Power for all of us

Lower bills. Cleaner energy.
Public ownership.

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The Green Party's energy plan will cut power bills, support public ownership of renewable energy, and tackle corporate greed in our energy system.

Aotearoa New Zealand has abundant renewable resources: solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass. We have enough to deliver affordable bills and a clean, resilient energy system.

Despite renewable energy being the cheapest form of electricity we have, power bills continue to skyrocket, it's putting more pressure on households just trying to keep up with the cost of living.

More than 200,000 households cannot afford to heat their homes, businesses are forced to close, industries are shrinking and workers are losing jobs all because of unaffordable electricity costs.

Affordable bills should not be a luxury. A warm, dry home powered by clean energy should be within everyone's reach.

Our plan will fundamentally change the energy system in Aotearoa New Zealand. Household ownership. Community ownership. Public ownership. For all of us.

The Green Party will make household power bills more affordable.

We will make it easier and more accessible to install rooftop solar and batteries, so households can generate more of their own power, cut bills, and rely less on profit-driven power companies.

The Green Party will ensure everyone benefits from the renewable energy transition, not just homeowners. Renters will have access to plug-in solar, so they can also benefit from cheaper power.

We will build community ownership of our energy system.

This means locally owned renewable energy projects that cut bills and keep benefits in the community.

That could mean solar on your local school, place of worship, papakāinga, marae, library or recreation centre, with benefits flowing back to your community.

Public and Māori housing will be part of this shift too, with solar helping tenants and Māori households cut bills and share in the benefits of renewable energy.

We will build a more resilient energy system that does not rely on corporates acting in the public interest. Where the market has failed to deliver affordable, secure renewable energy, the Greens will step in.

We will tackle the barriers slowing down the energy transition, including the lack of renewable backup capacity needed for secure, affordable power.

Energy underpins our economy; every job, business and industry relies on secure, affordable power.

We need a system built for resilience, not corporate profit. Abundant clean energy makes a circular economy possible, meaning we can live lighter on the earth.

Together these actions will tackle the dominance of the big power companies, lower bills, and build an energy system that works for all of us.

By making the super-rich pay their fair share, we will:

Make household power bills more affordable

- Zero-interest clean energy loans to install solar and/or batteries on your home
- A renters' right to solar, and legalisation of 'plug-in' solar.
- Expand Warmer Kiwi Homes to make more low-income homes warm, dry and energy efficient.

Put power back in people's hands

- Invest in community-owned renewable energy, to build resilience, make locally generated power more affordable, and share the benefits of ownership.
- Scale up solar for Public and Māori housing including 40,000 public homes and hundreds of Māori housing projects.

Build a resilient energy system

- Establish Kiwipower to ensure affordable power and energy security, address gaps the market has failed to fill and speed up our renewable energy transition.

Our energy system has been designed for profit over public good.

The four big power companies are Meridian, Genesis, Mercury and Contact. Many of their assets were built and paid for by the New Zealand government decades ago, but now they're cash cows for corporate shareholders, while regular people struggle to pay their power bills.

These four big companies control over 85 percent of both retail and generation markets. With this control of our energy system, they've been able to rip people off and rake in massive profits for their shareholders.

In the second half of 2025 these companies made around $3 million a day in profits, and at the same time energy inflation was at 12.5%.

Making Household Power Bills More Affordable

People are having to choose between heating or eating.

Since 2021, 100,000 more households cannot afford to heat their home. 76,000 could not pay their bills on time.

The fastest way to lower household power bills for good is to help people use less of the expensive electricity drawn from the grid. Rooftop solar and batteries allow households to generate and store more of their own power.

But too many households are locked out by the upfront cost.

That's why the Green Party will establish a government backed loan scheme to enable zero interest clean energy loans for up to 90% of homeowners.

Homeowners can use these loans for rooftop solar, batteries and making energy efficiency upgrades. This will make household power bills affordable, reduce reliance on the big power companies, and future-proof homes against rising energy prices.

The loans would be tied to the property and repaid over time, avoiding full upfront costs.

A fully electric home with solar panels could save up to $1000 a year on your power bill, and that's including paying off the cost of the solar system.

When you own your own power, no one can price gouge you.

People should be fairly paid for the excess solar power exported to the grid.

The Green Party will regulate to ensure that households and businesses with rooftop solar receive a fair price for the electricity they export back to the grid.

Currently, a household using power from next door pays the same charge as one drawing power from across Aotearoa.

But too many households are locked out by the upfront cost.

We will reform pricing so solar users, whether exporting or consuming locally, pay only for the infrastructure they actually use.

Renters must not be left behind. They are four to five times more likely to experience energy hardship, yet least likely to benefit from rooftop solar if their landlord will not act.

The Green Party will urgently progress regulation to legalise plug-in solar and establish a renters' right to solar.

Plug-in solar systems are smaller and cheaper than rooftop solar, need no special installation, and can move with renters.

Plug-in solar systems can save up to $350 a year on your power bill.

A renters' right to solar would stop landlord or body corporates from unreasonably blocking safe, certified, plug-in solar.

We will amend tenancy and body corporate law to put this in legislation.

For many low-income households, the cheapest energy is the energy they do not have to use. Warmer, drier and energy-efficient homes need less power to heat and support better health.

Warmer Kiwi Homes has already helped hundreds of thousands of households insulate and heat their homes. The next step is to cover more people and upgrades.

The Green Party will expand Warmer Kiwi Homes to support more low-income people to make their homes warm, dry and energy efficient.

This will include replacing expensive gas heating and gas stoves, installing ventilation and hot water heat pumps. Switching from gas to electric cuts energy costs and can improve health outcomes.

By making the super-rich pay their fair share, we can help households generate more of their own clean power, use less energy, and bring down power bills.

Putting power back in the hands of the people

New Zealand's energy system was built and paid for by generations of regular people, but asset sales and partial privatisation have steadily taken ownership and control out of their hands.

Restoring public and community ownership will help make power more affordable, build resilience, and return clean-energy benefits to people rather than shareholders.

That's why the Green Party will invest $200 million in community energy projects across the country, to cut power bills and ensure the benefits of renewable energy stay in local communities under shared community ownership.

Building renewable energy close to demand can cut costs and strengthen local resilience. Some remote communities face New Zealand's highest energy prices and greatest exposure to severe weather.

When communities own or control local generation, the benefits can be returned through lower bills, shared revenue, local resilience, or support for households in energy hardship.

Funding will be open to locally-led projects such as schools, marae, libraries, recreation centres, community energy groups, iwi/Māori, local government and other locally governed organisations. It can support small-scale wind, solar and geothermal, where they deliver benefits to the community.

As part of this, we will progress changes to enable peer-to-peer trading and energy sharing. This will support equity and provide pathways for communities to address energy hardship.

We will fund this by reallocating subsidies for fossil fuel companies to community energy projects instead. This investment could put solar on 1500 schools, 500 marae and fund an additional 500 projects.

Putting power back in people's hands also means using public and Māori housing to deliver cheaper renewable power directly to those who need it most.

Public housing tenants are highly exposed to energy hardship and public rooftops give government a direct way to lower bills where help is needed.

Installing solar across public housing can reduce power bills for thousands of families.

The Green Party will significantly increase the number of public homes that benefit from cheap renewable energy, with rooftop solar on more than half of all public homes within four years.

We will also mandate the installation of solar on new or renovated public homes, where appropriate, alongside energy efficient appliances that cut bills.

Māori are two to three times more likely than the general population to experience energy hardship.

We want to ensure that tangata whenua can harness clean energy in ways that uphold kaitiakitanga, rangatiratanga and tikanga Māori.

That's why the Green Party will invest $80 million into renewable energy for Māori housing.

Projects can range from solar on kaumātua homes and papakāinga, to geothermal energy, to local distribution solutions that help manage energy on whenua Māori.

This investment reflects the commitment the Green Party has to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by addressing inequitable access to renewable energy, and supports the exercise of rangatiratanga over energy generation, use and community wellbeing.

We estimate this investment can support hundreds of projects that cut power bills and support the role Māori play in caring for people, place, and future generations.

Building a resilient energy system

A resilient energy system needs enough renewable backup power to keep electricity affordable and secure when hydro lakes are low, wind drops, or demand peaks.

In 2024, low hydro lake and low wind generation contributed to winter energy shortfalls, again exposing New Zealand's "dry-year" problem.

Recent reviews by the OECD, Infrastructure Commission, and Frontier Economics have all pointed to the same structural barrier: New Zealand lacks enough firming capacity – the backup power that keeps the lights on when we have low hydro and wind.

Gas has historically filled this gap, but gas is running out much faster than expected. The Government's answer is more fossil fuels, including an expensive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal that would lock New Zealand into 15 more years of fossil fuel dependence.

This would raise prices, undermine energy independence and leave workers, households, and industries to bear the cost.

That's why the Green Party will establish **Kiwipower** – a new publicly owned Crown entity with two distinct functions.

Kiwipower will invest in new renewable generation, with a primary focus on renewable firming capacity – geothermal, batteries, demand response, biomass and pumped hydro. These are the types of backup power we need and the private market has failed to fill, because high prices serve the big players' interests.

By expanding renewable firming, **Kiwipower** will help solar and wind generators enter the market and invest, increasing competition and putting downward pressure on prices.

It will also send a clear signal: if existing big players will not build the firming New Zealand needs, Kiwipower will partner with others to deliver it.

Second, **Kiwipower** will contract firming capacity such as hydro storage and existing thermal assets, including from the big power companies. It will then make that capacity available to independent generators, retailers and energy users, directly or through markets at fair, affordable, and transparent prices.

The big power companies will be required to provide a portion of their firming capacity to Kiwipower, giving competitors transparent access to the backup power they need to compete. Kiwipower will secure capacity and open it up to the rest of the market on fair terms.

The two functions reinforce each other: access obligations to existing firming provides short-term relief, while investment in new renewable firming removes the structural barrier to our energy transition.

Kiwipower will be funded through a four year $980 million appropriation, paid for by our Super Rich Tax. Taxing the super-rich and big corporates means we can invest in affordable, secure energy.

Power has been concentrated in the hands of shareholders and board rooms for too long. It's time our energy system stops only working for the few and starts working **for all of us.**

How our Energy Plan works

Clean Energy Loans Scheme

Our broad-based loan scheme would be backed by central and local government. This scheme achieves cheaper finance than typical floating mortgage rates (around 2–2.5 percentage points lower), over the long term (15-30 years). Our policy has Government subsidising the remaining interest rate to 0%. Some borrowers will have the option to defer repayments until property sale, while loans will be paid off over time via a separate levy.

Central government would be a 20 percent shareholder, with participating councils and the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) splitting the remaining 80 percent.

Central and local government participation supports a high credit rating.

The structure minimises impacts on Crown and council balance sheets because no partner holds more than 20 percent and loans are tied to the rateable property.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) would implement the scheme, supporting co-ordination, consumer information and installer accreditation.

If all councils participate, up to 90 percent of rateable properties could access affordable finance for rooftop solar, batteries, energy efficiency and electrification upgrades.

We estimate this scheme could be up and running in as little as 6 months.

Modelling assumptions

Zero interest Loans

The cost of subsidising zero interest loans comes from a Rewiring Aotearoa model. The model assumes a main interest rate of 4.25% to be subsidised. It assumes 80 percent of new solar installs enter the scheme, with an assumed loan of $25,000 at a default of 20 years. Loan numbers assume solar on 80 percent of properties by 2040.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$15.9m	$46.6m	$118.0m	$240.7m	**$421.2m**

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total capex
$7.5m				**$7.5m**

The estimated savings from ‘plug-in’ solar are taken from Parliamentary Library estimates of annual savings in Australia.

Warmer Kiwi Homes

Warmer Kiwi Homes expansion costings use Parliamentary Library information and provide for 50,000 upgrades over four years, including gas-to-electric heating and stoves, ventilation, and hot water heat pumps at an 80 percent subsidy rate.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$235m	$239.9m	$245m	$249.9m	**$969.8m**

Savings are calculated from EECA's "Home Energy Savings Calculator"

Community-owned energy

Project numbers are based on an average project cost of $88,000. Because funding is larger, some projects will be much larger.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$50m	$50m	$50m	$50m	**$200m**

Māori Housing Renewable Energy Fund

Project numbers assume an average cost of $305,000 based on previous funding of 49 projects from $14 million.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$20m	$20m	$20m	$20m	**$80m**

Public housing

Kainga Ora solar is based on an average installation cost of 11,500 per home. Installs will be across new builds and existing homes, and on apartment buildings. This figure was sourced from EECA. Modelling assumes 5,000 installations in year 1, 10,000 in year 2 and 12,000 in year 3, and 13,000 in year 4.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total capex
$57.5m	$115m	$138m	$149.5m	**$460m**

Kiwipower

The exact split between operating and capital expenditure will be determined by the board of Kiwipower based on the best investments available.

Kiwipower would initially receive $100m per year for operating, and $142m per year for new investment. The phasing of this may also change but the key point is the envelope of $980 million over the four years.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$100m	$102.1m	$104.2m	$106.3m	**$412.6m**

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total capex
$142m	$142m	$142m	$142m	**$568m**

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)

EECA would receive an additional $3 million per year to deliver the Clean Energy Loans Scheme, plug-in solar accreditation and expanded Warmer Kiwi Homes products.

27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$3m	$3.1m	$3.1m	$3.2m	**$12.4m**

Costings for each policy have been projected through to the end of 2031 and are estimates only, based on the best available information.

Total operating expenditure				
27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total opex
$423.9m	$461.7m	$540.3m	$670.1m	**$2,096.0m**

Total capital expenditure				
27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	Total capex
$207.0m	$257.0m	$280.0m	$291.5m	**$1,035.5m**

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Green

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