

ENERGY POLICY - POLITICS AND THE PEOPLE: GOVERNMENT POLICIES Vs PUBLIC OPINION

Government policies

Public opinion

Strong support

Fracking
Cameron has committed to “going all out for shale”, introducing planning guidance to ensure applications are fast-tracked with central government intervention as required.

Solar PV
Public attitudes tracker - latest results – 81% support for solar pv DECC, 2015.

Nuclear
Projects awarded 30 year contracts, £2bn commitment to secure Chinese investment in Hinkley Point, guarantees of future pipeline investment.

Investment
Public opinion on levels of return for investments - renewables match oil & gas, Whitehouse/ComRes Poll, 2015.

Investment
Local Authorities taking the lead in divestment – investment leverage still pending from central government – announcement to privatise the Green Investment Bank.

Wind - onshore
Public attitudes tracker - latest results - 70% support for onshore wind DECC, 2015

Energy efficiency
Flagship Green Deal scheme closed and Energy Company Obligation reduced – current policy hiatus.

Energy efficiency
Accept energy bills would drop with more efficient appliances and insulation – little movement on addressing levels of energy consumption. YouGov, 2014.

Solar PV
Referred to as an essential part of our energy mix, with continued overall support for rooftop schemes but growing opposition for ground mounted – financial support threatened.

Nuclear
Nuclear power – UK public remain split. Ipsos Mori, 2013.

Wind - onshore
Changes to planning regulations, early closure of Renewables Obligation and stripped of subsidies from 2016.

Fracking
Public attitudes tracker – latest results - only 21% of people support shale gas extraction. DECC, 2015.

Subsidies
Projected overspend of the 2020 £7.6bn renewables budget has resulted in measures to bring costs under control, leading to a significant reduction in subsidies. Focus on short term cost to the consumer.

Subsidies
Accept climate change action required but little appetite to pay for transition to achieve green energy commitments. YouGov. 2014.

Zero support

