

John Howell OBE, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Henley
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the Council

Sue.Cooper@southoxon.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422693
135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Oxon
OX14 4SB

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Dear Mr Howell,

I am writing to seek your support for the Local Electricity Bill which will be re-introduced to Parliament as a Ten-Minute Rule Bill, next Tuesday 28 April.

As you know South Oxfordshire District Council last year declared a Climate Emergency and since then, has created a cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee dedicated to reducing carbon emissions to net zero in our District by 2030.

This Bill, if made law, would empower local renewable energy companies to sell locally generated clean energy directly to customers by establishing a statutory right to local supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in becoming a licensed supplier. All but the largest suppliers are effectively priced out of the market.

The Bill is a common-sense attempt to remove this handicap on small local renewable energy suppliers. It would enable local people and businesses in South Oxfordshire and around the country to buy their electricity from a local energy company, thus enhancing competition in the local energy market, improving efficiencies and reducing costs.

It would make local renewable energy schemes financially viable and help to create highly skilled local jobs in our District.

Indeed, it could become a key building-block in our post-Covid 19 recovery.

The Bill has wide cross-party parliamentary support and is co-sponsored by Peter Aldous MP, Alex Sobel MP, Sir Edward Davey MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Sir Graham Brady MP, John McNally MP, John Penrose MP, and Ben Lake MP

I hope you, too, will support this Bill for the economic and environmental benefits it will bring to businesses and communities in South Oxfordshire, and as part of the UK's commitment to zero-carbon by 2050

With best wishes,

Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of the council and the Liberal Democrat party group
Robin Bennett, Leader of the Green party group
Mocky Khan, Leader of the Labour party group
Stefan Gawrysiak, Leader of the Henley Residents group
Simon Hewardine, Leader of SORT

South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX14 4SB www.southoxon.gov.uk