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**HOW CAN YOU SPEAK  
TO YOUR MP  
ABOUT RENEWABLE  
ENERGY?**



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## Renewable Energy: Why does it matter?

Renewable energy is the critical piece of the puzzle for creating a better, greener tomorrow, doing everything from heating our homes to powering our schools and hospitals. While traditional, fossil fuel based energy burns and uses up its fuel, renewable energy will continue to be there for generations and beyond. The challenge of renewable energy is building enough of it to replace our fossil fuel based systems, building it quickly enough so we can phase out oil and gas power as fast as possible, and balancing this new system to cope when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. Crucially, we need to deliver a transition that is just and fair to the people working in the old energy systems, creating new green jobs in the renewables industry. In this guide, you can find a quick intro to the main types of renewable energy, some great tips for a conversation with your local MP, and some ideas of how we can all push for a better, greener energy system that will keep the lights on for the next generation.

### The Background to Renewable Energy

While people all across the world have always used windmills and water-wheels to power their industry, fossil fuels have dominated since the coal powered industrial revolution. Even though the foundations for wind and solar power were laid as far back as the Victorian era, it wasn't until the mid-1900s that renewables really started to pick up the pace. Whilst fossil fuel energy has become more expensive, supplies have reduced and fewer groups have a tighter grip on the supplies, renewable energy has got cheaper. This is largely due to scientific innovation, more efficient solar panels, bigger and stronger wind turbines, and more powerful geothermal plants, all driving further investment, efficiency, and research which lowers the price even further. In fact, solar power is now the cheapest type of energy infrastructure to set up, which is driving increased usage in Global South countries. Renewable energy now makes up around half of UK electricity, with most of this being wind or solar.

Until recently, onshore wind turbines were blocked through the 'de-facto ban on onshore wind', where a single individual could block development in an area. The new Labour government has recently committed to removing this mechanism, effectively greenlighting renewable energy projects across the country.





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## Co-Benefits: Alternative Approaches

If you have an MP that is passionate about building more renewable energy and cares deeply for environmental issues, fantastic! If not, you could discuss adjacent or linked topics with them that create similar solutions. These topics, Co-Benefits, are the perfect lens through which to discuss topics with politicians that may not be onboard with your particular focus on climate change and nature loss.

### Energy Security

Since 2022, energy prices have skyrocketed, part of this is due to the UK importing its oil and gas from places like Russia. A holistic renewable energy system in the UK would stop prices being tied to international politics, green energy produced in the UK would be less subject to international shocks and could produce lower and more secure energy prices for UK communities. If your MP cares about UK defence, security, or about lowering energy bills for their constituents, this could be a good approach to take.

### Community Energy

Through community ownership, energy projects can be managed by the communities and local areas they serve. This helps to build an energy system that is built for and directly benefits those who are affected the most by our current broken system. You can find out more about community energy and its benefits through groups like [Community Energy England](#). Crucially, investing in renewable energy this way, as opposed to investing in internationally owned fossil fuels, means that your MP can help strengthen both your constituency and the country's energy system.

**You could ask your MP to meet with you at a local community energy project, or to meet with you to discuss how joined-up government support could help your community have a say in the next generation of energy production.**

Remember, get creative! You should always try to research your MP beforehand and then tailor your approach to them. Approaching your MP through the issues they care about is the best way to have a constructive conversation about the issues you care about and will help you to create common ground.



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## What can we do now?

Solving the renewable energy question is one of the biggest challenges, and opportunities, of climate policy today. Simply put, we need more energy infrastructure and increased investment if we hope to eradicate the need for fossil fuels for the next generation. The current government has already committed to expand renewables in the UK, with GB Energy, a state-owned green energy company that will invest in renewables projects. GB Energy will be given £8.3bn over the next 5 years to invest, build, and manage these projects: however it's unlikely that this will be enough to make a meaningful difference to our energy system quickly enough.

**You could ask your MP to raise this issue in parliament, calling on ministers to increase funding to this new body or show how they plan to facilitate the necessary investment in other ways.**

The government has also just promised backing for over 100 renewable energy projects across the country, this is fantastic news but may not go far enough. The government has committed to having a completely fossil fuel-free energy system by 2030, this means they'll need to more than double all the solar and wind energy generated currently. This means that the government will need to do the vast majority of the work needed before the next general election, possibly doing more in the next 6 years than the last 25 years.

**You could ask to meet with your MP to discuss how much you and your community care about this issue and how your community, like others across the UK, want further and faster action.**

If you live outside of England, your devolved administration will have control over most areas of energy policy. The Welsh Senedd, Scottish Parliament, and Northern Irish Assembly control approval for renewable energy projects within their nations and set government policy. You can find out more information about meeting your MSP, MS, or MA on the resource hub, as well as information on which topics its best to speak to your different representatives about.



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## What can we do now?

However, more renewable energy is only part of the solution. Whilst creating more renewable energy generation reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, reducing energy prices for everyone, we won't be able to fully move on from oil and gas power without solving the problem of energy storage. With fossil fuel power, we can switch on the generators when we need them the most, but we can't choose when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. In fact, the UK uses the most energy in the evenings, when people are using heating, cooking, using devices and lights, and when solar power is most inefficient. Whilst batteries are a part of everyday life when it comes to small devices, the technology to allow renewable energy on the national and global scale where its needed isn't widespread. That's why investment into battery innovations, including [green hydrogen solutions](#), [innovative EV grid-usage](#), and [pumped hydro storage](#), are so important. Government action can help solve this problem, raising awareness of the need for scientific innovation, funding vital research and encouraging more people to access the science sector, and investing further and building more of the solutions that have already been researched and developed.

**You could ask your MP to meet with you in your local school to discuss increased funds for scientific training programmes such as UKRI, DTP, and related PhD programmes.**

**You could ask your MP to raise this issue in parliament, urging ministers to direct substantial funding during this parliament towards building more energy storage innovations.**



Through connected action across the UK, we can build a community that champions tougher government action on issues that matter most for people and the planet. If you want to get involved, reach out to [The Climate Coalition](#) and [Hope for the Future](#) today.

