moratorium on fracking** and other forms of unconventional gas.

Welsh water should not be used for fracking elsewhere nor should fracking take place without full permissions being given by landowners and residents, or without a full Environmental Impact Assessment. (p45)

## Power generation

The party continues to oppose open cast mining and new nuclear power plants, and commits to work to ensure local people benefit from existing plans. (p45)

## Energy prices

Plaid will set up a **Green Skills College** and will also create a **fuel duty regulator** to prevent sudden spikes in **fuel prices**, helping households and businesses to manage their bills. (p13)

They will remove penalties for using **pre-payment meters** for energy bills to help those on lower or fixed incomes. (p27)

The party will ensure that **Winter Fuel Allowance** is paid to off-grid households during the summer so that they can get better value for money. They will also ensure that cold-winter payments were based on accurate local temperatures. (p27)





# Labour

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

[Click here to read Labour's Green Plan.](#)

## Climate change

Labour states that tackling climate change is an “**economic necessity**” and an issue **of global and national security**. They pledge to put climate change at the heart of their foreign policy, and to expand the role of the Department of International Development to mitigate the risks of a changing climate. (p79)

The party seeks an **ambitious** agreement on climate change at the UNFCCC conference in Paris in December, and will seek emissions targets for all countries, strengthened every five years. They will push for a goal of **zero net global emissions** in the second half of the century, a clear structure for reporting progress, and an “equitable deal” and support for poorer countries. (p79)

To adapt to the impact of climate change the party states that it will produce an ‘**ambitious adaptation programme**, and the new **Infrastructure Commission** will prioritise investment in **flood prevention**.’

## Carbon emissions

The party refers to “ambitious domestic carbon reduction targets” and pledges to introduce a legal target to **remove carbon from the electricity supply by 2030**. (p30)

## Energy mix and security

The party will create an **Energy Security Board** to plan and deliver the energy mix needed, including renewables, nuclear, green gas, carbon capture and storage, and clean coal. (p20)

## Fracking

The party will establish a robust **environmental and regulatory regime** before extraction can take place. (p20)

## Oil and Gas

The party will ensure certainty on **tax rates** for offshore oil and gas industry. They also state that they will making the most of the potential for **carbon capture and storage**. (p20)

## Energy prices

Labour pledge to **freeze energy bills** until 2017 to ensure that bills can fall but not rise. During this time, the market will be reformed, with the generation and supply businesses of the ‘Big Six’ separated. This will see electricity sold through open exchange, whilst tariffs will be simplified. (p25)

They commit to protect **small businesses** by ending ‘unfair contracts and automatic rollovers to more expensive tariffs.’ (p25)

A new **energy watchdog** will be created to enforce the reforms and the party pledges that the body will have power to strip energy companies of their licences if they harm the interests of consumers. (p25)

# Labour



## Energy efficiency

The party refers to a major drive for energy efficiency to drive down bills, and commits to delivering a **million interest free loans** for energy home improvements in the next Parliament. They pledge to make **200,000 low income homes** warm every year, delivered street-by-street by local authorities and community organisations. (p26)

The party also commits to ensuring that **privately rented properties** will have to meet a 'decency standard,' bringing warmth to a further three million homes. (p26)

## Wales

The party will take forward proposals from the Silk Commission to extend the power the people of Wales have over their elections, transport and energy. (p66)

## Air pollution

Labour commits to giving local authorities more power to tackle pollution and establish a national framework of low emission zones. (p56)

## National Infrastructure Commission and Industrial Strategy

The party will establish an independent National Infrastructure Commission and pursue a new industrial strategy to help create certainty for investors and reinforce Britain's status as one of the world's greatest centres of science and engineering. These would both have a focus on the transition to a **low carbon economy**. (p19)

## Low carbon technologies

The party will work to make Britain a world leader in low carbon technologies over the next decade, creating a **million additional green jobs**, encouraged by ambitious carbon reduction commitments. (p20)

## Green Investment Bank

The Green Investment Bank will be given additional powers so that it can invest in green businesses and technology. (p20)

Subsequent to the publication of the main manifesto, the party published its **Green Plan** which built on the manifesto commitments with a 23-point plan, and contained a number of newer commitments on supporting **community energy**, increasing investment in **carbon capture and storage (CCS)**, and a review of **UK resource security**.

Labour would allow CCS projects to access support from the **contracts for difference** regime and task the **Green Investment Bank** to increase investment in the sector.

They pledge to support the development of **new nuclear** projects and promise to ask the Committee on Climate Change and National Grid to advise on how to develop the UK's **green gas** industry.

The forward to the report states that "Labour believes that addressing environmental challenges is a matter of fundamental social justice" and goes on to praise the potential of **onshore wind** and **solar power** and hailing them as some of the cheapest forms of clean energy.



# Green Party

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Climate change

The party commits to obliging **government departments** to consider climate change and carbon reduction in all their planning over a time horizon of 50-100 years. Local authorities should also do so in planning decisions. (p24)

The Green Party will ensure that adequate government funding goes to **research** on major environmental issues such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, and less is spent on military research. (p18)

The party states that all **farm payments** will be designed to protect the soil, reduce flood risk, conserve wildlife, improve water quality, increase recreation and assist carbon capture. (p13)

A strategy for **capturing carbon** and reducing greenhouse gases through improved land managed will be produced.(p13)

The party commits to providing free help to assist in preparing for an increasingly **variable climate**. They would give the Environment Agency and local authorities £1bn to spend on assisting with **flood protection** and on coping with heatwaves. (p24)

They will also prevent building on **floodplains**. (p24)

## Carbon emissions

The party believes that in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, there needs to be a **90 per cent reduction** in greenhouse gases in the UK in the next 15-20 years and a zero-carbon economy by 2050. (p.20)

They will set in law a **decarbonisation target** for power sector of 25-50 grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour by 2030. (p23)

The party says that by 2030 the UK should plan to emit only **half of the emissions** which they would be allowed under global targets to reduce carbon emissions, which amounts to around 80 million tonnes of CO2 a year by 2030. This translates into a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to ten per cent of their 1990 emissions by 2030. (p 20)

## Fossil fuels

The party believes in a **rapid shift to a zero-carbon energy system**, and not exploiting fourth fifths of remaining fossil fuel reserves. (P19) They will phase out fossil-fuel based generation, and close all coal fired power stations by 2023. They also seek to end fossil fuel industry tax breaks and incentives. (p23)

The party commit to working with financial institutions and others to encourage **divestment from fossil fuels** and development alternative investment in the energy efficiency and renewable programmes. (p23)

The Green Party will support deployment of **carbon capture and storage** to existing **biomass** and **gas power** stations only as a transitional technology. (p24)

## Fracking

The party will ban all UK fracking operations, and withdraw relevant licenses. They will also ban other new fossil fuel developments as well as open cast coal. (p23)

## Nuclear

They will phase out nuclear power within 10 years. (p23)



# Green Party

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Renewable energy

On renewables, they will invest **£35bn** over the parliament in renewable generation. (p24)

They will concentrate on expanding **mature renewable technologies** including by reducing planning constraints.(p23)

The party commit to all public buildings having **solar** panels by 2020, and to encourage social landlords develop plans to install solar panels on all suitable properties. (p24)

They will set **deployment targets for renewable energy** to bring down costs and attractive investment in manufacturing and supply chains, aiming for 42 GW of offshore wind by 2020 and 60 GW by 2030, and 25 GW of solar PV by 2020. (p24)

They will spend **£2.5bn** over the parliament for research into wave and tidal, and for research into energy storage. (p24)

They will continue to und the **Renewable Heat Incentive scheme**. (p21)

The party will give councils the power to insist that **communal heating** schemes are implemented where possible.(p21)

On **community energy** they pledge to set a target for at least 42 gigawatts of community power by 2020. (p23)

They will require that **grid operators** give priority access to community energy projects at an affordable cost. (p23)

They will support stable **fixed price feed-in-tariffs** for renewable energy generators. (p23)

They also commit to develop **biomass** generation only where it can be done sustainably. (p24)

## The energy industry

They will **split up large vertically integrated companies** to they can't both produce energy and supply it to consumers. (p23)

They will ensure there is a **single scheme of regulation for the energy industry**, the objectives of which will include achieve climate change targets and protect consumer interests. (p23)

The party seek to cut energy demand by one-third by 2020, by one-half by 2030, and two-thirds by 2050. (p21)

## Energy efficiency

They will provide a free **nationwide retrofit insulation programme**, focusing on areas where fuel poverty was most serious. The programme will offer £5,000 worth of free insulation to those in designated arears, which could also be used for other improvements such as solar PV if insulation was already suitable. (p21)

To achieve the **Passivhaus standard** there will be an option of a further £15,000 in subsidised loans from the **Green Investment Bank** for each dwelling. The party says this programme will invest £45bn over the course of the Parliament, will be delivered by local authorities and be part of a new Green National Infrastructure Programme. (p21)

Tenants will be given the right to require landlords to achieve the same improvement to the energy performance of their home, and require all private renter sector housing to meet Energy Performance Band C by 2025. (p21)

All new homes will be built to the Passivhaus standard. They will also create a national college for training in energy home improvements. (p21)

They will invest in energy awareness programme to make people more aware of the energy performance of their home. (p21)





# Green Party

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

The party will provide £4.5bn to support research into less **energy-intensive industrial** processes. (p21)

They will establish mandatory standards for **commercial building performance**. (p21)

They will use **carbon taxes** to fund investment in energy-efficiency measures, and prepare for the introduction of a carbon quota scheme. (p21)

The party will set a new **aviation emissions** target of below 37.5m tonnes CO2 equivalent per year. (p65)

## Electricity

They will secure public control over the **National Grid**. (p.23)

They will expand **electricity storage** capacity, including using the potential storage capacity of **electric vehicles**, and to develop the commercial and regulatory framework to allow this to happen. (p24)

They commit introducing **smart meters** and appliances. (p23)

## Energy prices

The party commits to making **energy tariffs progressive**, so small customers paid less per unit. They will also ensure people are not cut off when they can't afford to pay, and that people are not forced to have pre-payment meters. (p23)

They will give the Green Investment Bank full borrowing powers. (p24)





# Conservative

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Energy sources

The party pledges significant expansion in **new nuclear and** gas; backing good-value **green energy**; and pushing for more new investment in UK energy sources. (p57)

## Fracking

The party will continue to support the safe development of **shale gas**, and ensure that local communities share the proceeds through community benefit packages. They will create a Sovereign Wealth Fund for the North of England so the area benefits from fracking take place there. (p57)

## Oil and gas

The party will continue to support the development of North Sea oil and gas. (p57)

## Renewable energy

The party will provide start-up funding for new renewable technologies and research, but will **only** give significant support to those that **clearly represented value for money**. (p57)

The Conservatives pledge to halt the development of **onshore windfarms** by ending any new public subsidy, and changing the law so that local people have the final say on windfarm applications. (p57)

## Climate change

The party will push for a strong global climate deal later this year to meet the goal of **limiting global warming to two degrees**. (p57). They will continue to support the UK Climate Change Act 2008. (p57)

## Climate change adaption

The party commits to building 1,400 new **flood defence schemes**, to protect 300,000 homes. (p54)

## Carbon emissions

The party will cut **emissions as cost-effectively** as possible, but will not support additional distorting and expensive power sector targets. (p57)

## Energy prices

The party commits to promoting **competition** to keep bills as low as possible. They will implement the findings from the Competition and Markets Authority review of the energy market. (p57)

## Energy efficiency

The Conservatives commit to **low-cost measures on energy efficiency**, with the goal of insulating a million more homes over the next five years. (p57)

## Energy use

The party will ensure that every home and business in the country has a **smart meter** by 2020. (p57)



# Liberal Democrat

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Green Investment Bank

The party will expand the Green Investment Bank and set a **legally binding decarbonisation target** to green the electricity system. (p25) They commit to increasing the capitalisation and remit of the Bank, allowing it to raise funds independently, and enabling it to issue **green bonds**. (p29)

They also pledge to encourage the creation of **green financial products** to bring consumer capital into green industries. (p29)

## Climate change

The party will create a Cabinet Committee to coordinate action and bring together officials in inter-departmental units on issues like climate change and resource management. (p29)

They will also ensure that farming support is concentrated on sustainable food production, conservation and tackling climate change. (p83)

On **climate change adaptation**, they will prepare a **national resilience plan** to help adapt to the likely impacts of a 3-4 degree global average temperature rise. They will ask local government to review flood risk, and research back to nature flood prevention. (p84)

They will update **construction and planning standards** to futureproof buildings against higher summer temperatures. (p87)

## Carbon emissions

The party will set a legally binding **decarbonisation target range for 2030** for the power sector of 50–100g of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh, which they feel will largely be achieved by expansion of renewables. The party support the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 and developing the EU Energy Union. (p150)

The Liberal Democrats pledge to pass a **Zero Carbon Britain Act** to set a new legally binding target to bring net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. (p29)

The party commits to incentivising **sustainable behaviour** by increasing the proportion of tax revenue accounted for by **green taxes**. (p29)

They pledge to grow the market for **green products** and services with steadily higher green criteria in public procurement policy, and to deliver reductions in energy use. (p29)

They will regulate to end the use of **unabated coal** in electricity generation by 2025. (p32)

The party will require any new gas stations built after 2030 to be fitted with **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** technology. They also pledge to implement a second phase of CCS projects by 2020. (p32)

## Renewable energy

They commit to encouraging **onshore wind** in appropriate locations, helping meet climate targets at least cost. (p32)

They state they will increase research and development and commercialisation support in four key low-carbon technologies: **tidal power, carbon capture and storage, energy storage and ultra-low emission vehicles**. (p29)

The party will ensure UK Trade and Investment and UK Export Finance prioritise support for key sectors identified in their Industrial Strategy, including exports of green products and technologies, and press for higher environmental standards for export credit agencies throughout the OECD. (p29)

# Liberal Democrat



[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Renewable energy

They commit to expand **community energy**, building on the community energy strategy with additional financial and regulatory support. They will also encourage Councils to be proactive in delivering energy saving and electricity generation. (p32)

They will set an indicative target of **60 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2030**. They pledge to support investment in energy storage and smart grid technology to enable this higher reliance on renewables. (p32)

The party commits to using **biomass** primarily for heating and small-scale power generation, act to encourage the wider use of biogas and argue for the reform of EU policies on biofuels and biomass which help drive deforestation, including ending all support for food-crop based biofuels after 2020. (p33)

They will encourage the growth of **anaerobic digestion** to produce biogas for heat and transport, and sustainable fertiliser, working with Local Authorities to extend separate food waste collections to at least 90 per cent of homes by 2020. (p83)

## Energy saving and efficiency

The Liberal Democrats commit to making **saving energy a top infrastructure priority**, stimulating private sector demand with the new Electricity Demand Reduction market, new market-shaping energy efficiency standards, support for industry, and a programme of tax incentives and public investment. (p31)

They pledge to stimulate a minimum of £100bn more private investment in low-carbon energy infrastructure by 2020. (p32)

## Electricity

They will work with Ofgem to ensure the costs of **electricity distribution** and **transmission infrastructure** are allocated efficiently and fairly between consumers and generators across the country, and develop more European electricity interconnection capacity. (p32)

## Nuclear

They accept that new **nuclear power** can play a role in low-carbon electricity supply provided concerns about safety, disposal of waste and cost are adequately addressed and **without public subsidy for new build**. (p33)

## Fracking

On fracking the party will establish a Low-carbon Transition Fund using 50 per cent of any tax revenues from shale gas to fund energy efficiency, community energy, low-carbon innovation and renewable heat. (p33)

They will also require that once a shale gas well is finished, it must be offered at no cost to geothermal heat developers, to enable faster expansion of this renewable technology. (p33)

## Green transport and air quality

The party will introduce a Green Transport Act, including a National Plan to improve dramatically Britain's air quality by 2020. (p87)

They will consult on a National Air Quality Plan which will involve plans on low emissions zones, encouraging walking and cycling, review MOT processes, and supporting EU air quality targets. (p87)

They will establish an Office for Environmental Responsibility scrutinising the Government's efforts to meet environmental targets. (p29)

# UKIP



[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)

## Climate change

UKIP will repeal the **Climate Change Act 2008**, which they say “drives up costs, undermines competitiveness and hits jobs and growth”. (p39)

The party recommends abolishing DECC and merging its “essential powers and functions” into other departments. (p9)

## Carbon emissions

The party commit to scrap the **large Combustion Plant Directive** and stop the EU’s planned **Medium Combustion Plant Directive**. They pledge to encourage the re-development of British power stations and industrial units providing on-site power generation. (p38)

They will also discontinue the **carbon floor tax** on the basis that production for **coal fired power** stations is combined with carbon capture and storage, and pledge to halt the decline of coal power stations and seek private funding to develop new, efficient plants. (p38)

## Coal industry

The party will set up a commission to investigate ways to assist and rejuvenate the coal industry. They will seek to secure the survival and expansion of indigenous coal industry in the form of deep, opencast and drift mining. (p38)

## Energy sources

They pledge to support a **diverse energy market** based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables where these can be delivered at competitive prices. (p38)

## Renewable energy

UKIP says the only major renewable technology that meets their affordability test is **hydro**, so they commit to withdrawing taxpayer and consumer subsidies for new wind turbines and solar photovoltaic arrays, while respecting existing contractual arrangements. (p38)

## Fracking

UKIP supports the development of shale gas, provided **safeguards are in place** to protect local communities and the environment. They will ensure that the **Community Infrastructure Levy** income from shale gas operations will be earmarked for lower Council Taxes or local community projects. (p38)

The party will levy **Petroleum Revenue Tax** (currently 50 per cent) on any shale profits and invest the income into a Sovereign Wealth Fund. (p38)

## Energy prices

On energy prices, UKIP will abolish **green taxes and levies** and withdraw from the EU’s **Emissions Trading Scheme**. (p38)

They will stop energy companies charging extra for customers who use **prepayment meters**, who do not pay by direct debit, or who require paper billing. (p38)



# Scottish National Party

[Click here to read the full manifesto.](#)



## Energy prices

The party will support lower energy bills for consumers by pushing for the **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)** to be funded through general taxation and new powers to make sure energy companies pass on lower energy prices to consumers. (p5)

The SNP commit to pressing for a fair deal on **fuel prices** for rural areas. (p13)

The party wish to see a more robust approach to energy bills and believe **Ofgem** should be empowered to enforce price reductions to reflect lower wholesale costs as a result of lower oil prices. The SNP believe that the Scottish Government and UK government should have joint oversight of **Ofgem**. (p15)

The party will resist any attempts to end the **winter fuel allowance**. (p15)

The party will seek action to ensure that those using **pre-payment meters** have access to the same lower energy prices available to those using other payment methods. (p16)

The SNP will also press the UK government to ensure that pensioners whose **homes are 'off grid'** receive their winter fuel allowances earlier, so they can take advantage of lower prices earlier in the year. (p16)

## Electricity

The party will press for further progress and a clear timescale for the **delivery of the islands interconnector and reform of the transmission charging regime** which could lead to the premature closure of Longannet power station. (p10)

The party will **press for a change to the transmission charging system** that penalises Scottish generators and threatens the future of Longannet power station. (p10)

The party will press the UK government to make it simpler for communities to establish **local energy companies** and easier for community schemes to access the grid. (p18)

## Fracking

The party will continue to support **a moratorium on fracking**. (p5)

## Oil and gas

The party says it will keep the pressure on the UK Treasury to protect jobs and investment in the **oil and gas industry in light of lower global oil prices**. (p5)

The party will introduce a new **Oil and Gas Strategy** and continue to push for the swift deployment of the new **Oil and Gas Authority in Aberdeen**. (p9)

The party will work to increase **internationalisation opportunities** for Scotland's oil and gas industry. (p5)

## Renewable energy

The SNP will **invest in energy infrastructure** in order to maximise renewables generation, in particular offshore. (p10)

The SNP will seek to maximise support for **offshore wind**, including by seeking alterations to the current Contracts for Differences (CFD) regime to ensure that support is given to the offshore wind sector to not only generate renewable energy but also to boost manufacturing opportunities and ensure Scotland sees maximum investment. (p18)

The party will press for **onshore wind** to continue to receive support through the lifetime of the next Parliament. (p18)

The SNP believe there should be additional support for **pump hydro and Carbon Capture and Storage schemes**. (p18)

# Scottish National Party



The party wish to see a big expansion in community heating schemes and believe the **Renewable Heat Incentive** should continue beyond 2015. (p18)

## Energy resources

The party will call for a share of future revenues from natural energy resources to be saved in an **energy fund**. (p6)

The SNP will aim to ensure that a share of **future oil and gas and renewable energy revenues** are used to create a **Sovereign Wealth Fund**. They state that the fund should be established when economic circumstances allow and should come under the ownership and management of the Scottish Parliament and Government. (p13)

## Carbon emissions

The party will call on and vote for, the UK Government to **adopt Scotland's ambitious carbon reduction targets**. (p10)

The party will use its influence at Westminster to ensure the UK matches, and supports, Scotland's ambitious commitments to **carbon reduction** and will also play a positive role in the UN Climate Change conference in Paris. (p18 and 32)

## Climate change

The party will call on the UK government to match the approach of the Scottish Government with a **dedicated Climate Justice Fund**. (p18)

## Community energy

The SNP is working to support increased **community ownership of local energy projects**, for example through the party's £20m local energy challenge fund. (p32)

## Energy and water efficiency

The party commits to support businesses, the third sector and public sector organisations working to **boost productivity by using energy, materials and water more efficiently**. (p32)

## Green Investment Bank

The party will support steps to increase the capital available to the **Green Investment Bank** and will ask the next UK government to report on options including new borrowing powers for the bank. (p10)



# Water Industry

The last Parliament saw major reforms to how the water industry operated, with the Water Act 2014 enabling the creation of a new market for retail water and sewerage services to non-household customers in England.

While new policies in this area have not been provided by all parties, below is an overview of the main reforms to the sector contained in the manifestos.



The party commit to tackle air pollution and clean up rivers and waterways, including by supporting the **Thames Tideway Tunnel**. (p54)



Labour pledge that all water companies will be required to sign up to a new **national affordability scheme**, helping those who cannot afford to pay their water bill. The regulator will be strengthened to change licenses, limit price rises and enforce industry standards. (p26)



The Liberal Democrats will encourage the uptake of **water metering**, including introducing metering in all defined water-stressed areas by 2025, coupled with the development of **national social tariffs** to protect low income households. (p82) As part of their Nature Act they urge the transposition of EU air and water quality targets into UK law to confirm their commitments. (p90)



The party comments that “private gain rather than the common good” is what often result in privatisations. They argue that **public ownership and** democratic control that lead to fairer services and better outcomes. (p8) The party commits to making **Ofwat** and the **Environment Agency** work together to create a ‘healthy water environment’ and long-term **low prices for consumers**. They urge the creation of new reservoirs in the south and east of England. (p13) They also urge that payments made to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy should have regard to improving water quality, amongst other things. (p14) The party also wants to introduce new taxes on the use of water by businesses and on waste heat from power stations, raising £3 billion by 2020. (p21)



The party noted they had **placed limits on increases in water charges** and add that through tough and effective regulation of Scottish Water they’ve been able to deliver real-terms cuts in water bills. (p15)

The commit to exempt the NHS and Scottish Water, as part of a general public sector exemption, from the terms of the proposed **TTIP**. They commit to helping people user materials and **water more efficiently** . (p19)



The party believes in the **transfer of full responsibility** for Wales’ natural resources to the Assembly. This includes powers over water and sewerage services. (p45, p7)

This briefing document has been compiled by political consultants on the Dods Monitoring team.

For further information about the content of this briefing please contact [Mark.Jenner@dods.co.uk](mailto:Mark.Jenner@dods.co.uk)

All photos © Press Association.