



Green Recovery

NATIONAL
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Coronavirus is the biggest crisis our country has faced in a generation. It is a health crisis, an economic crisis and – for many – a personal crisis.

Our immediate attention must be on responding to the pandemic and ensuring the health and safety of people across the country.

We also need action to combat the economic crisis that is facing so many communities across our country

At the same time, as we recover and renew we cannot return to business as usual after this crisis is over. We are continuing to live through a global climate and environment emergency. According to the United Nations, we have fewer than ten years remaining to avert the worst impacts of catastrophic climate change.

That's why Labour has called for the UK to implement the most ambitious green recovery programme in the world.

This will mean providing jobs for those displaced by the crisis – creating a “zero carbon army” of workers to insulate buildings, plant trees and develop the green technologies of the future.

It will mean reducing our carbon footprint while also improving the quality of life enjoyed by people across our country – because the choice between prosperity and sustainability is a false one.

And it will mean working with businesses, trade unions, local government and community leaders across our regions and nations – scaling up the innovative, exciting work that is already taking place in our communities.

But to make this plan a reality, we need your help.

Over the next four weeks we are consulting with businesses, sector associations, unions, workers, green campaign groups and the public to explore what the green recovery should look like.

Your responses will form the basis of Labour's plan for a green recovery – which we will then present to the government.

Your views will also be sent to Labour's Energy, Environment and Culture Policy Commission – which I co-chair alongside Margaret Beckett MP – to feed in to our broader consultation on the principles that will guide our energy and environment policy in the coming years.

Thank you for taking part, and I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Yours,



Ed Miliband

Shadow Secretary for Business, Energy
and Industrial Strategy

Thank you for taking part in the Labour Party's Green Recovery consultation. We're developing our plan for the most ambitious green economic recovery programme in the world - but we need your help.

This document explains why we need a green recovery and asks ten questions about what it should look like. You do not need to answer every question, nor is there a specific way to answer them. We suggest using the questions to stimulate and develop your thoughts on what you think are the main issues that a green recovery would need to respond to.

Once you have written up your response, you can submit it to us through Labour Policy Forum: www.policyforum.labour.org.uk. For more information on how to make a submission, see <https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/consultation-submission-guide>.

On the website you will also find guides on other ways to get involved in our policy making process, as well as information on programme of online events we will be running and other policy consultations we're holding.

Anything you submit will also be sent to our Environment, Energy and Culture Policy Commission, which is currently seeking views on the principles that should guide our environment and energy policy over the next few years.

Whether you are a Labour Party member, supporter or stakeholder, we want to hear your views.

Want to know more about how Labour makes its policy? You can learn more about how Labour develops its policy, find further information on the 2020 Consultation and see our programme of online policy events 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 the consultation documents please email us at **policydevelopment@labour.org.uk** to discuss how we can best accommodate your requirements.

This is a moment of profound economic distress for the country. People are losing their jobs at an alarming rate in the midst of the biggest recession for 300 years. Government has made important efforts through the furlough scheme and other measures to mitigate that distress. We have welcomed these although there are still significant problems.

As we begin to plan beyond the rescue phase of the crisis, government must now do all it can to ensure a just, sustainable recovery and renewal. We cannot go back to business as usual. In particular, government must face up to another critical challenge for our economy, beyond the Covid-19 crisis – the climate and nature crisis.

This is what it means to 'build back better'. Central to building back better is an economy with good jobs paid decently, air quality which preserves and doesn't damage our health, protection and improvement of our natural environment. We know we must transition our economy to net zero emissions. It makes sense to advance that action and in so doing improving people's prosperity and quality of life, and take advantage of opportunities for prosperity and employment from green technologies and work.

This is the right thing to do, not just for our collective futures, but also economically and fiscally. Offering employment for those displaced by this crisis will reduce the long-term scarring effects, boost demand and mean that the recession will be less deep and the recovery will come quicker. All this will mean a stronger economy and a more sustainable debt burden over the coming years.

Protecting our climate and nature goes hand-in-hand with fostering our economy and ensuring decent living standards and quality of life. We want to see the most ambitious green recovery programme in the world, that supports flourishing communities, which benefits those who need it most and which is built on the basis of engagement with people across the country. The green recovery needs to make the most of the incredible innovation being undertaken by innovators in our communities, businesses, investors, local authorities and trade unions; and also by informed academics and policy experts.

We will be consulting with business contacts, sector associations, unions, workers, green campaign groups and the public.

Please get involved by giving us your thoughts on the questions below by 30th June 2020. These questions are designed to frame our thinking.

Questions:

1. What sectors do you believe are the priorities for investment from government, for a green recovery programme to build a stronger, more resilient future economy? How can this investment reduce regional inequalities as well as address the climate crisis and environmental degradation? And what science and technologies do we need to invest in?
2. How do we support people who have lost employment during this crisis to move into environmental growth sectors? How can we ensure that such jobs are decently paid, with quality training, and offer representation by trade unions? What lessons can be learned from past programmes current support and international examples?
3. How should sector-specific support for business during this crisis be used to both protect and promote employment and to pursue our climate and nature objectives?
4. What is the scope for redeploying people from industries which are facing crisis? What are the models of retraining and support which should be examined? Do you know of examples of programmes which have been effective in enabling redeployment; and what can we learn from programmes that have not been effective?
5. Given the regional and area-based impacts of this crisis, what role can a green recovery play in mitigating these impacts? What are the lessons of past environmental interventions in terms of local and regional impacts?
6. How can we help existing businesses, including SMEs, to adapt as a result of the crisis, including through measures for a green recovery? How can these measures be allied to the improvement of productivity and viability for these companies?
7. How can measures you are proposing in this recovery and renewal period improve quality of life—for example around walking, cycling and public transport, and improving access to nature? What habitats are you especially concerned about and want to see more support for and focus on?
8. In providing responses to 1-7, please can you indicate to us what considerations of cost-benefit analysis are relevant (and, if such analysis has not been undertaken, what sources of information would be necessary to understand costs and benefits); and which institutions would be required to enable effective delivery? In particular what is the role of public and private investment and different ownership models?
9. What are the key institutions including business, local government, trade unions who should play a role in delivering a green recovery? Are there particular lessons that should be learnt about effective delivery? Local people know their communities better than Westminster. What steps do we need to introduce to empower local communities to be able to tailor the provision to suit their needs?
10. What other issues/points do you think are important? What are the Covid-19 challenges of delivering such a programme and how might they be overcome?