



## Jobs

*Millions of people are unemployed and millions more are worrying about their jobs. The recession is really hurting people, from young people who've just left college or university and can't find work, to people who've been made redundant in their 50s and don't think they'll ever find another job. It's so unfair. We have to get help to people by rebuilding the economy and creating jobs that last. Liberal Democrats are different from the other parties: only we will create thousands of jobs by investing in new green technology and infrastructure. We want a different kind of economy that is environmentally friendly and isn't dependent on financial wizardry. That way jobs will last like they should. We have identified £3.3bn of public spending that can be stopped and the money used to create jobs and protect the environment. We will invest in wind energy, the energy efficiency of public buildings and homes, and bring empty homes back into use through renovation. And we will give extra support to young people, so their future is protected, with 800,000 internship and work placements to help build their experience.*

**We will help young people now.** We will invest almost £900million in creating opportunities to help young people who are unemployed gain the skills and experience to move back in to work. We will make a promise to young people that they will not spend more than 90 days on Jobseekers' Allowance before they get more training, education, an internship or a place on a work programme. We will do this by increasing the number of further education places, giving students financial support to return to college and creating a paid internship scheme.

**Eco Cashback for families who install green technology.** We will set up an 'Eco Cash Back' scheme, for one year only, which will give you £400 if you make eco-friendly improvements to your home. You will be able to get grants to help with the costs of replacing old windows with double glazing, upgrade your boiler, fit solar panels or install a micro-wind turbine. This will create jobs and cut carbon emissions.

**Insulate public buildings.** We will give grants to schools who want to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings by, for example, replacing windows or improving insulation. . This will ensure that schools are not forced to spend the budget they should be using on teaching pupils to make these improvement and meet government targets. This will create jobs as energy auditors, insulation installers and in manufacturing.

**Invest in ports so the wind energy industry can grow.** We need to use wind to generate electricity, especially off shore. But there's a problem: there is hardly anywhere in Britain suitable to build the giant turbines needed. We will renovate and adapt the facilities in key North Sea ports so they can be used, including old ship yards in areas that have suffered from the decline of manufacturing.

**Bring 250,000 empty homes back into use.** Empty properties are not only a wasted resource but a blight on the local community, attracting crime and antisocial behaviour. People who own these homes will get a grant or a cheap loan to renovate them so they can be used: grants if the home is for social housing, loans for private use.

**Bus scrappage scheme.** We will invest in a bus scrappage scheme that helps bus companies to replace old polluting buses with new low carbon ones and creates jobs.

**We will launch a green, £3.3bn economic stimulus package that will create 100,000 jobs.** We will support young people while they get valuable work experience by paying anyone undertaking an internship a 'training allowance' of £55 a week (£5 more than JSA). This will help employers who want to offer young people work experience but cannot afford to pay them. Young people will be able to take part for up to 3 months and receipt will be dependent on attendance. We will work with employers in the private and public sectors to ensure that there are a wide range of opportunities available.