



Empowering New Zealand

A cheaper, cleaner, and smarter electricity system

The Green Party has a plan to make heating your home more affordable, fix the electricity market, and generate 100% of New Zealand's electricity from renewable sources.

There are huge opportunities in the electricity sector to improve people's quality of life, save money, and reduce our impact on climate change. But without leadership, we could miss the opportunities new technologies provide, and be stuck with decades of rising power prices.

The Green Party will:

1. Make electricity more affordable with winter energy payments for low income households
2. Set a goal of 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030
3. Encourage lines companies to work together, use batteries and other new technology to save their customers money, and create a truly smart grid that enables people to produce and share their own electricity.

Cheaper power bills

Rising power prices have forced people to keep their homes unheated for too long, causing sickness and days off work and school. Up to a quarter of all households are in energy poverty. This requires urgent action while the electricity sector makes the bigger changes needed to keep prices down in the long term.

The Green Party will introduce **winter energy payments** to help cover the noticeable increases to your winter electricity bills. These will cover 75 percent of the average regional winter heating increase for more than 520,000 households who earn less than \$50,000 a year. Some Auckland households would be more than \$200 a year better off, and some Christchurch households would benefit by more than \$300 a year. The annual dividends from the government's stake in the major power companies makes this affordable.

Money can be saved across the electricity system by reducing peak demand, which also stops us from needing to turn on the oil and gas power plants to deal with the demand. We'll require all retailers with more than five percent market share to offer their customers a choice of **time-of-use pricing** to help reduce peak demand.

The Green Party will also **lift the lid on power companies' accounts** to make sure everyone's getting a fair deal, bringing greater transparency around prices, costs, and revenue. We'll also update the billing rules for more **transparency** around what each dollar of a power bill is paying for. This will show people where they could make savings with new technology.

To make sure innovative retail companies can compete with the big generator-retailers, we'll conduct a thorough **investigation into the wholesale electricity markets**. That will help ensure independent retailers can compete fairly with the big generator-retailers.

Cleaner electricity generation

We are blessed with a wealth of renewable energy options – wind, geothermal, solar, and hydro – so we can do more to reduce our contribution to global climate change.

The Green Party will set a goal of **100% renewable electricity generation** by 2030 (under normal hydrological conditions). We'll make sure the current fossil fuel power plants are replaced with renewable electricity when they reach the end of their lives. And we'll make major improvements in energy efficiency, saving money and reducing the need to build new power plants.

A smarter electricity system

What matters is that everyone has affordable and secure access to electricity, not how that electricity is delivered or stored. People are already increasingly generating their own electricity from rooftop solar and storing it in batteries in their garage.

Transmission and distribution charges make up more than 40 percent of the average power bill, and have risen twice as fast as the price of actually generating electricity. We'll make sure lines companies consider **affordable batteries** and other new technology alternatives before they build expensive new power lines.

New Zealand is a small country with 29 lines companies. We will require lines companies to regularly consider **opportunities for joint ventures** and even mergers, if that would reduce costs to consumers. Local ownership can be maintained through any merger.

As more people generate and store their own electricity, we'll make sure **peer-to-peer trading** and other localised systems work to provide efficient and affordable alternatives. People should be able to easily purchase any extra electricity their neighbours generate.

Achieving our vision will put Aotearoa New Zealand at the cutting edge of global energy systems. We will create high-tech jobs and export our clean energy expertise to the world.

www.greens.org.nz/empowering-nz