# Farage and Miliband clash over Government’s Net Zero climate targets amid political tensions



Nigel Farage and Ed Miliband engaged in a heated exchange yesterday over the Government’s Net Zero climate targets, with the Reform party leader warning that the issue could emerge as the "new Brexit" in British politics.

Mr Farage criticised the Government's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions as “lunacy,” arguing that these policies risk devastating working-class communities across the UK. He contended that, while ‘green’ jobs are being created abroad, workers in traditional industries at home are being left behind. Speaking to The Sun on Sunday, Farage said: “Why would you export manufacturing and then re-import the goods? All you've done is, you've exported CO2 emissions and actually added to them in many cases. The lunacy of this. This could be the next Brexit, where Parliament is so hopelessly out of touch with the country.”

In response, Ed Miliband, who serves as the Government’s Cabinet Minister for Net Zero, strongly rejected Mr Farage’s claims. He accused the Reform leader of disseminating dangerous “nonsense and lies” regarding the climate strategy. The confrontation between the two highlighted how Net Zero objectives are becoming a central and polarising issue in UK politics, particularly as both parties vie for support in Labour’s traditional Red Wall constituencies.

Reform is aiming to capitalise on this growing debate ahead of local elections scheduled for 1 May, in which the party hopes to secure hundreds of seats. The importance of the Net Zero dispute extends beyond local government, with a by-election taking place on the same day in the parliamentary seat of Runcorn and Helsby, a potential target for reformist gains.

Adding to the political uncertainty, a recent More In Common poll, surveying 16,000 voters, suggested a significant shift in voting patterns. According to the survey, Reform could win 180 parliamentary seats if a general election were held tomorrow, surpassing both the Conservative and Labour parties, which were projected to win 165 seats each.

The debate over Net Zero and its economic and social implications is thus poised to become a pivotal factor in the evolving political landscape as parties prepare for upcoming electoral contests.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/04/20/ed-milband-nigel-farage-net-zero-local-election-reform/> - This article reports on the heated exchange between Nigel Farage and Ed Miliband about the Government’s Net Zero climate targets, highlighting the political tension ahead of the local elections.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/politics/uk-politics/reform-nigel-farage-ed-milliband-net-zero-climate-change-british-steel-brexit/> - This source details Nigel Farage's criticism of the Net Zero policy as 'lunacy,' the accusation that it harms UK industries, and Ed Miliband’s strong rebuttal calling Farage's claims 'nonsense and lies.'
* <https://news.sky.com/story/farage-accused-of-peddling-nonsense-and-lies-as-he-predicts-the-new-brexit-13352236> - This article covers the confrontation between Farage and Miliband, including Farage's warning of Net Zero becoming 'the new Brexit' and Miliband's condemnation of the misinformation around Net Zero policies.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-19/miliband-hits-back-at-farage-over-nonsense-and-lies-about-net-zero> - This source provides details on Ed Miliband's rebuttal to Farage’s criticism, emphasizing the political battle over Net Zero in the context of the upcoming May local elections and the ongoing disputes over the UK steel industry.
* <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/net-zero-is-a-complete-and-utter-disaster-nigel-farage-and-jordan-peterson-in-conversation/> - This article features Nigel Farage expressing his opposition to Net Zero policies and his view on their negative impacts on British industry and communities, reflecting the sentiment he voiced during the exchange.