

ENERGY FOR ALL

MANIFESTO

**ENERGY
FOR ALL**



**FUEL
POVERTY
ACTION**

Heat
and
Light
are
Basic
Rights!



We the undersigned call on the government to institute urgent fundamental changes to the present pricing structures for energy – the electricity, gas and heat supplied to UK homes. The new system we are calling for is Energy For All.

Unaffordable energy is causing many thousands of deaths every year, especially among those who are most disadvantaged, including older and disabled people, women and people of colour. It also causes widespread misery, ill health and blighted childhoods.

The government and Ofgem are allowing energy firms to pocket huge sums from our bills. These sky-high profits go on massive shareholder payouts and executive bonuses. More goes on extracting



fossil fuels that are rapidly destroying the earth we live on.

Renewable energy from the sun, wind, waves and tides could supply all that the UK needs. Windy days provide so much energy that it could be given away for free. Instead, wind farm owners are being paid huge sums to turn off the turbines so they don't overwhelm the grid. The money for this 'curtailment' is added to our bills.

Some electricity does go to customers for free, but mostly to well-off households. While renewables are being rolled out at speed, this is not being done in a way that helps most people. Cheap deals are benefitting some wealthier, tech-savvy customers, but most people in fuel poverty miss out.

We believe this situation requires fundamental change. Piecemeal measures and occasional financial relief do not solve the problem.

Fuel Poverty Action is calling for an alternative, fairer and greener system, Energy For All, where **each household would receive enough energy to cover the needs of the people living there.**

The principle of a free allocation of energy has been endorsed by many organisations, including



Angela Christofilou

the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and New Economics Foundation (NEF), and has received strong support in public polls. The Energy For All petition has over 660,000 signatures.

As organisations and as individuals in UK civil society, we call on the UK Government and opposition parties to action this proposal. Sharing the benefits of our wind and sun with everyone must start now.

www.energyforall.org.uk
www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk

UNDER ENERGY FOR ALL:

1. Each household will receive, free of charge, enough energy to cover its needs.

Including for adequate heating, lighting, cooking, hot water, refrigeration, charging phones and digital connectivity, and, where needed, hearing aids, medical equipment, stairlifts and wheelchairs.

2. This free energy will be delivered and paid for without expense to the general public

Distributing surplus energy currently wasted by switching off wind turbines and solar panels when the wind and sun are plentiful.

- Recouping billions of pounds in public money being spent subsidising fossil fuels and other damaging projects like nuclear, hydrogen, biomass power and carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- Taxing energy corporations at at least the rates in place until the mid-2010s, and closing loopholes that allow companies making billions of pounds in profit to pay less tax than the average person.
- Applying a progressive 'rising block tariff' so that wealthy households pay more for using excess energy beyond their needs.

- Taxing the super rich to address growing poverty and inequality, replacing regressive levies that hit the poorest households hardest.

3. UK housing will urgently be built and brought up to a standard where people are not made ill by their own homes.

Safe, non-toxic, non-flammable insulation appropriate to the building, and sound heating systems will be installed by skilled workers in consultation with, and with accountability to, residents. All rented property will be kept in good repair. Tenants will be protected after homes are improved to become warm and dry.

It is a scandal that homes in one of the world's richest countries are among the coldest and dampest in Europe. These measures will reduce the amount of energy required to meet point 1, put low income households on a par with better off neighbours and greatly improve public health.

4. No one will be disconnected from vital supplies as a means of recovering debt.

No household will be forced to pay in advance for the energy they need, whether via smart meter or by means of key or card prepayment meter in their home.

There should be a permanent and statutory end to the installation of prepayment meters by court orders authorising intrusion in people's homes, or remotely by smart meters set to prepayment mode against the customer's will. Where an unwanted prepayment meter has already been installed, it should be removed on request without charge.

5. Injustices that artificially inflate our bills will be reformed or abolished.

- Decouple the price of electricity from the much higher cost of gas.
- End unfair standing charges. These charges make up large portions of our bills, particularly for people who can only afford to use a little energy. They are spent unaccountably by energy firms including on high marketing costs and large executive pay packets.
- Scrap levies for greenwashing technologies that will cause further environmental harm, named in point 2.

6. Everyone will benefit from a commitment to fairness in the provision of energy.

We must all have access to the benefits of cheap or free renewable energy, which currently go mainly to tech-savvy and well-equipped households. This includes:

- Excess power generated by wind and solar farms will be distributed for use by people who need it, instead of paying to turn off wind turbines and solar production.
- Rooftop solar installed on our homes and housing blocks must benefit the residents.
- An end to price discrimination: cheap tariffs available to all, not just those with electric vehicles or heat pumps; and homes with traditional storage heaters and tanks given smart timers to cut bills.
- Access to heat pumps and heat networks that are quiet, user-friendly, reliable and guarantee fair prices.
- Well-funded development of community energy, with a right to distribute locally.
- Ending the exclusion of itinerant, off-grid, and other communities from current benefits and provisions.
- A supply chain for energy infrastructure that is non-exploitative, sustainable and free of human rights abuses in the UK and abroad.
- Accountability to workers in the energy industry, with training and security for those transferring from jobs in fossil fuels to other employment.

SIGN UP ONLINE

This Manifesto is intended to be signed by organisations of all kinds, and by leaders in faith, educational, entertainment, research, governmental, or any other institution, whether national or local. Please include with your signature your title, and position in the organisation or institution, stating locality where relevant.



Please scan the QR code to sign the petition.

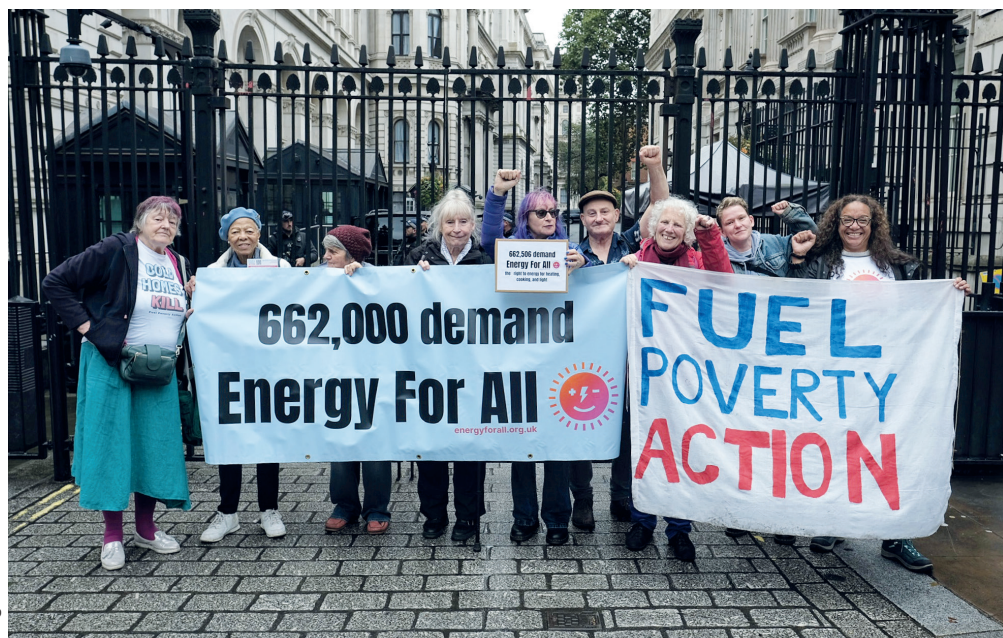
PASS IT ON!

If you want to support e4a as an individual, please pass the Manifesto onto any groups, organisations or prominent figures you know and lobby your political representatives and union branch to sign! As an individual, you yourself can sign the Energy For All petition.



ENERGY FOR ALL

Or go to: bit.ly/e4aMANIFESTO



Angela Christofilou

The Energy For All petition was delivered to Downing St last October with over 662,000 signatures, and is still going strong