



Who pays for the wind, the cables and the grid

Paid for by the public: as electricity billpayers, and as taxpayers standing behind the loans.

The cost of the UK's renewables and net zero programme, followed through the public record. It starts with the national bill and ends on one stretch of the Banffshire coast, where the cables come ashore.

START HERE · THE BILL TO THE UK PUBLIC

What it has cost so far, and what is still to come

£97bn

paid through electricity bills so far, at least

£12.2bn

paid each year now, equal to about £420 for every UK household (households pay part on their bills, businesses the rest)

£803bn

estimated cost to the public finances to 2050-51, the OBR's central estimate (2024-25 prices; two-thirds is lost tax receipts)

0.65%

the UK's share of world emissions in 2024: the UK government's figure against the UN Environment Programme's world total

(0.69% for 2025 on the EU's
EDGAR data)

[READ THE BILL →](#)

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

The real cost

Scotland's share, the 2010 rule that made it worse, the cost set against public services, and 17 major emitters compared.

Wind or nuclear

The same money side by side: every cost, including the ones the headline price leaves out, and a debt calculator you control.

The options

What else the money could have done: Norway's model, the North Sea, carbon capture, shale, nuclear in series, and power prices for industry.

THE MORAY FIRTH AND THE BANFFSHIRE COAST

How the money works

The five routes to the bill, the loan guarantees, who owns it, and why it is hard to see.

The running meter

Subsidy paid by billpayers since 1 January, ticking live; dividends abroad; the vessel meter at an offshore vessel fleet manager's estimated day rates.

The cable on this coast

Shetland HVDC Link 2: what is proposed for Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay, with the checked maps and charts.

Money leaving the UK

Dividends, interest and fees paid or owed to owners and lenders outside the UK, from filed accounts.

Risk and return

Who carries each risk, the returns achieved, and the revenue per unit each farm earns.

The missing figures

Sixteen figures the public pays for but cannot see, each with a blank to fill.

Evidence register

The figures on the Moray Firth pages, each with its source, class and verification status.

Glossary

Every financial, legal and technical term on these pages, explained in one place.

Ask for it yourself

The addresses, questions and steps to ask the regulator, the system operator and SSEN for the missing figures.

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