

# We desperately need a Green New Deal and our power elit...

Published: January 13, 2026, 8:50 am

---

As the Guardian's morning comment newsletter says in its introduction this morning:

*Houses in the UK are some of the oldest and least energy efficient in Europe. A new report* by Friends of the Earth and the Institute of Health Equity found that 9.6m households are living in cold, poorly insulated homes. These households also have incomes below the minimum for a decent standard of living, meaning that they cannot afford to install double glazing or insulation, for example, to make their homes warmer. The analysis comes just weeks after the Labour party U-turned on a key climate proposal, which included a pledge to insulate millions of homes. Meanwhile, over the last 13 years the government [has reversed plenty of policies](#) designed to tackle the insulation problem in the UK.

It's now more than fifteen years since I co-authored [the first Green New Deal report](#). In that report, we called for the release of a 'carbon army' of well-trained people who could insulate Britain, install solar power and build the transmission networks for a new economy. There would be long-term employment on offer as a result. The UK would go green. And energy poverty would be tackled. It was an all-round win.

It has not happened.

Labour has now turned its back on the idea.

But we need this solution more than ever.

And it could be done. [The Taxing Wealth Report 2024](#) shows that the funding is available. All that is lacking is the will.

Rather than tackle gross tax, income and wealth inequality in the UK, both our leading political parties would rather balance the government's books, subject us to the desires of the City of London and maintain the existing hierarchies of financial power within our society, which leave millions in poverty whilst denying us a future.

Why do they do that? Because they crave to be part of the financial power elite, and

that elite knows that and bribes them with its inducements as a result.

I would expect this of Tories.

But we have to conclude that Labour has now been totally corrupted.

That is what is frightening about where we are. Morals, ethics, principles and values have left Labour. All that is left is a vacuum desperately seeking power.