# UK’s Ed Miliband pushes rapid expansion of clean energy amid political opposition



Ed Miliband, the UK’s Energy Secretary, has reiterated his firm commitment to advancing a clean energy agenda, emphasising that the country’s reliance on fossil fuels remains its “energy Achilles heel.” Speaking at Energy UK’s annual conference, Miliband underscored the economic and strategic need to transition away from fossil fuels, which he described as a cause of high energy bills and price uncertainty due to global market volatility. He argued that renewables not only offer a cheaper and more stable energy future compared to new gas plants but also are essential for securing Britain’s energy independence and tackling the climate crisis.

Labour’s clean power agenda, which pledges nearly all of Britain’s electricity to come from renewables and nuclear by 2030, faces growing political opposition from the Conservatives and Reform UK, who advocate for maximising North Sea oil and gas extraction instead. Miliband acknowledged that while proponents of fossil fuels are entitled to their views, they underestimate the long-term costs and risks, including lost opportunities in the global clean energy market and setbacks in climate action. He also dismissed claims of a significant public backlash against green policies, stating that the British public broadly supports climate action and clean energy, provided it safeguards living standards.

Complementing this vision, the UK government introduced reforms in July 2025 to its Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme designed to accelerate clean energy projects, particularly offshore wind. These reforms extend contract lengths from 15 to 20 years for offshore and onshore wind and solar investments, offering greater financial certainty to developers and distributing costs more evenly for consumers. Energy Secretary Miliband highlighted that these changes would build investor confidence, facilitating the rapid expansion of offshore wind capacity from 15 GW to an anticipated 43-50 GW by 2030, a cornerstone in the UK’s green energy ambitions.

Further reinforcing this trajectory, Labour has promised to abolish the 2015 onshore wind ban if elected, with Miliband noting government bureaucracy has hampered renewable energy growth. Announced earlier in the year, this policy reversal aims to unlock significant clean energy potential and create a cleaner, more resilient power system by the end of the decade. Alongside this, the establishment of a publicly owned company, GB Energy, is part of Labour’s strategy to invest more robustly in clean energy infrastructure and accelerate the net-zero transition.

Miliband has also consistently reaffirmed the government's broader commitment to sustainability and energy security, linking clean energy expansion to the UK's ambitions to become a global leader in sustainable finance. At the London Climate Action Week, he urged large corporations to align their operations with the 1.5°C warming limit, signalling tighter reporting and accountability standards in the pursuit of net zero by 2050. He described investments in clean, domestic energy sources as critical for energy security and economic renewal.

The government has backed these ambitions with tangible milestones, such as approving the UK’s largest solar farm in Lincolnshire, highlighting the administration’s practical steps to boost renewable infrastructure. Additionally, Miliband chairs the Energy Mission Board, which targets immediate actions like scrapping the onshore wind ban, expanding solar production, and fostering major partnerships such as Great British Energy’s collaboration with The Crown Estate to fast-track the clean energy transition.

In a keynote at the Global Offshore Wind Conference 2025, Miliband outlined government initiatives to address barriers to clean energy development including reforms to planning processes, faster consenting of clean projects, grid connection improvements, and skills development to support sector growth. These concerted efforts aim to ensure clean energy projects power the equivalent of nearly 2 million homes, underscoring the scale and urgency of the UK's green transition.

Taken together, Miliband’s messaging and the UK government's policy agenda portray a determined push to position Britain as a clean energy superpower. This approach seeks to mitigate the economic and environmental vulnerabilities tied to fossil fuel dependence while fostering a future of lower bills, energy security, and global leadership in sustainability and innovation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/miliband-clean-power-choice-uk-161845011.html), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/uks-miliband-vows-lead-clean-energy-demand-corporate-net-zero-strategies-2025-06-25/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/miliband-clean-power-choice-uk-161845011.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/britain-reforms-energy-scheme-accelerate-clean-power-projects-2025-07-15/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.spglobal.com/commodity-insights/en/news-research/latest-news/energy-transition/022724-uk-labour-party-to-abolish-onshore-wind-ban-if-elected-miliband), [[6]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-mission-board-focuses-on-immediate-action-to-make-britain-a-clean-energy-superpower)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/uks-miliband-vows-lead-clean-energy-demand-corporate-net-zero-strategies-2025-06-25/), [[5]](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/climate-innovation-forum-2025-keynote-speech-by-ed-miliband)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/miliband-clean-power-choice-uk-161845011.html), [[6]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-mission-board-focuses-on-immediate-action-to-make-britain-a-clean-energy-superpower)
* Paragraph 7 – [[7]](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/global-offshore-wind-conference-2025-keynote-speech-by-ed-miliband)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/miliband-clean-power-choice-uk-161845011.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/britain-reforms-energy-scheme-accelerate-clean-power-projects-2025-07-15/> - In July 2025, the UK government announced reforms to its Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme to accelerate clean energy projects, particularly offshore wind. The plan aims to increase offshore wind capacity from 15 GW to 43-50 GW by 2030. Reforms include extending contract lengths for offshore wind, onshore wind, and solar projects from 15 to 20 years, providing greater financial certainty for investors and distributing costs more evenly over time for consumers. Energy Secretary Ed Miliband stated these changes would give developers the confidence to invest in Britain, contributing to cleaner energy production and job creation.
3. <https://www.spglobal.com/commodity-insights/en/news-research/latest-news/energy-transition/022724-uk-labour-party-to-abolish-onshore-wind-ban-if-elected-miliband> - In February 2024, Ed Miliband, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy, announced that the UK Labour Party would overturn the 2015 ban on onshore wind development if elected. Speaking at the International Energy Week conference in London, Miliband criticised government bureaucracy for hindering renewable energy growth and pledged to lift the ban to meet Labour's goal of decarbonising power by 2030. The plan also includes establishing a new public company, GB Energy, to invest in clean energy, aiming to create a clean energy system by 2030 and accelerate the transition to net zero.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/uks-miliband-vows-lead-clean-energy-demand-corporate-net-zero-strategies-2025-06-25/> - In June 2025, 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. He highlighted the need for energy security and reduced reliance on fossil fuels, emphasising investment in clean, domestic energy sources. Miliband urged large corporations to present detailed plans for aligning with the 1.5°C global warming target and announced that the UK aims to become a global leader in sustainable finance by considering new reporting standards for corporate sustainability disclosures.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/climate-innovation-forum-2025-keynote-speech-by-ed-miliband> - In his keynote speech at the Climate Innovation Forum 2025, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband outlined the UK's mission to become a clean energy superpower by delivering clean power by 2030 and accelerating the transition to net zero across the economy. He emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change, citing recent extreme weather events, and highlighted the economic and strategic benefits of transitioning to clean energy sources. Miliband also discussed the government's commitment to significant investments in homegrown clean energy, including the largest nuclear building programme in a generation with Sizewell C on the Suffolk coast.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-mission-board-focuses-on-immediate-action-to-make-britain-a-clean-energy-superpower> - In July 2024, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband chaired the first Energy Mission Board, focusing on accelerating the UK's efforts towards clean power by 2030 and energy independence. The meeting aimed to deliver the Clean Energy Superpower mission, based on the objectives of delivering clean power by 2030 and accelerating towards net zero, to boost energy independence, protect consumers, and support jobs across the country. The board discussed immediate steps, including scrapping the onshore wind ban, unlocking solar production, and launching Great British Energy’s major partnership with The Crown Estate.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/global-offshore-wind-conference-2025-keynote-speech-by-ed-miliband> - In his keynote speech at the Global Offshore Wind Conference 2025, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband discussed the government's efforts to overcome barriers hindering clean energy projects. He highlighted the lifting of the onshore wind ban, the introduction of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill—the biggest reform of planning in a generation—and the acceleration of planning decisions, including consenting enough clean energy to power the equivalent of almost 2 million homes. Miliband also addressed grid connection issues, environmental consenting, and skills development to support the growth of the clean energy sector.