

As energy bills rocket and families struggle...

Shell 2021 profits: \$19.3bn

BP 2021 profits: \$12.8 bn

BP's chief executive described the company as a 'cash machine'

Meanwhile the poorest families are set to be devastated by soaring bills and falling incomes in real terms – a cost of living crisis.

A worldwide squeeze on energy supplies has pushed the price of gas up to unprecedented levels. In the UK about 85% of homes still have gas central heating, and gas generates a third of our electricity.

After the energy price cap is raised, bills will rise by around 50% or around £700 on average. The Chancellor's response is wholly inadequate. A £200 government discount (to be paid back over five years) plus a £150 council tax rebate which leaves out those renting.

It's not just about fuel prices, but also the long-term impact of crushing austerity cuts and widening inequality in the UK. Charities are already reporting that food bank use has shot up because of the cost of living crisis. The most vulnerable, including disabled and elderly people are hardest hit.

What can we do? In the short term, a windfall tax on the energy giants' profits would provide some real relief.

But we also need to kick our dependence on fossil fuels

Tackling poverty can go hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis and creating decent well-paid climate jobs around the country - real 'levelling up'.

What we need

A windfall tax on energy giants to cut bills and ensure no one has to choose between eating and heating their homes

A reversal of damaging austerity cuts which have left both families and public services struggling

A comprehensive climate jobs programme

It's not just the economy which is failing. Around the world, climate breakdown is causing floods, heatwaves and droughts, and scientists warn that we're running out of time to avoid catastrophe. We need to get off fossil fuels.

The good news: the cost of renewable energy such as wind and solar has dropped rapidly in recent years. We can build a lot more, fast and reduce our dependence on gas. And we can also dramatically cut the amount of energy we need to heat our homes.

At the moment the UK has some of the most poorly insulated homes in Europe. Many households with high energy bills are not even getting the benefit of the warmth they are paying for.

In the past decade this government has failed twice over on warm homes: rates of home insulation plummeted because of a lack of support, and new houses are still being built which are not energy efficient.

Can we fix this? Yes - with a massive programme of public sector climate jobs we can insulate homes, build renewable energy generation and much more, including improving public transport, getting clean air in cities and restoring our wildlife and green spaces. We can create decent well-paid jobs in communities around the country, helping the local economy in all regions.

Find out more: campaigncc.org

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Campaign against Climate Change

