



Energy experts support call for Energy Bill Revolution

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Energy experts today backed the call by the Energy Bill Revolution to use carbon tax revenue to make the UK's homes super energy efficient.

The University of Exeter, SSE, Consumer Focus and WWF, along with representatives from 20 other organisations, today published the results of a series of roundtables on UK energy policy. They called for energy demand to be the centrepiece of energy policy, not an afterthought to make decarbonisation easier.

The final communique of the roundtables concluded that the Government's draft Energy Bill and existing energy efficiency policies would in their current state, fail to deliver a secure, clean and affordable power sector for the UK and would result in the UK missing out on some key economic growth opportunities.

The group called for measures to reduce energy demand to be given the same status as measures that seek to support the construction of low-carbon generation. They also highlighted the need to use carbon revenue to make homes super energy efficient to help minimise consumer energy bills and bring an end to the blight of fuel poverty. This is precisely what the Energy Bill Revolution alliance is calling for and is the only permanent way to drive down energy bills and end fuel poverty.

From 2013 onwards, the Government will raise an average of £4 billion in carbon taxes every year from the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Floor Price. This is enough to bring 9 out of 10 homes out of fuel poverty. It could quadruple carbon emissions savings compared to the Government's new energy efficiency policies, and create up to 200,000 more jobs – exactly what we need to support the UK's economic recovery.

Research for the Energy Bill Revolution has revealed that fuel poverty could affect 9.1 million households by 2016, the year in which the Government has a target to eliminate fuel poverty. This is a potential rise of 40% which would increase the number of UK households in fuel poverty from one in four to one in three.

Members of the public are being encouraged to sign up to the public petition at www.energybillrevolution.org which is already backed by 90 leading charities, unions, consumer groups and businesses – including National Children’s Bureau, Save the Children, Barnardo’s, The Children’s Society, National Pensioners’ Convention, Consumer Focus, The Co-operative Group, USwitch, Confused.com, Kingfisher, IKEA, Asda, Kingspan, National Energy Action, Macmillan Cancer Support, TUC, GMB, NUS, Unite, UNISON, FMB, RIBA, The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, the Association for the Conservation of Energy, and Friends of the Earth. To find out who’s on board, visit www.energybillrevolution.org/whos-behind-it/

Ed Matthew, Campaign Director of the Energy Bill Revolution said:

“An unstoppable alliance is emerging, calling on the Government to use carbon tax revenue to maximise household energy efficiency. If the Chancellor is genuinely concerned about household energy bills then he should hand back our carbon tax to make homes super-energy efficient. This is a just and fair solution to end fuel poverty and re-build Britain”

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Notes to Editors

1. For more information about the Energy Bill Revolution and the recent report on fuel poverty, visit: www.energybillrevolution.org
2. The Energy Bill Revolution is an alliance campaign, coordinated by Transform UK. For the full list of the 90 charities, consumer groups, unions and businesses already signed up to the Energy Bill Revolution petition, visit: www.energybillrevolution.org/whos-behind-it
3. The Energy Round Table Joint Communique & supporting documents can be accessed here: http://www.wwf.org.uk/research_centre/research_centre_results.cfm?uNewsID=6074