

The Election Manifestos for each of the three major parties contain a number of policy proposals on waste management and carbon reduction. These are summarised here:

### CONSERVATIVES

#### Waste and recycling initiatives

- Goal of zero waste society
- Introduce a Responsibility Deal on waste – a voluntary arrangement among producers to cut back on the production of waste and improve its disposal
- Put a floor under landfill tax until 2020 to give businesses long term certainty to invest in new forms of waste disposal
- Encourage councils to adopt a scheme which gives incentives to families that recycle
- Scrap Labour's plans for new bin taxes on families

#### Carbon reduction

- Create Britain's first Green Investment Bank – to draw together money currently divided across existing government initiatives to finance private sector investment and new green technology start-ups
- Reform the Climate Change Levy to provide a floor price for carbon
- Increase the proportion of tax revenues accounted for by environmental taxes with additional revenues from new green taxes designated to change environmental behaviour
- Reduce carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050
- Introducing an Emissions Performance Standard to limit the levels of greenhouse gases our power stations produce
- Creating four carbon capture and storage equipped plants
- Deliver an offshore electricity grid in order to support the development of a new generation of offshore wind power, and establish at least two Marine Energy Parks
- Give local authorities the power to establish new district heating networks which use biogas and other low carbon fuels
- Allow communities that host renewable energy projects like wind farms to keep the additional business rates they generate for six years; and, giving incentives for smaller-scale energy generation, including capturing heat that is currently wasted.
- A 'Green Deal', giving every home up to £6,500 worth of energy improvement measures
- Introduce regulatory budgets forcing any government body wanting to introduce a new regulation to reduce regulation elsewhere by a greater amount
- Abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) and replace it with a democratically-accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects

### LABOUR

#### Waste and recycling initiatives

- Move towards a 'zero waste' Britain, banning recyclable and biodegradable materials from landfill
- Drive the introduction of 'recycling on the go', with separated public bins on the street and in shopping centres

- Continuing the move towards universal water metering in areas of water stress

### Carbon reduction

- Establish a Green Investment Bank to invest in low-carbon infrastructure
- Develop the IPC to streamline and speed up decision-making on major projects
- Achieve around 40 per cent low-carbon electricity by 2020 and create 400,000 new green jobs by 2015
- Commit to meeting 15 per cent of our energy demand from renewables by 2020
- Devolve power to local councils to hold energy companies to account
- Develop community energy efficiency programmes, and give them powers to develop local energy systems such as renewables and district heating
- Push for a strengthening of Europe's 2020 emission reductions from 20 to 30% by 2020
- Simplify regulation and avoid unnecessary red tape. Seek to reduce the costs of regulation by more than £6 billion by 2015

## **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

### Waste and Recycling Initiatives

- Set targets for 'zero waste', aiming to end the use of landfill. That means less packaging, more recycling, and a huge increase in anaerobic digestion to generate energy from food and farm waste
- Improve resource efficiency and reduce waste through better product standards and reducing excess packaging
- Work to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products, helping consumers choose those with the least impact on resource use and pollution

### Carbon Reduction

- Target for 40% of UK electricity to come from non-carbon-emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100% by 2050 underpinned by guaranteed price support
- Ensure that at least three-quarters of this new renewable energy comes from marine and offshore sources
- Set out a clear renewables route map to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks, and develop new incentives to promote renewable heat
- Block new coal-fired power stations unless they are accompanied by the highest level of carbon capture and storage facilities
- Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations
- Begin 10-yr programme offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower energy bills
- 'Eco Cash-Back': £400 if you install double glazing, replace an old boiler, or install micro-generation
- Implement a higher feed-in tariff than under current government plans
- Loans for schools to improve energy efficiency loan over to be paid back from energy savings
- Replace the per-passenger Air Passenger Duty with a per-plane duty (PPD) including on freight
- Invest up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in the North to manufacture offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable energy equipment
- £140 million to replace old polluting buses with new, accessible low-carbon ones
- Set up United Kingdom Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) to provide capital, guarantees and equity to infrastructure projects, using public money to attract upfront private investment, at reduced cost of borrowing versus Private Finance Initiative (PFI)
- Use the substantial purchasing power of government to expand the markets for green products and technologies

- Cancel plans for a third runway at Heathrow and other airport expansion in the South East, and reduce pollution from vehicle exhausts through tighter regulation to meet European air quality targets by 2012
- Improving building regulations on energy-efficiency
- Upgrade electricity networks to better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies particularly through the better use of sub-sea European connections
- Abolish the IPC
- Promote EU zero emissions target for all new vehicles by 2040
- Promote EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020
- Promote reform of the EU emissions trading scheme – bringing in a tighter cap on emissions, auctioning as many allowances as possible, and encouraging other European countries to increase the use of reserve prices in allowance auctions

## **ESA COMMENT**

ESA looks forward to working with whichever party forms the new administration in May. The last 13 years have seen an incredible transformation in the waste sector as household recycling rates have quintupled and our reliance on landfill has correspondingly reduced dramatically. The waste sector remains the largest source of domestic renewable electricity, generating more energy than onshore wind in 2008. Last year saw the introduction of a new Waste Framework Directive and ESA looks forward to working with the new government to ensure the clear and consistent enforcement of EU law.

The UK still has to meet its obligations under the Landfill Directive and the next Parliament will be crucial not only in meeting the 2013 target but also in putting in place a framework that will enable the industry to develop the infrastructure the UK needs to meet the 2020 target in a timely fashion. We will urge the new government to make significant improvements to the planning system to facilitate the introduction of new residual waste infrastructure and to put in place clear incentives to maximise the recovery of materials and energy from the UK's waste stream.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND LINKS**

Conservative Manifesto

[http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010\\_lowres.pdf](http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010_lowres.pdf)

Labour Manifesto <http://www2.labour.org.uk/uploads/TheLabourPartyManifesto-2010.pdf>

Liberal Democrat Manifesto

[http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem\\_manifesto\\_2010.pdf](http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem_manifesto_2010.pdf)

**LAST UPDATED:** April 2010

**ENDS**