



**Environment, Energy
and Culture:**

A greener Britain

Thank you for taking part in the Labour Party's 2018 National Policy Forum Consultation, the Party's process for getting input from our members, supporters and stakeholders on how we shape our policies.

This booklet is one of eight policy documents published by the Labour Party as part of our consultation this year.

Each document contains sets of questions for you to answer. You do not need to answer every question, nor is there any specific way to answer them. We suggest picking the questions most important to you and using them as a guide to write a few lines or paragraphs on what you think about the issues in this area.

At the end of the document you can find a guide on how to send in your ideas to us and other ways to get involved in the consultation.

There are seven other documents that might interest you covering different areas of the Party's policies, you can find them in the consultation pack or online. If you have an idea or issue you would like to talk about that is not covered in this year's consultation, you can submit these to us too via www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

Whether you're a Labour Party member or not, we want to hear your ideas on how the next Labour government should tackle the challenges our country faces, and build a more equal Britain for the many, not the few.

Want to know more about how Labour makes policy?

You can learn more about how Labour makes policy, further details about the 2018 Consultation and find policy events in your area on our website www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

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.

Environment Energy and Culture: A greener Britain

Labour's vision

Labour believes that investing in our environment is an investment in our future and that developing a clean economy is the most important thing we can do for future generations.

Labour has a strong record in tackling climate change. It was a Labour Government that passed the Climate Change Act, placing in law a duty to reduce carbon emissions. Labour put at the heart of its General Election industrial strategy the target of ensuring 60 per cent of the UK's energy comes from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030 and support for emerging renewable technologies and projects.

Labour believes that environmental protections play an important part in helping to safeguard our environment and that existing protections should be defended and extended. The stewardship of the environment should be founded on sound scientific principles. A future environmental approach should be developed considering future farming and fishing regimes, preserving biodiversity on land and in the seas and leading the world in animal welfare and food standards.

Labour wants to see a Britain that embraces a clean and green agenda for the future to deliver 'a greener Britain'.

Issues

The Natural Environment

Brexit means that the existing system of environmental standards, protections and regulations will no longer apply when the UK leaves the EU. These standards and how they are monitored and enforced will need to be replaced with domestic equivalents.

European-derived rules are wide-ranging and cover a number of different issues. As a new environmental framework is devised it is important to consider issues including flooding, animal welfare and food standards, biodiversity, the future of our blue and green belts and the promotion of a reduced plastic circular economy.

Green spaces such as national parks and areas of outstanding national beauty can play an important role in our national life. As a new green agenda is brought forward the benefits of, and increasing access to, green spaces should be considered.

As the UK leaves the EU new funding regimes for farming and fishing will need to be designed with a focus on the basis for which funds are paid, and the level at which funds are set at, under any new framework.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the questions below:

- How should environmental rules and regulations be adapted for the future?
- How can access to green spaces be improved and how can the use and function of these spaces be maximised?

Clean Energy

Ensuring a clean energy supply into the future will help us to meet our carbon targets and help Britain reclaim a leading, global role in tackling climate change.

Renewables, like solar and wind, should form the backbone of a clean energy system fit for the 21st Century. New emerging technologies such as tidal power can also play an important role and should be supported.

These low-carbon solutions hold the potential for further decentralisation of energy while energy efficiency improvements can reduce the amount of energy that we use. A future energy system needs to be made to work for local communities and local economies by delivering energy security, keeping bills low and handing communities control over their supply.

A transition to a low-carbon and renewable economy will mean a need to consider where jobs are to be created and where existing skills and workforces can be maintained.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the questions below:

- What steps need to be taken for the UK to put itself on course to meet climate targets?
- How can a future low-carbon energy system be made to work for consumers?
- How can jobs be created and existing skills and workforces maintained in a future low-carbon economy?

Air Pollution

An ongoing environmental issue with particular significance is air quality. Nearly 40 million people are living in areas with illegal levels of bad air, including over eight million children. An estimated 40,000 deaths each year are associated with air pollution.

Illegal levels of air pollution and the associated negative health impacts are affecting towns and cities across the country. A comprehensive strategy to bring air quality to acceptable levels is urgently needed.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the question below:

- What action should be taken to address poor air quality across the country?

Thank you for taking the time to read our consultation document.

We want to harness the views, experience and expertise of our members, stakeholders and the wider public. If you would like to respond to any of the issues in this document, there are a number of ways you can get involved:

- 1. Online:** The best and easiest way to send in your ideas and join the discussion is via our online home of policy making:
www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/consultation2018
- 2. By post:** If you have written down your ideas, you can post these to us at:
The Labour Party,
Policy Unit,
Southside,
105 Victoria Street,
London, SW1E 6QT
- 3. At your local party:** You may want to discuss your ideas with other members of your CLP or local branch. You can suggest to your CLP Secretary that a policy discussion is held at a future meeting.
- 4. Regional Policy Forums:** Look out for events hosted by your regional office, local parties and National Policy Forum Representatives.

You can find out more about the 2018 consultation, upcoming events and more details on how Labour makes its policy at

www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates during the consultation

[@Labpolicyforum](https://twitter.com/Labpolicyforum)

[#NPFConsultation2018](https://twitter.com/NPFConsultation2018)

Please send your ideas before the consultation period ends, it runs until Sunday 24 June 2018.

