

From: info@switchedonlondon.org.uk
Sent: 08 December 2016 16:54
To: Your Views
Subject: A City for All Londoners - Response

Dear Mayor Khan,

We are writing in response to 'A City for All Londoners'. We are pleased to see that on page 61 you state that you will “explore the establishment of a not-for-profit energy company to supply cleaner energy in the city” as part of Energy for Londoners.

We would urge you to put the creation of a not-for-profit, fully licensed public supply company at the centre of Energy for Londoners (EfL) and to set up this company within two years.

London needs a non-profit company with social justice, clean energy and democracy at its core. With rising carbon emissions, one million Londoners living in fuel poverty and the Big Six cashing in on high energy bills, London urgently needs a new vision for energy. Establishing a supply company for London could transform our energy market, making it work for the city's citizens.

London needs a company that sells clean, affordable power to households. EfL has a responsibility to take ambitious action on both the climate and the cold homes crisis by providing a clean and affordable alternative to distrusted utility giants.

It is crucial that within two years EfL is operating as a fully licensed supply company, without third party partners. This would enable EfL to generate jobs and revenues. This finance could be invested in clean energy projects - creating a new solar strategy, supporting the capital's fledgling community energy sector and directly investing in new sources of renewable power. London needs a fully licensed company to ensure our elected officials and London communities have full control over vital matters like pricing.

An energy company for Londoners must give all of us a meaningful say in how our energy is provided. Drawing on best practice examples of democratic public ownership across the world, EfL could transfer power and control to energy users and workers: from advisory neighbourhood assemblies to elected board members and the chance to influence the company through public petitions.

As set out by our campaign - Switched on London - there are a number of criteria that we need a EfL company to fulfil. We would urge you to create an energy company within the next two years that fulfils these key criteria to create a socially just, clean and democratic means of energy provision.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

With one million Londoners living in fuel poverty we need an energy company that:

- Delivers fair, affordable prices, based on a progressive pricing system.
- Does not cut-off access to those who can't pay and that does not install unwanted prepayment meters.
- Re-invests revenues in measures to address fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis, particularly prioritising ambitious investment in household energy efficiency.
- Treats its workers fairly, meaning paying at least a London Living Wage, good terms and conditions, secure, unionised and non-precarious work.

CLEAN ENERGY

London needs ambitious new investment in new clean technology fit for the 21st century. We need an energy company that:

- aims to sell 100% renewable energy as soon as feasibly possible.
- Commits ambitious public investment in new renewable energy generating capacity. A significant portion should be invested in renewable capacity inside London.

DEMOCRACY

We want a publicly owned alternative to the Big Six that gives Londoners a genuine say in how their energy is provided. We need a company that:

- Is fully owned by London public bodies (without any private partners) but controlled by people directly.
- Integrates a range of democratic mechanisms, including:
 - A board of directors made up of: 1/3rd London public officials; 1/3rd energy company employees elected democratically by the whole energy company workforce; 1/3rd ordinary London residents, elected democratically with all London residents and all non-London customers given a vote. Board membership must guarantee at least 50% representation of women.
 - Annual open assemblies in every London borough, where representatives of the company have to answer questions and take input and advice.
 - The creation of an online democratic forum where people can discuss and influence the company's operations, including through public petitions.
 - An obligation for the board to discuss public petitions, if backed by 1% or more of London's population.
 - An obligation for an online referendum on a proposal, if backed by 5% of London's population.
- 100% transparency in all operations.
- These democratic measures apply to all London residents, regardless of citizenship/nationality status.

Setting up a fully public energy supply company for in the next two years would create a cleaner, fairer and healthier London, delivering low carbon energy and tackling fuel poverty. It could provide a key plank in a set of policies that sets London on course to become a zero carbon city by 2050. It will also set our city apart as an ambitious leader on energy provision, providing a model that can be copied by cities across the world.

Yours Sincerely

James Angel

On behalf of Switched on London (www.switchedonlondon.org.uk)

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