



Businesses in the UK pay the highest energy bills in Europe.

## What aspects of energy policy are devolved to Holyrood?

Most aspects of energy policy are reserved to Westminster, including the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity; the ownership and exploitation of oil, gas and coal; and nuclear energy.

However, Holyrood has powers over environmental policy, planning and the renewables obligation. This means that the Scottish Government has direct influence over the types of energy generation which are located in Scotland. This has resulted in a greater development of renewable energy and a barrier for nuclear energy and onshore fracking in Scotland.



The Conservatives support onshore fracking and nuclear energy.

They would invest in energy efficiency and warm homes to reduce electricity demand and support nuclear energy in the long term.

Labour is not in favour of fracking in Scotland.

They will pursue public, community and cooperative ownership models for energy. They aim to derive 50% of electricity from renewables by 2030 and will introduce a Warm Homes Act.

The Lib Dems pledged to ensure 100% of Scotland's electricity comes from renewable sources. They oppose fracking and open-cast coal mining.

They will prioritise tackling fuel poverty and creating a strategy for electricity storage with OFGEM.

The SNP will carry out environmental studies on fracking to decide whether the current moratorium is lifted. They do not favour nuclear energy, and propose a climate change target of 50% in emission cuts by 2020, instead of 40%.

They will introduce a Warm Homes Bill.

The **Green party** would ban fracking. They want to create new jobs in renewable energy, invest in energy-efficient homes and support local social energy initiatives.

**UKIP** wants to use nuclear power, coal, hydro power, and gas while reducing green taxation schemes.

## Further information

The Scottish Labour and Liberal Democrat parties expressed disappointment at the UK Government's decision to withdraw funding for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) proposals in Peterhead.

## Important Updates

**What does North-east business want from the next Scottish government?**

Read it here [bit.ly/1Ddlo5l](http://bit.ly/1Ddlo5l)

*These papers have been drafted by the AGCC policy team using the information publicly available in April 2016. More information will be added as and when it becomes available.*