

The Home Front: A strategic security review of British homes

RECOMMENDATIONS

Leo Vincent, Faith Hammond, Dr Pauline Heinrichs

Mitigating the severe national security threat posed by the current composition of British homes requires strategic solutions. These solutions must be launched alongside a narrative tone shift, delivered by officials across UK government departments, that the net zero transition is not simply about climate and energy, but is a national security priority.

Download our full report, *The Home Front: A strategic security review of British homes*, published June 2026, from <https://www.e3g.org/publications/uk-homes-gas-dependence-security-threat/>

I. Threat to home front readiness

1. Number 10 to launch a national “Home Front Mission” to accelerate electrification of UK homes and establish a plan to phase out oil and gas for home heating.
2. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, in collaboration with NESO, to set a mission to deliver a more strategically decentralised energy system at pace. Also, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, to mandate inclusion of dual use equipment for offshore energy assets.
3. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to accelerate the deployment of “Spitfire technologies” such as heat pumps, solar PV, batteries, and energy efficiency measures.
4. The British military to develop emergency scenario plans and defence strategy with allies, particularly around joint defence (surveillance and reconnaissance) of North Sea energy infrastructure.
5. The next edition of the National Risk Register must upgrade the risk status of conventional attack on gas infrastructure, reflecting the critical vulnerability posed.
6. The Ministry of Defence to commission a review into the vulnerability of oil and gas platforms, pipelines and clustered infrastructure, with regards to direct attack and sabotage, which considers operational continuity under these scenarios.

7. The Department for Business and Trade to prioritise diversification of supply chains for clean energy technologies and develop incentives to maximise UK manufacturing.
8. NESO and Distribution Network Operators to work with Cabinet Office and Ministry of Defence to ensure there is adequate planning for home resilience and crisis management.
9. NESO to investigate viability of repurposing UK long-term underground gas storage facilities – primarily salt caverns and depleted offshore fields – to manage seasonal demand and supply fluctuations with domestically produced energy (e.g. green hydrogen).
10. When designing the new Centralised Strategic Network Plan, NESO should consider the defensibility and security of the energy system.

II. Threat to economic and financial stability

1. Treasury to prioritise action to make home electrification affordable and ensure it is cheaper to use a heat pump than a gas boiler. E3G has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations for lowering the cost of running heat pumps.¹
2. HMT to launch a sovereign Security and Resilience Bond to accelerate investment in the electrification of the UK economy, including its housing stock, and deliver resilience for UK infrastructure and communities to the impacts of climate change. Thematic bonds tend to attract higher prices and be less vulnerable to capital flights during times of crisis.
3. The Bank of England and the Office for Budget Responsibility to coordinate a review to identify areas of vulnerability within owner-occupied and buy-to-let mortgage portfolios, building these risks into future analysis, projections and alignment of prudential framework. This includes incorporating systematic assessment of exposure to fossil fuel price volatility and availability of home insurance into monetary and financial stability monitoring, and the use of standardisation of EPC ratings to align prudential frameworks with the low-interest rate financing for retrofits provided by the National Wealth Fund (similar to initiatives undertaken by the ECB).
4. Mapping by the Bank of England of strategic gas dependency by country and transmission channels building on the Bank of England's recent System-Wide Exploratory Scenario.
5. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to launch a long-term national programme offering zero interest-rate financing for retrofits. This investment in the regeneration of UK housing stock, bringing homes to at least EPC C would reduce exposure to global energy volatility, cut bills and support macroeconomic stability.

¹ E3G, [Heat pumps have the potential to halve UK heating bills](#), August 2025

Public investment should be blended with affordable private finance and delivered through clear regulatory timelines.

6. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to address the rental sector as a systemic blind spot in retrofit schemes – designing phased minimum energy-efficiency standards and targeted landlord support mechanisms to reduce arrears risk and narrow the resilience gap between owners and renters. These standards must prioritise displacing gas and boost electrification.
7. The Bank of England review of monetary policy framework to include consideration of green term funding schemes. This would explicitly shield renewable energy and electricity infrastructure upgrades from rate hikes caused by fossil fuel market volatility.
8. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Ofgem to support the decoupling of electricity prices from fossil fuels through continued investment in scaling renewables and energy market reform. E3G has produced analysis setting out how electricity market reform could be achieved.

III. Threat to political legitimacy and societal security

1. Treasury and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to prioritise funding to support demographics most at risk during energy crises, including action to increase energy efficiency and electrification.
2. Treasury and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to adopt longer-term cost-benefit horizons, expanding support for the gas reduction *and* climate-adaptation of UK homes including support for housing that is more resilient to droughts, floods and storms while adapting the existing housing stock to threats of overheating starting with public buildings such as hospitals and schools.
3. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to prioritise decentralisation of UK energy and storage to communities and households including expanding community energy and providing more grant funding for home electrification.
4. Cabinet Office to classify the risk of “fossil fuel dependency for home heating” as a distinct and “chronic risk” in the next edition of the National Risk Register, defined as a threat to “our economy, community, way of life, and national security” manifesting over a decades-long timeframe, requiring a robust government-led response – all of which applies directly to fossil fuel reliance.
5. Government and Joint Intelligence Committee to launch a joint inquiry into action by hostile states, malign actors and special interest lobbyists to spread disinformation regarding clean energy to perpetrate fossil fuel dependence and sow division.

ABOUT E3G

E3G is an independent think tank working to deliver a safe climate for all.

We drive systemic action on climate by identifying barriers and constructing coalitions to advance the solutions needed. We create spaces for honest dialogue, and help guide governments, businesses and the public on how to deliver change at the pace the planet demands.

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AUTHORS

Leo Vincent is a Senior Policy Advisory in E3G's UK Energy Team. His work focuses on heat and homes decarbonisation as well as energy security and coalition building.

Faith Hammond is a Senior Policy Advisor in E3G's Global Macro and Financial Resilience Team. Her work focuses on the role of Central Banks and the insurance sector in scaling up financing for climate resilience.

Dr Pauline Heinrichs is a lecturer in War Studies (Climate and Energy) at Kings College London. Her research focuses on energy and climate security in the context of international ordering, justice and existential risks.