# Richard Tice’s anti-renewable stance risks pushing UK energy prices higher amid market volatility



Richard Tice, the deputy leader of Reform, has announced his intention to leverage every possible avenue to assist local councillors in blocking renewable energy projects following his party's recent successes in the English council elections. This stance aligns with increasing public sentiment against net zero initiatives, particularly in rural areas where Reform has gained traction. However, this approach raises significant concerns, especially considering the long-term implications for energy affordability and independence in the UK.

Understanding the fluctuating cost of energy in the UK is pivotal. Currently, the electricity prices consumers face are heavily influenced by the global market for gas, with our reliance on gas-fired power stations leading to prices that are closely tied to international gas rates. This dependency has intensified since the onset of the Ukraine crisis, which has strained gas supplies across Europe. The government has made efforts to strengthen energy independence, a necessary move in light of current market conditions.

Recent data from the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero reveals that renewable energy sources such as onshore and offshore wind, as well as large-scale solar power, represent the most cost-effective means of electricity generation. Onshore wind, priced at 3.8 pence per kilowatt hour, is particularly notable for its affordability compared to gas at 11.4 pence and nuclear options which hover around 12.8 pence. As renewable technologies mature, further cost reductions are likely, making them even more economically viable.

In stark contrast, Tice’s push to block these renewable initiatives may inadvertently escalate energy prices for consumers. If access to affordable renewables is hindered, the UK's electricity prices could rise, shackling households to the volatility of international gas markets. In rural regions, where local energy generation could provide cheaper alternatives, such actions could be particularly detrimental. This not only restricts access to lower energy costs but hampers the potential for rural communities to leverage local energy production, an essential aspect of energy resilience in an increasingly uncertain world.

Addressing this narrative requires a proactive and pragmatic approach to energy policy. Labour's initiative, Great British Energy, seeks to promote local energy autonomy, but there is an opportunity for more significant reforms. One proposal is to streamline the planning process for local energy projects, ensuring that small-scale renewable installations, such as wind turbines, receive automatic approval. This would remove bureaucratic obstacles that often delay or block community energy initiatives, allowing local populations to harness their own resources while maintaining manageable costs.

Moreover, banks and financial institutions must be encouraged to support local energy projects through low-interest loans, facilitating the capital-intensive establishment of renewable installations. With energy production costs diminishing over time, ensuring access to upfront financing will be crucial for empowering communities—especially those in rural areas that could greatly benefit from locally generated power.

Government support for these initiatives could catalyse a transition towards community-driven energy solutions. By fostering environments where local groups can develop and manage their energy needs, the UK could see revitalized local economies. This empowerment aligns with the broader aim of promoting sustainable energy while also delivering economic benefits at the community level.

To effectively counter the reform narrative, other political parties—including Labour, the Greens, and the Liberal Democrats—should remain focused on practical solutions rather than merely engaging in anti-green rhetoric. By presenting a clear, constructive alternative that prioritises local energy production at a fair price, they can claim the moral high ground in the ongoing debate. The potential for localized renewable energy systems could lay a robust foundation for future energy independence, providing economic resilience and environmental sustainability in the process.

As the UK navigates its energy landscape, an inclusive approach that acknowledges the needs and aspirations of local communities will be essential. By removing structural barriers and fostering a supportive environment for renewable initiatives, communities can thrive within the Green Revolution rather than being left vulnerable to rising energy costs and external market pressures.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/energy/an-answer-to-reforms-call-for-more-expensive-energy/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/energy/an-answer-to-reforms-call-for-more-expensive-energy/), [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-generation-costs-2023)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-takes-major-steps-forward-to-secure-britains-energy-independence), [[4]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-acceleration-of-homegrown-power-in-britains-plan-for-greater-energy-independence)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/energy/an-answer-to-reforms-call-for-more-expensive-energy/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/b713e451-575b-4334-9bbc-3685d7415dfd)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/9f6c1dc9-7e8c-41a9-ab0a-61d2bf119121)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/energy/an-answer-to-reforms-call-for-more-expensive-energy/), [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-generation-costs-2023), [[4]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-acceleration-of-homegrown-power-in-britains-plan-for-greater-energy-independence)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/energy/an-answer-to-reforms-call-for-more-expensive-energy/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-generation-costs-2023> - The UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published the 'Electricity Generation Costs 2023' report, detailing levelised cost estimates for various electricity generation technologies. The report provides insights into the costs associated with different energy sources, including renewables and nuclear power, and outlines the methodology, data, and assumptions used to generate these estimates. This comprehensive analysis aids in understanding the economic aspects of electricity generation in the UK as of 2023.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-takes-major-steps-forward-to-secure-britains-energy-independence> - The UK government announced significant measures to enhance the nation's energy security, including advancing the Sizewell C nuclear power project in Suffolk. This initiative aims to provide reliable, low-carbon power to approximately 6 million homes for over 50 years and create up to 10,000 highly skilled jobs across the UK. The £700 million investment marks the first direct government involvement in a new nuclear power project since 1987, underscoring the commitment to reducing reliance on imported energy sources.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-acceleration-of-homegrown-power-in-britains-plan-for-greater-energy-independence> - The UK government unveiled a strategy to accelerate domestic energy production, focusing on increasing the deployment of renewable energy sources such as offshore wind, hydrogen, and solar power. The plan includes changes in planning regulations, Contracts for Difference (CfD) auctions, and potential low-cost financing options to expedite solar deployment. These measures aim to create thousands of jobs, reduce energy bills, and enhance Britain's energy security by boosting the share of low-carbon electricity in the energy mix.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/b713e451-575b-4334-9bbc-3685d7415dfd> - Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) reported that, under favorable business conditions, the UK could meet half of its oil and gas demand domestically. This domestic production would reduce reliance on more carbon-intensive imports. Currently, the UK is projected to produce 4 billion barrels of oil and gas of the 13-15 billion forecasted by the Climate Change Committee, aligning with the 2050 net-zero emissions goal. However, the North Sea could yield an additional 2-3 billion barrels, significantly boosting economic value if new investments are made. OEUK's annual report advocates for self-sufficiency and calls for lower windfall taxes to encourage investment in North Sea operations.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/9f6c1dc9-7e8c-41a9-ab0a-61d2bf119121> - During the UK's 2024 general election, voters observed notable differences in energy and climate policies between the major parties. The Conservative party, led by Rishi Sunak, focused on the costs of green policies, whereas Labour, under Sir Keir Starmer, committed to making the UK a leading clean energy superpower. Labour's significant victory, despite winning a little over a third of the popular vote, paved the way for more ambitious green policies. Key points of Labour’s strategy include restoring private sector confidence, implementing regulatory frameworks, and introducing investment bodies like Great British Energy and the National Wealth Fund. Labour aims to achieve ambitious targets, such as eliminating electricity generation emissions by 2030. Potential challenges include political opposition, regulatory reforms, and feasibility concerns regarding the rapid transition towards low-carbon energy. Labour's focus on job creation and community benefits from renewable projects seeks to garner broader support, while Liberal Democrats and Greens may push for even stronger climate measures.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-generation-costs-2023> - The UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published the 'Electricity Generation Costs 2023' report, detailing levelised cost estimates for various electricity generation technologies. The report provides insights into the costs associated with different energy sources, including renewables and nuclear power, and outlines the methodology, data, and assumptions used to generate these estimates. This comprehensive analysis aids in understanding the economic aspects of electricity generation in the UK as of 2023.