

# Funding the Future

## Hunt really should be talking about a Green New Deal to...

Published: January 14, 2026, 5:37 am

---

The [FT has started an article](#) with these images this morning:



Britain's homes are ill-equipped for the **fuel crisis** looming this winter. The country's housing stock is older and less well-insulated than that of almost any other nation in Europe.



New research reveals the scale of this energy efficiency gap. It finds that across England and Wales, **more than £10bn could be saved** on energy bills each year if leaky homes were upgraded to higher standards.



For the average household, this works out as a **£390 annual saving** – even after accounting for a government support package that will absorb part of the fuel price increase this winter.

I do, of course, agree. As Colin Hines and I, working as [Finance for the Future](#) have been arguing for years, we need to green the UK economy. What we have always said as part of our work on the Green New Deal is that the quickest and easiest place to start is with the UK's 30 million properties, of which around 27 million are homes.

Our argument has been that we need to release a carbon army of people, paid decent wages in unionised employment associated with long-term training programmes, to undertake energy-saving work in the first instance and to then turn every building in the UK into a power station to the greatest degree possible.

What is that energy-saving work (which happens to save bills, but more importantly saves the planet)? You start with double or triple glazing. You replace doors that belch out heat. You insulate lofts (the easiest thing to do) and walls, where appropriate. And you install better heating management e.g. with room thermostats. None of this is hard: the savings are high.

Then you move on to solar panels where possible, and heat pumps where appropriate.

The point is, this is not rocket science. It is actually pretty straightforward. But it will require a funding mechanism because paybacks are rarely in one year, and the funding mechanism has to be widely available, and easily repaid.

Is it beyond imagination to plan this? Of course it is not. But will Hunt suggest anything like this tomorrow? There is not a hope that he will. And that is the best indication there is that he is not in tune with what this country really needs.