# Fears grow for UK curry restaurants as Ed Miliband’s Net Zero electrification threatens survival



The prospect of Ed Miliband’s drive towards Net Zero has ignited fears within the UK’s curry restaurant sector, with industry leaders warning that the transition to cleaner energy could threaten the very existence of these culinary establishments. The Energy Secretary’s push for electrification, particularly the replacement of traditional gas-fuelled tandoori ovens, presents a formidable financial challenge for many businesses that are already struggling to maintain operations amid rising costs and economic uncertainty.

Oli Khan MBE, President of the Bangladeshi Caterers Association, articulated a grim outlook for the industry, stating, “Net Zero could sign a death warrant for the Great British curry industry.” With over 12,000 curry restaurants in the UK providing vital employment to more than 100,000 individuals and contributing approximately £4.5 billion to the economy annually, the stakes are incredibly high. The financial burden of replacing gas tandoor ovens and hobs could amount to tens of thousands of pounds for each restaurant, a cost many simply cannot bear.

Industry insiders worry that this shift may also compromise the authenticity and quality of the dishes that these restaurants are known for. A source within the restaurant sector commented on the government’s clear stance regarding fossil fuel reduction and electrification, remarking, “But many of us simply can’t afford it.” This sentiment reflects broader concerns about the viability of implementing such green initiatives without crippling small businesses.

The debates surrounding Miliband’s net zero policies extend beyond the curry industry. Critics from various sectors have raised alarms about potential economic repercussions, including worries that the construction of infrastructure for clean energy could lead to significant declines in property values. Some estimates suggest that home values could plummet by as much as 40%, turning rural communities against these necessary developments and putting additional pressure on local businesses.

Moreover, Miliband’s proposals have faced scrutiny for imposing additional costs on property owners, particularly in the rental market, where new green regulations are expected to burden landlords with an estimated £21.8 billion in upgrade expenses. The criticism highlights fears that rising costs could lead to job losses and increased reliance on imported energy, exacerbating the very issues the policies aim to alleviate.

In a broader context, these initiatives fall in line with ongoing discussions in Parliament regarding accountability for corporate carbon footprints. Miliband, in advocating for stringent laws that would require corporations and banks to demonstrate compliance with UN climate goals, insists that these measures are essential to avert future energy crises. However, this regulatory environment raises concerns about the repercussions for smaller businesses and traditional industries that may lack the resources to adapt swiftly.

The urgency of the UK's transition to a low-carbon economy is underscored by the recommendations from the Climate Change Committee, which suggests a dramatic reduction in meat and dairy consumption by 2050 as part of broader emissions targets. This shift towards plant-based diets reflects growing awareness of the environmental impacts linked to agriculture, though it too prompts significant lifestyle changes and debates surrounding food production and cultural preferences.

In conclusion, while the goal of achieving net-zero emissions is increasingly recognised as critical to addressing climate change, the implications of such a transition must be carefully considered, particularly for industries like the curry sector that are integral to the cultural fabric and economy of the UK. The challenge will be finding a way to implement necessary environmental policies that support businesses and communities rather than threaten their survival.

### Reference Map

1. [[1]](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/34903720/curry-houses-net-zero-fear/)
2. [[2]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1949804/Net-zero-labour-ed-miliband-uk-house-prices)
3. [[3]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/ed-miliband-blasted-disastrous-net-zero-policies)
4. [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/05/04/labour-ed-miliband-plots-new-net-zero-crackdown-corporates/)
5. [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/22/ed-miliband-urges-uk-to-enshrine-zero-carbon-emissions-target-in-law)
6. [[6]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/uk-meat-dairy-consumption-climate-change-committee-net-zero/)
7. [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/18/sunak-and-ministers-stoking-division-over-uk-net-zero-target-warns-ed-miliband)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/34903720/curry-houses-net-zero-fear/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1949804/Net-zero-labour-ed-miliband-uk-house-prices> - Ed Miliband's net zero plan has faced criticism for potentially causing significant declines in property values. Critics argue that the construction of numerous pylons for clean energy infrastructure could lead to home values dropping by up to 40%, adversely affecting homeowners and local businesses. The plan aims to accelerate the transition to clean energy but has sparked concerns about its impact on rural communities and the economy. Miliband emphasizes the importance of clean energy in reducing future energy shocks and suggests that communities hosting this infrastructure should benefit from it.
3. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/ed-miliband-blasted-disastrous-net-zero-policies> - Ed Miliband's net zero policies have been heavily criticized for being 'disastrous' and 'deluded.' The policies, which include imposing a ban on renting out homes starting in 2028 unless they undergo expensive green upgrades, are expected to result in a £21.8 billion bill for property owners. Critics argue that these measures could lead to higher bills, job losses, and increased reliance on foreign countries for energy. Miliband defends the plan, stating that accelerating the transition to clean energy will protect families from future energy shocks.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/05/04/labour-ed-miliband-plots-new-net-zero-crackdown-corporates/> - Ed Miliband plans to introduce new net zero laws that will require large companies and banks to limit their carbon footprints to align with UN climate goals. The proposed laws would legally obligate directors to publish their company's annual carbon footprint and demonstrate compliance with the UN Paris climate treaty. This initiative aims to hold major corporations accountable for their environmental impact and contribute to the UK's efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The plan has sparked discussions about its potential effects on businesses and the economy.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/22/ed-miliband-urges-uk-to-enshrine-zero-carbon-emissions-target-in-law> - Former Labour leader Ed Miliband called for the UK to become the first country to legally commit to reducing carbon emissions to zero. Building on the existing target of cutting emissions by 80% by 2050 under the Climate Change Act, Miliband emphasized the need for a clear signal to businesses and international leaders ahead of the Paris climate change summit. This proposal aimed to demonstrate the UK's leadership in addressing climate change and to encourage other nations to adopt similar commitments.
6. <https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/uk-meat-dairy-consumption-climate-change-committee-net-zero/> - The UK's Climate Change Committee recommends halving meat and dairy consumption by 2050 to meet the country's net-zero emissions target. This proposal suggests replacing animal proteins with plant-based alternatives to significantly reduce national emissions. The committee's guidance aims to align the UK's dietary habits with climate goals and emphasizes the importance of dietary shifts in achieving environmental targets. The recommendation reflects growing concerns about the environmental impact of meat and dairy production and consumption.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/18/sunak-and-ministers-stoking-division-over-uk-net-zero-target-warns-ed-miliband> - Ed Miliband warns that the UK government's approach to the net zero target is causing division and hindering progress on climate action. He criticizes ministers for focusing on culture wars instead of addressing the urgency of the climate crisis. Miliband's comments highlight the challenges in achieving consensus on climate policies and the need for a unified approach to meet environmental goals. The article discusses the political dynamics surrounding the UK's net zero commitments and the implications for future climate initiatives.