

Energy production and use

What we have now

Producing and using energy is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and of climate change. Government is failing to act on energy to meet its legal climate change commitments. There is also the threat of fracking, against the wishes of most UK residents.

Transport and buildings are major energy users. In High Peak there are many inefficient buildings but also opportunities for improvements and for small-scale energy generation.

There is a lot of potential for local government to influence energy production and use. This is happening in other places.

What the Green Party proposes

Green Party Councillors would work hard to change the way we produce and use energy locally. We aim to replace fossil fuels with more efficient use of electricity and heat, from renewable energy. This will be cheaper in the longer term. It will bring health and social benefits, for example, from reduced air pollution and increased employment.

Getting our own house in order

- Declare a climate emergency: see our manifesto section **Climate Emergency**
- All Council properties managed to the highest environmental standards, including insulation and other energy efficiency measures
- Source energy from renewables, including where possible microgeneration such as solar panels on Council buildings
- Work towards a zero-carbon Council, where total greenhouse gas emissions equal zero..

Encouraging others to do the same

- Explore funding sources to set up a grants scheme for homes and businesses
- Work with local communities and businesses to set energy and emission targets
- Give planning consent to new developments with the highest possible energy efficiency
- Give planning consent to all renewable energy schemes, such as solar arrays or wind turbines, which require consent and do not conflict with other environmental benefits.

Supporting community owned energy schemes in High Peak

- Support community owned and run renewable energy projects which use local resources.

Making homes warmer and healthier

- Fit insulation and other efficiency measures in existing homes to reduce energy use and make homes warmer and healthier
- Explore different ways to pay for this, such as grants, and bonds for local investors, repaid from savings in energy costs.

Fracking

- Take action to prevent fracking in High Peak, as other councils are doing.

Reducing energy use more widely

- Provide more charging points for electric cars, both free and paid-for
- Help reduce energy use across High Peak for all purposes, including transport and industry
- Where possible influence partners to provide much more public transport.