

# Budget Briefing 2013

20 March 2013

The Chancellor today delivered his Budget but failed to provide any help to households suffering from high energy bills.

Despite offering £5.4 billion of financial support for building and buying new homes, the Chancellor offered zero help for people who want to make their homes energy efficient.

A ground-breaking report by Cambridge Econometrics published last year found that using carbon tax to make homes highly energy efficient could create more growth and jobs than anything else the Government could do, delivering up to 130,000 new jobs.

Ed Matthew, Director of the Energy Bill Revolution alliance, campaigning for carbon tax to be used to make homes super energy efficient said:

***“There is a black hole in the Budget which is sucking the life out of UK households and the economy. There is no support to make homes energy efficient despite the fact this could create up to 130,000 jobs and more growth than any other investment the Government could make. The Chancellor has not only ignored the millions of families struggling with high energy bills, he has scored an economic own goal by missing the best opportunity to create jobs – re-building the UK’s homes to make them super energy efficient”.***

The Energy Bill Revolution is an alliance of over 120 national charities, businesses, consumer groups and unions calling on the Government to use carbon tax to make homes highly energy efficient. The Government will raise £60 billion in carbon tax over the next 15 years, an average of £4 billion each year. But the Chancellor has so far refused to use this money to insulate UK homes despite the fact the carbon tax ends up on consumer energy bills. There is enough revenue to end fuel poverty and in time help every UK household to minimise their energy bills.

The Energy Bill Revolution estimates that an average household could save over £400 every year if their home was properly insulated using carbon tax revenue. There are over 5 million households in the UK in fuel poverty, needing to spend more than 10% of their income on energy in order to keep warm. If gas prices increase as the Government expects there could be as many as 9 million households in fuel poverty by 2016, the year when the Government is aiming to eliminate fuel poverty

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