



Labour’s industrial revival runs into its own energy policy

Good afternoon. This week Andy Burnham promised cheaper energy. John Healey promised a new age of industrialisation. Both gave Labour’s conference faithful something to applaud. Neither promise squares with the warnings from manufacturers that expensive energy is driving production out of Britain, or forecasts of household bills approaching £2,000 a year from January. Ministers even acknowledge that Burnham’s “buy British” grid policy could push bills higher. The applause is easy. Making these promises add up is another matter.

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

Households: A forecast puts the typical annual dual-fuel bill at £1,999 from January, a 16% rise, following a separate 4% increase this week.

Industry: Peter Huntsman warns that British manufacturers cannot compete on energy costs. EDF’s chief executive urges approval of Rosebank and Jackdaw.

The grid: Ministers acknowledge that Andy Burnham’s proposed “buy British” approach could increase household bills.

Overseas: Trump challenges shipping’s net-zero framework and threatens European diesel supplies. In Bangladesh, cheaper coal has overtaken gas.

Analysis: Reindustrialisation, carbon tariffs and shrinking refinery capacity all raise the same question: how can Britain secure affordable energy?

THE BIG STORY

Household bills head towards £2000

The Guardian reports a forecast that the typical household energy bill in Great Britain will reach £1,999 a year from January. That would mean a 16% increase, adding £276 to the annual dual-fuel bill. It is a forecast, rather than a confirmed January price cap.

The immediate pressure is already here: a separate 4% rise from Thursday takes the quarterly cap to its highest level in three years. For households, the January forecast points to further strain after this week’s increase.

Why it matters: Households face a near-term rise while being warned of a larger increase ahead. Against that backdrop, promises to bring down energy costs need a credible account of when consumers will see relief. [Read more](#)

UK

Huntsman warns industry is being priced out

Peter Huntsman, whose industrial operations include a chemicals plant at Wilton on Teesside, warns that high energy prices are forcing UK manufacturers to close or leave. He calls Britain’s pursuit of net zero an “abject failure”. His central charge is that British industry cannot compete with global rivals on the cost of energy. [Read more](#)

EDF chief calls for North Sea approvals

EDF’s chief executive urges the Government to approve Rosebank and Jackdaw, arguing that Britain should use its domestic fossil-fuel resources to reduce reliance on foreign fuel. His case rests on keeping jobs and tax receipts in the UK rather than sending the money abroad. [Read more](#)

Buy British grid plan carries a cost warning

Ministers acknowledge that Andy Burnham’s proposed “buy British” approach to upgrading the electricity network could push up household bills. The proposal includes a publicly owned body, Great British Grid, and an ambition to align UK energy costs with those elsewhere in Europe within ten years. The question is how the purchasing policy supports that affordability goal. [Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Trump opposes global shipping levy

Ahead of talks later this year, Donald Trump says there will be “no global taxes” while he is US president. The US describes shipping’s Net-Zero Framework as an environmental slush fund; Trump claims it could raise shipping costs by more than 20%. That figure is his claim, rather than an established outcome. [Read more](#)

Bangladesh turns to cheaper coal

Coal has overtaken gas in Bangladesh as Asian LNG prices have more than doubled since February, from around \$11 to over \$25. The Reuters commentary puts coal at an equivalent \$5–6.50. The lesson for energy policy is straightforward: affordability shapes fuel choices when reliable power is essential. [Read more](#)

Diesel threat prompts crisis talks

Britain joined European allies in crisis talks on Thursday after Trump threatened to cut off diesel exports to France and Germany unless Europe released emergency reserves. Officials fear that drawing down those stocks could leave countries exposed over winter. For Britain, the episode brings dependence on imported fuel into sharp focus. [Read more](#)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

Three arguments to read alongside this week’s news.

Reindustrialisation needs affordable power

This Telegraph editorial challenges the Chancellor's promise of a “new age of industrialisation”, citing Britain's industrial electricity prices as the highest in the developed world and manufacturers’ warnings about competitiveness. Reindustrialisation requires scrapping net zero and approving Jackdaw and Rosebank. Its test for industrial policy is the price of powering British production. [Read more](#)

Carbon tariffs could raise manufacturers’ costs

Catherine McBride OBE argues that the carbon border adjustment mechanism, or CBAM, would increase the cost of imported steel, aluminium and other essential materials, including inputs no longer made in Britain. It warns that a tariff intended to protect industry could make British manufacturers’ finished products less competitive. [Read more](#)

The Times warns over diesel resilience

The Times View says Britain had nine major oil refineries in 2003 and imported 14% of its road diesel; it now has four refineries and imports more than 50%. It links this dependence to short-term decisions, inadequate gas storage and failures to upgrade nuclear infrastructure, and calls on Burnham to address the risk of a diesel crisis. [Read more](#)



Dear David,

We are winning – our impact is growing every week – but we are going to need your help if we are going to see this struggle through to the end.

Don't let the greenies get away with it! If you would like to help us fight for energy and climate realism, click the button below.

SUPPORT

Net Zero Watch, 55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL, United Kingdom

[Unsubscribe](#)