

What has the EU done for our energy market?

- Work is underway to create a European Energy Union, which will ensure that Europe has secure, affordable, and climate-friendly energy. Wiser energy use while fighting climate change is both a spur for new jobs and growth and an investment in Europe's future.
- Labour proposals to ensure crucial actions are taken to tackle fuel poverty, increase transparency on energy bills and strengthen consumers' rights were approved by the European Parliament last year. Particular attention will also be paid to the impact on employment of any move from one energy type to another.
- A disruption in the supply of natural gas from Russia to countries in Eastern Europe in 2009 led to a concerted effort to improve energy security. Improving energy efficiency is the first step as it allows energy we generate ourselves to go further and the European Parliament is currently taking action on this issue.
- By increasing production and diversifying our means of energy production i.e. via renewables, we can also create environmental benefits.
- The EU ensures we are speaking with one voice when negotiating with third country providers of oil and gas e.g. Norway, Russia and Saudi Arabia.
- Completing a Single Energy Market would support our European neighbours during periods of energy shocks, like the 2009 issue between Russia and Ukraine.
- The Energy Efficiency Directive aims to help the EU meet its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020 by adopting measures such as: annual energy efficiency renovations on at least 3% of the buildings owned and occupied by EU governments; offering national incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits and empowering energy consumers to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering.
- The European Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency (EPEE) project is working to better understand the causes of fuel poverty and how to best tackle these. These can include: investing in better housing stock, increasing household income and taking action to limit the impact of energy price rises.
- A report in 2015 estimated additional economic growth in the UK of 0.1% between 2000 and 2007 as a result of energy efficiency policies. In 2010, energy efficiency was estimated to have created 271,000 jobs in the UK.