# Labour vows to create 400,000 green jobs and bolster unions in climate push



Labour, led by Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, is positioning itself in a robust fight against what it describes as a “global network of right-wing billionaires” dedicated to undermining net zero efforts to curb climate change for their own vested interests. Miliband accused the Conservative Party and Reform UK of importing a divisive “net zero culture war” from the United States, which he argues threatens the UK’s green transition and economic future. Speaking ahead of Labour’s conference, Miliband emphasized the party’s determination to accelerate clean energy initiatives as central to winning broad public support and securing a sustainable future.

Miliband outlined an ambitious plan to create 400,000 new jobs in the clean energy sector by 2030, effectively doubling the workforce in this crucial industry. The planned jobs will span a range of roles, including engineers, researchers, welders, electricians, and construction workers, reflecting a comprehensive approach to building the “green new deal” Labour aims to deliver. This pledge mirrors commitments made previously by Labour, including those by former leader Jeremy Corbyn, who also promised significant job creation through climate investments. Miliband further intends to push for stronger unionisation within the green energy sector to counter concerns from trade unions about potential job losses in established industries like oil and gas, particularly in the North Sea region.

To address labour concerns, the government plans to require offshore wind developers to contribute to a skills fund that supports workers transitioning from oil and gas into renewable sectors. Miliband will announce a Fair Worker Charter, which aims to ensure companies receiving public funds guarantee fair pay, flexible working conditions, and enhanced union rights. This move signals a shift in Labour’s approach, striving to reconcile environmental goals with workers’ rights after years of anti-union sentiment, particularly under Conservative governments. “The renewables industry came of age under the Tories when unions were a dirty word,” Miliband said, underscoring the necessity of union partnerships in building the future green economy.

Despite these commitments, Miliband acknowledged the substantial challenges ahead, especially with rising energy prices driven by the high cost of gas and ageing infrastructure. He defended the government’s 2030 target for decarbonising the grid, despite warnings from the state-owned National Energy System Operator that the goal is difficult to achieve. Miliband argued that the target has been vital in mobilising industry and investment, which have already resulted in record-breaking renewables funding worldwide, exceeding $2 trillion in 2024 according to international reports.

The political context remains fraught, with Miliband highlighting how Reform UK and other right-wing groups exacerbate fears by framing net zero policies as threats to working-class people. He pointedly criticised billionaires like Elon Musk as symbolic figures in this opposition. He contrasted this with Labour’s narrative of addressing inequality and austerity—the real causes of stagnant living standards and underfunded public services—rather than scapegoating issues like migration or climate policy.

Miliband’s stance may not fully satisfy all parts of the labour movement, with unions such as GMB and Unite voicing strong concerns about oil and gas jobs. However, the government’s evolving strategy to balance a green transition with job security, union rights, and economic justice represents an attempt to unite environmental ambition with a broader social agenda.

This campaign to reclaim the climate debate and reshape the economy reflects Miliband’s belief in politics as a fight for core values rather than reaction to opposition. He recalls learning from past electoral defeat that steadfastness on principle, particularly around transformative policies like the Green New Deal, is essential—rather than yielding to opposition narratives or seeking short-term convenience. As Miliband put it, “I don’t care so much what the Greens say or what Reform says. I care about what we say.”

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/21/government-absolute-up-for-the-fight-over-net-zero-ed-miliband-says)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45655310)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/21/government-absolute-up-for-the-fight-over-net-zero-ed-miliband-says)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/21/government-absolute-up-for-the-fight-over-net-zero-ed-miliband-says)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/dont-believe-doomsters-climate-action-says-uks-miliband-2025-09-23/), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/uks-miliband-vows-lead-clean-energy-demand-corporate-net-zero-strategies-2025-06-25/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/21/government-absolute-up-for-the-fight-over-net-zero-ed-miliband-says)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/29/labour-must-fight-right-wing-billionaires-undermining-net-zero-ed-miliband> - In this article, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband asserts that Labour is combating a global network of right-wing billionaires aiming to undermine net zero for their vested interests. He criticises the Conservatives and Reform UK for importing a net zero culture war and emphasises the importance of accelerating the green transition to win public support. Miliband announces a target of creating 400,000 new jobs in clean energy by 2030, doubling the sector's workforce, and pledges to accelerate unionisation within the green energy sector.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/dont-believe-doomsters-climate-action-says-uks-miliband-2025-09-23/> - UK Energy Minister Ed Miliband emphasised optimism about global climate efforts during an interview at Climate Week in New York, countering narratives of international backsliding on environmental commitments. He argued that despite the U.S. under President Trump reducing climate efforts and promoting fossil fuels, the global momentum toward clean energy remains strong. Miliband highlighted record investments in renewable technologies, exceeding $2 trillion in 2024—double that of fossil fuels.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/britain-launches-strategy-expand-onshore-wind-create-jobs-2025-07-03/> - Britain has unveiled its first comprehensive onshore wind strategy aimed at expanding renewable energy capacity and generating approximately 45,000 new jobs. As part of its broader goal to decarbonise the electricity sector by 2030, the initiative seeks to enhance energy security and reduce reliance on costly fossil fuels. Energy Minister Michael Shanks emphasised the benefits of onshore wind, citing its low costs, rapid deployment, job creation, and potential to supply clean energy directly to host communities.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45655310> - Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announced in his conference speech on Wednesday: 'Our programme of investment and transformation to achieve a 60% reduction in emissions by 2030 will create over 400,000 skilled jobs.' Parts of the plan had been laid out on Tuesday by shadow business and energy secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey. How the number of jobs was calculated will be revealed when the full report comes out later in the year, but the interim report gave a breakdown of where they would come from.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/21/government-absolute-up-for-the-fight-over-net-zero-ed-miliband-says> - Miliband pledged to drive through Labour’s manifesto plans despite attacks from the rightwing parties, arguing that the British public was fully behind climate action as long as it guaranteed energy security, jobs and lower bills. The Conservative leader, Kemi Badenoch, dismayed green Tories this week by declaring the UK’s target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 was impossible to achieve without 'a serious drop in our living standards or by bankrupting us'.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/uks-miliband-vows-lead-clean-energy-demand-corporate-net-zero-strategies-2025-06-25/> - UK Energy Secretary Ed Miliband reaffirmed the government's commitment to transitioning to a green economy and achieving net zero emissions by 2050 during a speech at London Climate Action Week. Highlighting the need for energy security and reduced reliance on fossil fuels, Miliband emphasised investment in clean, domestic energy sources and urged large corporations to present detailed plans for aligning with the 1.5°C global warming target.