# Labour Unveils GB Energy Plan to Reduce Foreign Dependence and Create Jobs



**Labour's GB Energy Plan: Details and Reactions**

Sir Keir Starmer, Labour Party leader, has unveiled plans for a new publicly-owned energy company, Great British Energy (GB Energy). The initiative aims to reduce the UK's reliance on foreign energy sources and decrease consumer energy bills by investing in domestic energy projects, including wind, solar, and emerging technologies like floating offshore wind, hydrogen, and carbon capture.

Starmer's announcement, made during an election campaign stop in Inverclyde, Scotland, promises the creation of 53,000 clean energy jobs. However, the Labour leader clarified that GB Energy is not a conventional energy firm but an investment vehicle designed to trigger private sector investment. This distinction has drawn criticism from the SNP, with Westminster leader Stephen Flynn calling the plan a "sham." Industry leaders in northeast Scotland have also expressed concerns, urging clarity on whether the company will be based in Aberdeen, a major energy hub.

Labour plans to fund GB Energy with an £8.3 billion investment over five years, sourced from a windfall tax on oil and gas profits. The proposal has sparked debate, with energy experts warning it could threaten 100,000 jobs in the sector. Starmer countered this by stating the transition to clean energy will ultimately create more jobs.

Unions such as Unite demand more detailed plans from Labour to ensure a just transition, while Conservative and Green Party figures have expressed skepticism about the feasibility and impact of the proposal. The Conservative candidate Andrew Bowie warned of job losses, and Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho criticized the plan as unfunded.

The Labour proposal forms part of a broader strategy to gain support in Scotland, a region with significant oil and gas industry employment and strong SNP presence.

**Key Points:**
- **Announcement**: Sir Keir Starmer in Inverclyde, Scotland
- **Company**: Great British Energy
- **Objective**: Reduce energy dependence, lower bills, create 53,000 jobs
- **Funding**: £8.3 billion from a windfall tax on oil and gas profits
- **Reactions**: Mixed, with criticism from SNP, industry leaders, and concerns from trade unions and opposition parties.