# Labour Launches GB Energy and Scottish Renewal Pledges Amid Election Campaign



On Friday, the General Election campaign saw several major developments.

The Labour Party launched Great British Energy (GB Energy), with Sir Keir Starmer unveiling its logo and website. GB Energy aims to invest in domestic power sources such as wind and solar projects. The publicly-owned company will be based in Scotland and is intended to make the UK a leader in technologies like floating offshore wind, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage. Starmer criticized the Conservatives for their reliance on fossil fuels and promised that Labour would provide "cheap, clean, homegrown energy." The Conservative Party called the initiative an unfunded promise, while the Green Party argued that it did not go far enough.

In Scotland, Sir Keir Starmer, alongside Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar, promised a “decade of national renewal” and launched Labour’s first six pledges to Scottish voters. First Minister John Swinney of the SNP criticized the pledges, stating that they offered "no change" and challenged Labour to produce an emergency budget to reverse "Tory austerity cuts."

The Conservative Party announced new measures to combat fly-tipping and anti-social behavior. Fly-tippers would face points on their driving licenses, and social housing tenants could be evicted after three proven instances of anti-social behavior. The Conservatives promised legislation to reduce anti-social behavior and enhance community cohesion. Labour dismissed these measures as "empty words," while the Liberal Democrats criticized the Tories for historically low fines for fly-tipping.

Additionally, Sir Keir Starmer stated that if Labour were to come to power, the foreign aid budget would no longer fund hotels for asylum seekers. He contested that this expenditure misuses taxpayers' money and vowed to change this policy, while acknowledging that immediate change would not be possible. Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy added that spending asylum costs from the overseas aid budget detracts from aiding international developments that might reduce migration pressures.

These events occurred as political leaders campaigned ahead of the upcoming General Election.