

1. Does your party accept the need to leave 80% of the world's known fossil fuels reserves in the ground? How does this affect your policies?

*We accept the science behind this, while also recognising that the influence the UK can have on achieving this globally is limited. However, so that the UK can do its bit, we have policies to promote and switch to renewable energy, radical waste reduction plans and a target of a Zero Carbon Britain by 2050. We also believe that through such policies the UK – and the EU – can set a good example to the international community by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.*

2. Does your party approve of fracking in England and do you support it in Oxfordshire?

*We have maintained a sceptical approach to fracking, and believe it should be limited until it is demonstrated that regulations controlling its potential damaging effects are in place. Personally, I would go further and ban fracking until and unless it is agreed by the Committee on Climate Change that it will in fact lead to carbon reductions – not only in its direct effects but also in its knock-on impact on renewable energy investment. I cannot see a case for fracking being established anywhere in Oxfordshire.*

3. Should Oxford West and Abingdon become a Zero Carbon Community by 2050? If so, what would be your top three policies to achieve this?

*See above: Oxford West and Abingdon should become a Zero Carbon Community by 2050 as part of a Zero Carbon Country: we would enshrine this in law as a target in the next parliament. My top three policies to achieve this would be (i) proper investment in renewable forms of energy and in reduction of energy waste; (ii) enforcing carbon-neutral status as a requirement in new housing, and moving towards it in existing housing stock; (iii) making it easier for people to use environmentally-friendly means of transport – though there are many more than three ways of helping achieve this target!*

4. How would you significantly reduce carbon emissions from transport and personal travel in Oxford West and Abingdon?

*We would press urgently for improvements in cycling safety and facilities in Oxford and the surrounding area: the current County Council consultation document is too timid in its rather long-term ambition of a coherent cycle network in Oxford – this should be an immediate priority. We would ensure all new infrastructure developments were required to be designed around walking, cycling and public transport (this should be enshrined in law nationally). And we would enthusiastically back public transport initiatives such as new rail links around the constituency.*

5. Do you think your party should have polices to improve the energy efficiency of 500,000 homes of the fuel poor a year to Band C on the EPC scale? If not, what level

of ambition should you have? What policies would you introduce to achieve this and how will they be funded?

*Ideally, yes: the environmental benefits of such policies and the economic benefits to the lives of people affected by them would be a positive double whammy. We would achieve this partly by legislation on green homes: incentives such as reductions in Council Tax for people improving their home's energy efficiency would work alongside government grants for improved insulation and the like. Although the economic benefits generated by such policies would partly offset their cost, we have clearly costed our manifesto commitments by proposed measures such as a Mansion Tax, and our green homes legislation would be fully funded.*