

Party Energy Policies, Side by Side

SUMMARY ONLY OF ELECTRIFICATION AND ENERGY-RELATED POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS AS AT 21 OCTOBER 2026

Policy Issue	National	Labour	Green	ACT	NZ First	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity
Power Bills and Affordability	- Home Energy Fund: low-interest loans for solar, batteries and insulation, based on the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme - Make affordability a core objective of the Electricity Authority in law	- SolarSaver subsidy of up to \$3,000 for low- and middle-income homeowners and renters, for rooftop or plug-in solar systems - Low-interest loans for solar and batteries, with an option based on the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme and another through lines companies - Make price gouging illegal on essentials, including energy and fuel	- Zero-interest loans for solar, batteries and efficiency upgrades, for up to 90% of homeowners, based on the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme - Expand Warmer Kiwi Homes energy subsidies, including help to get off gas	- Opposes taxpayer-funded zero-interest solar and battery loans - Remove the carbon auction price floor and refund carbon auction revenue to New Zealanders - Stronger enforcement against misuse of market power	Replace the current pricing system so power companies can't hold back supply just to drive prices higher	- Support access to: solar and batteries, efficient appliances, heating and hot water, home electrification and EV charging, long-term, low-cost and zero-interest finance; Ratepayers Assistance Scheme - Strengthen the Commerce Commission and Electricity Authority powers to investigate excessive pricing and profits, strengthen competition and protect consumers	- Low-interest home electrification loans through the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme - Raise Healthy Homes standards for rentals, including a right to charge EVs - Building Code based on real performance; new builds wired for EV charging & solar - Re-fund and double the Warmer Kiwi Homes subsidy scheme (about \$200m a year), adding solar, and open it to cover eligible rentals - Tax write-offs for energy upgrades, including solar and batteries
Solar and Batteries	- No consent needed to install solar, micro-hydro or batteries on your own property, with very few exceptions - Right to sell your exported solar or battery power to any retailer - Enable plug-in solar so renters can generate their own cheaper power	- Change regulations so renters can use plug-in solar panels that connect to a normal power point - Fair time-of-use rates for power you export to the grid - EECA one-stop shop for impartial, expert advice and an easy process \$30m community battery fund; Government pays half, up to \$200,000 a project, to enable all in a community to benefit from local solar power	- Solar on more than half of all public homes within four years - Legalise plug-in solar and give renters a right to solar - Ensure that households and businesses with rooftop solar receive a fair price for the electricity they export back to the grid \$200m for community-owned renewable energy, such as solar on schools, marae, papakāinga and libraries \$80m for renewable energy on Māori housing - Enable peer-to-peer trading and energy sharing	Choose who buys your power, including local businesses and community schemes	Home solar owners should be able to sell power back at the same price they pay for it	- Establish a fair-value framework for distributed generation so households and communities are properly paid for power they supply to the grid - Support farms and rural communities produce their own energy - Establish a \$1 billion Energy Sovereignty Fund for Māori and community-owned energy - Solar energy and insulation retrofits for marae, papakāinga and housing - Solar and insulation retrofits for kura - Remove barriers to whānau and communities generating, sharing, selling and trading energy	Government co-investment in community-owned generation and storage
EVS	<i>No new policies found</i>	Require NZTA to consider using spare land for independent unmanned petrol stations or EV chargers	Phase-out date for importing fossil-fuel vehicles; more EV chargers; bring back EV incentives	Scrap some vehicle emissions settings and oppose arbitrary vehicle age bans, and require new rules to disclose their effect on vehicle supply and prices	<i>No new policies found</i>	<i>No new policies found</i>	- Tax breaks (accelerated depreciation and fringe benefit tax exemption) for businesses buying / leasing new EVs - Switch the public sector vehicle fleet to EVs as vehicles are replaced (or hybrids where justified)
Transport and Fuels	<i>No new policies found</i>	- Cap weekly public transport fares at \$20 in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, \$10 elsewhere, from July 2027 - Weekly Commerce Commission fuel price reporting on what fuel companies charge and what drivers pay; freeze fuel tax for three years	\$2 adult bus and train fares; free for children, students and Community Service Card holders - Electrify and extend Te Huia; mass rapid transit in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch; intercity passenger rail expansion	<i>No new policies found</i>	Use any gas and oil finds to drive fuel costs down locally	Free public transport for tamariki, students and Community Service card holders, half-price for everyone else, and extend free for everyone within five years	- Free public transport - Fully funded mandate for councils to electrify public transport by 2030
Gas, LNG and Fossil Fuels	\$10m fund to help domestic fertiliser manufacturers transition from gas to electricity	- Will not proceed with an LNG import terminal - Reinstate the ban on new oil and gas exploration - No new fossil fuel subsidies	- Ban new fossil fuel extraction and cancel the LNG terminal - Reinstate the oil and gas ban and revoke permits granted under the current regime - On track to end fossil fuel use and production by 2035	- Businesses to choose the fuel that works for them, including gas and coal, while the Emissions Trading Scheme prices emissions - Remove barriers to commercially funded LNG import infrastructure - Remove barriers to domestic gas production and underground gas storage	Initial investment of \$1 billion into a 'National Subsurface Development Survey' to identify and create one national dataset across energy, geothermal and CO₂ storage sites, create the framework to develop those sites, and extract resources	- Support businesses, farms and industry move off fossil fuels where viable - End new oil and gas exploration; withdraw existing permits within five years	\$1 billion fund from ETS revenue to get industry off coal and gas - Opposes the LNG import terminal - End the Gas Security Fund that subsidises exploration
Electricity Market and Generation	Standardised backup power contracts and regular auctions to cover dry years	<i>No new policies found</i>	- KiwiPower: a new publicly owned Crown entity (\$980m) investing in renewables and backup (firming) power - One energy regulator and a new Ministry for Energy	- Opposes forced break-ups of the big power companies (gentailers) - National planning rules to provide for gas peakers and other thermal generation	- Long-term, fixed-price contracts for new-build generation projects and guarantee their power will be first to be used - Split the big power companies (gentailers) into separate generators and retailers - Deliver a National Energy Strategy	- Create stronger pathways for mana whenua to participate as owners in major renewable projects in their rohe - Establish a whole-of-system National Energy Plan and a pathway to energy sovereignty by 2035	- Merge the five energy regulators into one - Will not split the gentailers - Secure cross-party agreement on a 30GW capacity target for 2050 and a 25-year Energy Strategy - Overbuild renewables; keep Huntly only for true emergencies
AI and Data Centres	Require AI data centres to bring their own new, firmed power	Data centres must secure their own renewable power and pay their own connection costs	<i>No new policies found</i>	<i>No new policies found</i>	<i>No new policies found</i>	<i>No new policies found</i>	<i>No new policies found</i>
Lines, Connections and Transmission	- Residential and small business solar connections required to be approved within two working days, with compensation for delays - Export limits based on real network capacity, so homes can export more where there is room - Choose your own accredited contractor for connection work - Let developers, major energy users and investors build and own new transmission	NZ Future Fund to prioritise new generation, storage and grid upgrades	Solar users pay only for the network infrastructure they actually use	- Allow households to export more solar where the network has room - Shop around: competing accredited contractors for new or upgraded connections - Allow private investors to build, own and operate new transmission connected to the Grid where they meet common technical and reliability standards - Lines companies must prove upgrades are worth it, compared with options like batteries, before adding costs to your bill	<i>No new policies found</i>	Connection rules and costs must not lock out small Māori and community projects	- Consolidate management of the 29 lines companies into no more than 8 - Reform network revenue rules to free up money for grid upgrades
Workforce and Skills	<i>No new policies found</i>	- Set aside \$4m to grow the solar workforce - Extend Apprenticeship Boost to two years of employer support	- Introduce an apprentice equipment grant of \$2,000, and a completion bonus of \$2,000 for employers who actively support apprentices to progress through their qualifications \$30m annual uplift for Māori and Pasifika-led trades training and apprentice support	Remove funding caps on approved trades subjects, with funding following students and schools keeping their base and equity funding when students learn off-site	<i>No new policies found</i>	- Support workers and communities through a just transition as oil and gas sites are decommissioned - Create pathways for Māori into electrical trades, solar and battery installation and energy jobs	<i>No new policies found</i>

'No new policies found' means no new policies were found in the search. Items listed are new future policies, not existing Government policies.

These are intended as summaries only based on information published on 21 October 2026. Parties may announce more policies before the election. We have taken care, but take no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Please ensure you read each party's official policies at the links provided.

Rewiring Aotearoa is an **independent, non-partisan, non-profit**. We are a think-do tank that exists to help make New Zealand more electric, reducing bills, saving emissions, and improving energy security and resilience.

Authorised by Mike Casey, Rewiring Aotearoa, 90 Rush Lane, Mt Pisa.

Read the official party policies:

[national.org.nz/policies](#)[labour.org.nz/policy](#)[greens.org.nz/policy](#)[act.org.nz/policies](#)

[nzfirst.nz/policy](#)[maoriparty.org.nz/policy](#)[opportunity.org.nz/policy](#)