

## Funding the Future

# If only the Green New Deal Group had been listened to i...

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This morning the [Business and Energy Select Committee](#) has issued a report stating:

Ultimately, the UK needs to reduce its dependence on imported gas. Energy efficiency is the quickest and most cost-effective way to reduce gas demand and lower energy bills. The absence of a home insulation programme is an unacceptable gap in policy that must be rectified. We reiterate our previous calls for the Government to implement urgent, far-reaching, and long-term measures to retrofit the UK housing stock.

In 2008 the Green New Deal Group, of which I am a member, [said in its first ever report](#):

**Developing a wide-ranging package of other financial innovations and incentives to assemble the tens of billions of pounds that need to be spent. The focus should be on smart investments that not only finance the development of new, efficient energy infrastructure but also help reduce demand for energy, particularly among low-income groups, for example by improving home insulation.** The science and technology needed to power an energy-and-transport revolution are already in place. But at present the funds to propel the latest advances into full-scale development are not.

If only we'd been listened to back then a lot of the current cost of living crisis need not have happened.