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## Editorial: Lost and Damaged

With the UN confirming that they see ‘no credible pathway’ to keep below a 1.5C average rise in global temperature, we are now in a period of desperate damage limitation. It’s not 1.5C or let it rip because no other limit is worth the bother. The higher above 1.5C we allow it to get, the worse it will be. We have to fight for every gram of carbon reduction we can get as quickly as we can get it.

In this, the COP process is inadequate but essential. So far it has shaved about half a degree off the projected temperature rise by 2100. Not enough, but we’d be sunk without it.

There will be a huge fight at this COP over loss and damage. Faced with increased pressure from the Global South, the US has agreed to talk about this, but not to commit any money. The contrast of this eye dropper meanness with their gushing spigots of cash for military expenditure reveals their priorities and shows us where the resources can come from.

News that the UK failed to meet its September deadline for £260 million worth of aid to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) - aimed to help developing countries adapt and mitigate climate effects - sends the same careless and irresponsible message as Rishi Sunak’s evident reluctance to turn up at the COP. It is characteristic of this government that it sees fighting climate change as counterposed to repairing the domestic economy, not the way to do it.

The UN’s warning makes it clear that climate breakdown is not so much ‘above politics’, as foundational to any politics - and economics - that is relevant to the period we are in; so anything that doesn’t address it is becoming a form of displacement activity.

**With most people stating they would be proud to vote for a Party promoting renewable energy and insulation, we have the majority. Let’s mobilise it.**

*Paul Atkin (Editor)*

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## Quote of the Month

We hardly create any of the emissions that turn our climate into a living hell.

*Sherry Rehman Pakistan Climate Minister*

# Climate campaigns letter to Enough is Enough and People's Assembly

As trade unionists and activists campaigning on the climate crisis, we stand with you in your fight against the cost of living crisis and against threats of further austerity policies which would bring even worse suffering. We are writing because we believe there need to be closer links between this struggle and the fight against climate breakdown – that they are, in a very real sense, the same fight.

As fossil fuel dependency pushes up the cost of living, the same oil and gas giants which are making multi-billions in excess profits off the back of ordinary households are also driving climate breakdown, an irreversible catastrophe from which the poorest suffer and the richest profit.

As the causes are linked, so are the solutions, including:

- An end to plans for fracking and new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, neither of which will cut energy prices.
- Rapid investment in renewables, now nine times cheaper than energy from gas.
- A serious programme to insulate our homes, cutting energy bills and creating jobs.
- Immediate windfall taxes on fossil fuel producers and a move towards public ownership of energy.
- A comprehensive, affordable public transport system under public ownership.
- A plan for training, retraining and upskilling for the millions of green jobs that will be needed for just transition to a decarbonised economy, with trade union involvement at every stage of the decarbonisation process

Our request is that your campaigns against the current cost of living and energy crises consider the following steps:

1. Ensuring that there is at least one climate speaker at cost of living protests and events, and
2. Including within the campaign's core platform the need to end our dependence on fossil fuels which is perpetuating the climate and cost of living crises, with measures such as those set out above.

All the organisations signed up here are happy to try to provide speakers for rallies, marches as required and to discuss this further if you'd like to do so.

With all solidarity and best wishes.

*Climate Justice Coalition, Greener Jobs Alliance,  
Campaign Against Climate Change.*



## ITUC Demands on COP 27

COP27 will start in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt on 6 November and will run until the 18th. It is an important moment for global leaders to show progress with the implementation of climate policies. The urgency cannot be denied.

The global trade union movement is calling upon governments and all stakeholders to implement ambitious climate policies based on a Just Transition.

*Bert De Wel* ITUC

**Bert's Blog:** deals with the ITUC position in supporting Global South demands for *Loss and Damage*, adaptation finance and backdating for the underpaid pledge of \$100bn a year from the wealthy countries that have been responsible, between them, for 90% of global emission to date, and highlighting that Egypt is one of the 10 worst countries in the world for working people, with the demands put on the Egyptian government by the ITUC can be read [here](#).

**Jenny's Blog:** NEU Exec member and ITUC delegate Jenny Cooper will be writing a daily blog from the COP.

You can access it [here](#).

Jenny Cooper.  
Photo: Kois Miah Educate



## COP27 Global Day of Action 12 November



The Climate Justice Coalition is organising events in Blackpool, Belfast, Derry, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Plymouth and Newcastle, along with over 30 more local events across Britain and Ireland to give solidarity with activists in Egypt, and make the links between the cost of living, energy and climate crisis.

To find out more on the planned mobilisations, visit: [COP27 Mobilisations - COP26 Coalition](#) and [COP27 Coalition](#).

At the London demo the TRADE UNION BLOC meets at 11.30am Belvedere Road, alongside Jubilee Gardens, opposite the Shell Centre Building.

## Bold Solutions: The economic, climate and energy crises and how we fix them.

How do we combine our struggles for an equitable cost of living, workers' rights and a just transition to climate safety?

We urgently need a politics that builds a safe climate for future generations, a rapid and just transition with quality jobs, and an economy that rewards work, not wealth.

The TUC is convening a conference: two events, one in person and one online, coinciding with COP 27 and bringing trade union and climate activists together to gather solutions.

**Online Event:** Thursday 17 November 2022,

Speakers Shavanah Taj (General Secretary, Wales TUC), Camille Barbagallo (Climate Justice Coalition), Caitlin Lee (Unite Hospitality workers' branch, TBC) and more TBC.via Zoom. [Register here](#)

**In Person Conference:** Thursday 1 December 2022, 9.30 – 5.30pm.  
Council Chamber and Room 1, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS  
[Register here](#).

## Getting off gas

A recent report from [Ember](#) shows that the British power sector can transition from 40% gas reliance now to just 1% by 2030, five years ahead of the 2035 clean power target.

This would avoid £93 bn in gas costs, as in 2023 it will be at least six times more expensive to generate electricity from gas in the UK than from onshore wind. A clean power mix by 2030 will cut the UK's reliance on fossil fuel imports and avoid £93 billion in gas costs. This means we need to add roughly 90 GW capacity of wind and large-scale solar by 2030. Over the next four years, the UK has sufficient wind and solar capacity in the pipeline to put it on track for this, if all projects are approved and constructed.



# Social Justice and Pakistan Floods of 2022

The dramatic Pakistan floods of 2022 have refocused attention upon the climate challenge being faced by the world in general and its poorest denizens in particular. The calls for climate reparations in the form of debt forgiveness for the beleaguered economy are getting louder. The calls for climate reparations, although legitimate and morally sound, are unlikely to materialise into real relief for Pakistan or any other country of the global South. The House of Commons, EU or US Congress for example, are unlikely to find a conscience at this stage and vote to allocate money to redress historical wrongs. They never have and they never will under the present capitalist system. Therefore, instead of focusing on a desirable outcome of reparation, I want to reflect upon how social justice and equitable development through international solidarity could achieve safety and security in a climate change present for the people of Pakistan.

The Indus River system is the most heavily engineered and modified in the world. Its hydrology can more legitimately be described as cultural than natural. Unprecedented rains in the extreme north and south of the country, led to destructive flash floods in the north and heavy inundation in the south. A vast majority of the people are still suffering, because of inundation in the southern Sindh province. The rains were unavoidable but long term inundation was entirely avoidable. Western funded irrigation infrastructure, embankments and road berms act as dams interrupting the natural drainage of water and leading to the disease infested conditions that prevail at the moment.

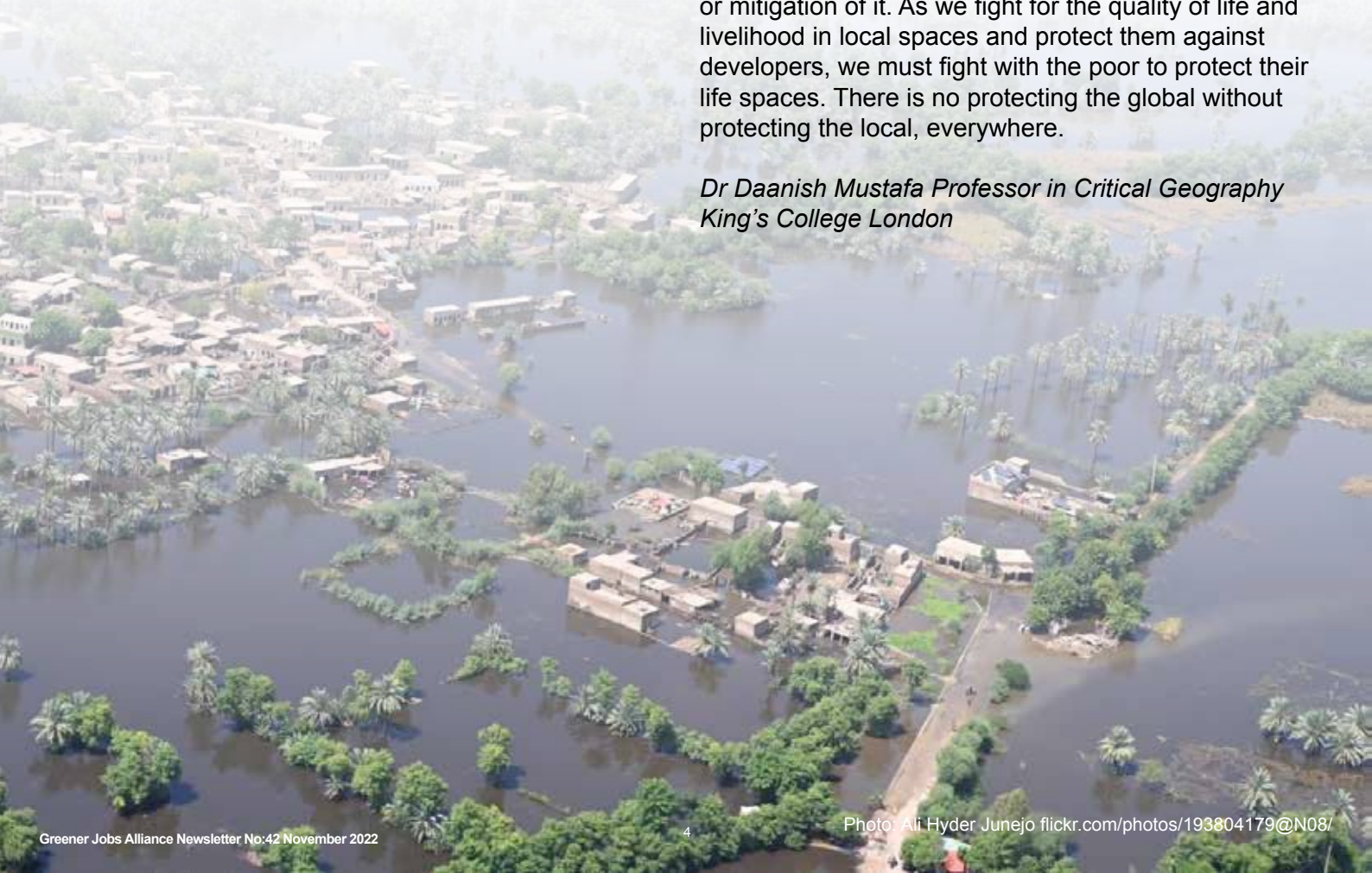
The infrastructure is largely to the benefit of Pakistani elites for either draining the toxic waste from their industries or farms, irrigating their commercial farms or driving their vehicles. A pro-poor development paradigm would've prioritised early warning systems, restoration

of wetlands as a bulwark against flooding, helping with local architectural adjustments to climate extremes, and in the aftermath provision of food medicine and above all drinking water and sanitation. None of these things require a lot of money. But they do require a democratic polity where the state is accountable to its people.

Much of the developmental interventions in Pakistan and the Global South are financed by the West and the consultancies and contracts for the same also go to Western corporations and consultants. The same cast of characters that are involved in hydro-fracking, destructive road building and urban design in the UK also feature in the Global South. As one protests hydro-fracking in this country one could also build solidarity with the people in the global South protesting dams, roads, urban land grabbing and outfall drains carrying toxic waste on their lands.

There is no separate protection against Climate Change or mitigation of it. As we fight for the quality of life and livelihood in local spaces and protect them against developers, we must fight with the poor to protect their life spaces. There is no protecting the global without protecting the local, everywhere.

*Dr Daanish Mustafa Professor in Critical Geography  
King's College London*



# UNISON Green Week

*“The devastating impacts of the climate emergency... fall heaviest on the disadvantaged. We are determined to be part of the necessary change – trade unions have a vital role to ensure urgent policies and measures deliver a fair transition to a greener planet.”*

*UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea*

This year UNISON started preparing members for Green Week from early August,

- encouraging local activity and training events,
- producing new national guidance on becoming a Green Rep,
- hosting a national webinar and three Women’s Environmental Network workshops specially tailored to UNISON members.

At the end of 2021, UNISON launched our report - Getting to Net Zero in Public Services: The road to Decarbonisation. This forms the basis of our engagement with government on a social partnership model for greening public services as a vital part of the network of solutions required to face the crisis.

Public Services directly emit around 8% of the UK’s greenhouse gases and that’s without including public transport. Add their influence on procurement, construction, social housing and the impact is even bigger, so Public Services have a huge role to play in meeting our climate commitments.

The good news is that the NHS aims to reach net zero by 2040, and more than a third of councils have already committed to get to that point by 2030.

So, our members and activists in public sector workplaces are an essential place to start tackling climate change right now.

We have members whose job is to tackle the physical impacts of climate change. Jackie Hamer, has been a senior environment officer at the Environment Agency for 30 years; and she has seen a sharp change in climate change conversations.

*“When I first started ... people hardly talked about climate change. It wasn’t a factor because it just wasn’t in the headlines. Now, we’ve all had to start thinking ahead ... about what climate change will bring. You can’t just go along with a lot of short-term targets like we used to do, we have to think really far ahead. Our old certainties aren’t certainties any more”*

But all our members work for employers where trade unions can get involved in greening the workplace and a fair transition approach to getting to Net Zero.

At our Conference this year, members voted overwhelmingly to

- develop our work on climate change
- engage in international, and national, policy making about the best and fairest way of achieving decarbonisation
- keep working with the civil society movements that keep leaders and governments on track.
- ‘Environmental Officer’ (or Green Rep) is now a formal part of every Branch Officer Group – so every branch has to include it in its annual elections.

We aim to harness our membership’s desire for engagement on this issue.

We will be represented at COP27 this month by our national executive council member Stephen Smellie, who also attended COP26 last year in Glasgow as part of the International Trades Unions Congress delegation, and represents the union on the Climate Justice Coalition co-ordinating group.

UNISON has one of only two TUC places within the ITUC delegation and will be working hard to promote public services as key models of green transition and to ensure that the voices of all workers are heard in Egypt.

UNISON fully understands that the climate emergency, the global cost of living crisis and human rights abuses facing activists in Egypt are linked by the political choice to put profits ahead of people, and this will be dramatically exposed and expressed at COP27.



## Five Strategies to Challenge the “Jobs vs. Environment” Frame

I work in the United States trying to help workers and unions to become advocates for protecting the climate. We are frequently met by a narrative or frame which portrays a fundamental conflict between protecting jobs and protecting the environment. This often is interpreted to mean a fundamental conflict between organized labor and environmentalists. The organization I work with, the Labor Network for Sustainability, fights every day for a different frame. Its key elements are:

- **Climate change is the real job killer**
- **Jobs fixing the climate are the best plan for worker employment and social justice**

We use five strategies for changing the “Jobs vs. the Environment” frame:

- 1. Recognize the common interest in human survival and in sustainable livelihoods.** To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, if God had intended some people to fight just for the environment and others to fight just for the economy, s/he would have made some people who could live without money and others who could live without water and air. There are not two groups of people, environmentalists and workers. We all need a livelihood and we all need a livable planet to live on. If we don't address both, we'll starve together while we're waiting to fry together.
- 2. Look for alliances around specific issues in the real world.** For example, workers in the transportation industry have joined with environmentalists to advocate shifting from private to public transportation -- something that would create large numbers of skilled jobs, greatly reduce greenhouse gases and local pollution, and save money for consumers. Unions have similarly joined with environmental, religious, and community groups to fight for “renewable energy standards” that create local jobs and reduce pollution by shifting from fossil fuels to renewables and energy use reduction.
- 3. Seek win-win solutions to conflicts.** An LNS study called Jobs Beyond Coal found that in a number of cases unions representing workers in coal-fired power plants have actually supported the planned closing of their highly-polluting workplaces -- because environmentalists and government officials worked with them to ensure a “just transition” in which workers livelihoods and the needs of their communities were addressed. Similar strategies can be used in many situations. For example, when the Huntley coal-fired power plant in Tonawanda, NY began cutting production and reducing its tax payments to the town, leading to layoffs and school closings, the teachers and electrical workers unions formed a coalition called the Huntley Alliance with the area's central labor council and its environmental coalition. They won state funding to offset lost tax revenue and continue to campaign for jobs and/or retraining for those employed at the plant and reuse of the plant for activities that will enhance the economic and cultural life of the community. Such strategies can also be applied proactively: labor climate activists in New Jersey pressured Rutgers University, the state's public higher education system, to divest from fossil fuels and invest instead in local job-creating climate protection. Indeed, every environmental campaign should have a jobs program and every jobs program should be designed to address our climate catastrophe.
- 4. Support a broad public agenda for creating full employment by converting to a climate-safe economy.** Just as the New Deal in the Great Depression of the 1930s put millions of unemployed people to work doing the jobs America's communities needed, so today we need a “Green New Deal” to rebuild our energy, transportation, building, and other systems to drastically reduce the climate-destroying greenhouse gas pollution they pour into the air. Such a program would put an end to the “jobs versus environment” conflict because environmental protection would produce millions of new jobs and expansion of jobs would protect the environment. While Green New Deal Legislation is currently stymied at the federal level, local and state coalitions are already implementing it at a local and state level. For example, in Somerville, Massachusetts, a coalition of labor, environmental, and immigrant groups has persuaded the city to institute a “Somerville Green New Deal” to invest in good jobs and social justice through climate protection projects. Such “Green New Deal from Below” efforts are occurring throughout the US, and can serve as building blocks for a national and even a global Green New Deal.
- 5. Pursue the vision of a new economy.** Just expanding the kind of economy we have will only expand the problems of inequality and environmental catastrophe our current economy is already creating. Instead we need to be guided by the vision of a new economy where we all have secure livelihoods based on work that builds the sustainable world we need.

# Debate:

## Green Socialist New Deal from Green Left

We are proposing a fusion of Green and Socialist policies to meet the combined crises of climate collapse and capitalist inequality in Britain.

Labour are hinting at some form of Green New Deal, but they still talk of growing Britain's failing capitalist economy; as if both match up.

There has to be a combined challenge to failed policies on carbon reduction and growing inequality, so only worked out policies of Eco-Socialism are sufficient.

To eliminate fossil fuels from the system in the next decade, we need

- carbon accounting
- carbon taxation
- carbon rationing

This means a wholesale shake down of many industries and commerce across the country. Thousands of jobs in fossil fuel sectors like oil, gas, coal, chemicals, and their subsidiaries will need rapid phase out and transfer to clean energy sectors like wind, solar, hydro, wave, geothermal etc, and there will be thousands of new, decent jobs to replace the old jobs.

So, **JUST TRANSITION** is the second key policy area of the Green Socialist Deal. approved and constructed.

The **Centre for Alternative Technology** (CAT) in mid-Wales has done brilliant research on '**Zero Carbon Britain**' to work out what the new green economy will really need. This is work that should be being done by Government departments.

We need an alliance between the Green and Labour movements to achieve our Carbon-free objectives. Really greening this economy means challenging capitalist structures. Democratic worker and consumer co-operatives must run public services, starting with devolved renewable energy co-operatives and food growing.



- Land (Land Value Tax),
- Phosphorus and nitrogen water pollution (water and sewage companies and agri-business mainly),
- empty property (e.g. landed estates, corporations),
- industrial and commercial waste,
- gross wealth, starting at 1% of all assets at £5million and rising
- Financial transaction tax
- carbon and methane emissions (Carbon escalator tax starting at £100/ tonne in first year)

We need to socialise all energy production and distribution, decentralised to regional levels and districts. Renewable power can be created in each district to serve communities. This should go alongside major energy conservation measures to reduce energy demand by 50% over the medium term. Estimated Clean Energy direct and indirect jobs = 600,000.

To roll out mass insulation will need about 400,000 workers over the next 10+ years. They will need training first then deployment in every one of Britain's 400 districts in teams surveying and fitting insulation and renewable technology street by street and estate.

Retrofit Teams would need,

Surveyor	Team Manager	Plumber
Electrician	Fitter	Builder
Joiner	Roofer	Decorator
Finisher	Heating Engineer	*Horticulturist

\*Green walls, Sustainable Drainage Systems etc.

They should refit a small house or flat in a month. Start with the poorest districts first supported by regional resources. That would mean Scotland, North England and South Wales first. This would take over 20 years at a target of **ONE MILLION HOMES** a year.

In the mid 1960's a million homes were built in Britain in one year. This was the peak of house building and never repeated; made possible by Council Direct Labour Organisations (DLO) which employed hundreds of building workers.



*Gleadless Valley, Sheffield*

The Climate Jobs-Workforce for the Climate Emergency booklet from CACCTU lays out a practical policy for carbon free transition in Britain, spelling out how we can create up to two million new jobs over the next twenty years while decarbonising the economy at the same time

- We need an expanded agro-forestry sector to replace the centralised, polluting, industrial agriculture of today, so every community can have locally grown food and thriving market gardens within walking distance, replacing food imports covering thousands of food miles and creating thousands of new jobs in a rejuvenated countryside.
- More new jobs in health and social care (up to a million), clean, integrated transport like tram and trolleybus networks and reopened train lines (100,000+ jobs).
- A green economy will have a thriving recycling and repair sector where material and component waste will be reduced to low figures. More thousands of jobs.

Let's campaign in our unions and social movements to get going on this. The future can be bright if we will it.

**Mark Douglas: Editor 'Green Socialist New Deal'**

## Climate Education initiative for former coalfield areas

Climate Crisis can be a tricky issue for some people in old coalfield areas.

- It can be hard to accept that the job that so many family members did for years has contributed to such a crisis.
- Coal did benefit humanity in many ways for a long time and many sacrifices were made in the coalfield areas to win the coal. In the Durham coalfield alone around 20 000 men and boys lost their lives in the pits.
- These areas also had a powerful community spirit and saw the development of many inventions; railways, the hydraulic crane, turbines and others.

Since the defeat of the Miners Strike in the 1980's these areas have been neglected and the confidence and aspirations of many young people is often lower than it could be.

We need educational initiatives which reflect the need to keep the spirit of strong communities and innovation, and to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Students in the old coalfield areas should have a sense of pride in past achievements in their area and look forward with confidence to opportunities in the renewable energy sector in the future.

On **Monday 14 November** there will be a Zoom meeting led by Peter Sagar from Newcastle NEU to discuss how such an educational initiative, working towards a Just Transition, could be developed.

Join it [here](#).



Photo: flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/



# Working together with local authorities for publicly accountable social housing retrofitting

## In person workshop

University of Westminster (Regent Street Campus) 309 Regent Street, Fyvie Hall, London W1B 2HW

**Friday 8 November 2022, 12:00 – 5pm**

The workshop will bring a social perspective to bear on retrofit strategies that too often seem driven by technical priorities implemented in the context of a market economy.

The urgent need to combat climate change and address the energy and cost of living crises presents an opportunity to develop an alternative retrofitting strategy that goes together with improving social housing and transforming the construction industry into an inclusive eco-sector with good employment and working conditions.

In comparable past crises local authority direct labour organisations have played a key role in developing and renovating social housing.

The workshop provides a platform for exploring how

- local communities can work together to develop a social and labour centred approach to retrofitting today
- provide proper training and future employment for young people and good quality, low energy housing.

This connects debates on retrofitting and improving the quality of social housing with the transformation of construction vocational education and training (VET), the construction labour process and employment relations.

- The first session considers the housing situation, in particular social housing, and what is and can be done by local authorities to address this and develop retrofit programmes.
- The second session puts the spotlight on the construction sector, beginning with an overview of the trade union approach to retrofitting, then providing the example of a local authority that overcomes the fragmentation of employment in the construction process, followed by the need for and difficulties of design/construction collaboration.
- The third session considers the VET system and what needs to be done to improve this and prepare young people for large-scale retrofit programmes.

The workshop will end with a panel discussion, drawing together the three strands of the programme and debating what a successful large-scale retrofit programme might look like, focussing particularly on Camden, Islington and Wandsworth local authorities.

It is anticipated that participants will include local authority councillors and officers, academics and researchers, unionists, employers, construction workers, VET experts and further educationalists, and more!

**Reserve a place here.**

For further information, contact, Linda Clarke: [clarkel@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:clarkel@westminster.ac.uk)



# Fit for the Future

## Why we need to make our education buildings greener, safer and healthier places and how to get started

Webinar on 8 November 5pm - 6pm

Making sure the UK's education buildings are fit for the future and energy efficient in this time of energy and climate crisis and runaway inflation is a win-win.

### Speakers

- Anna Markova from the TUC,
- Harry Paticas from Retrofitting Action for Tomorrow (RAFT)
- James Simmons, headteacher from Oliver Goldsmith's school in Brent,

This webinar will outline practical steps to cut carbon and save cash.

[Click here to register.](#)



See the TUC Report **Schools Built for the Future** [here](#).

*Patrick Bennett*

### NEU training

All welcome, not just members

- **How to become a successful Eco-School**

9 November 11 - 11.30

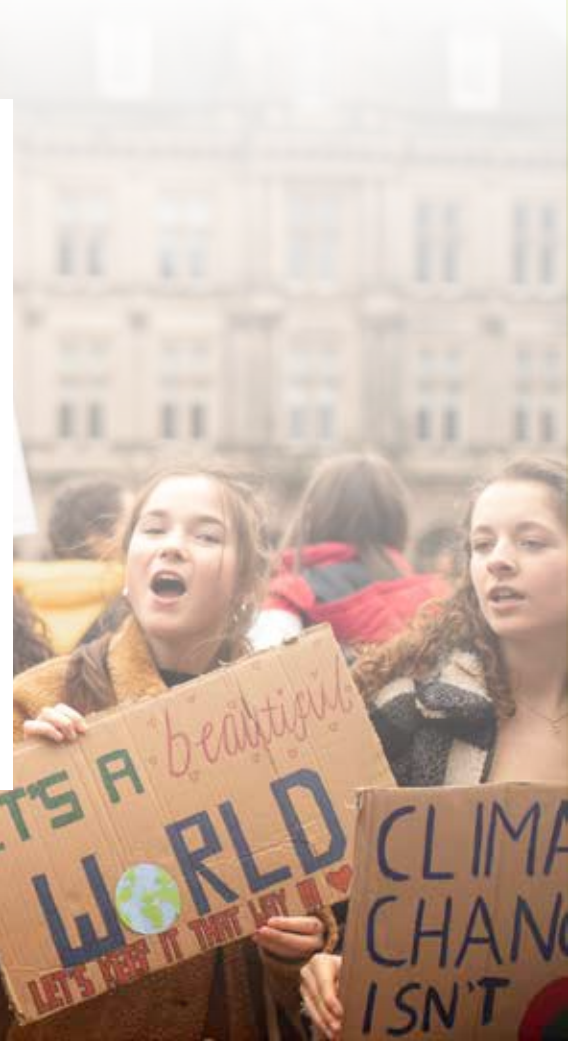
[Register here](#)

- **Climate and environmental education: Don't (just) mention the Environment**

7 November 3.45 - 4.45

[Register here.](#)

*Sarah Lyons*



# Green Bites

## Statistics of the Month

New polling by **Opinion** for the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit found most respondents would “be proud of voting” for a party that prioritised clean energy policies like boosting renewables (78%) and insulation in homes (72%). Only 29% said they would be proud of voting for a party supporting large-scale fracking, and 48% said they would be embarrassed by doing so.

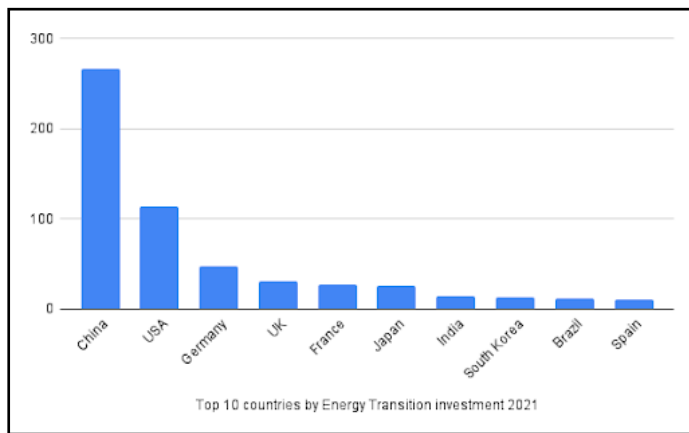
When asked how they would perceive a political party downgrading climate change policy from being a priority issue, the top responses were ‘damaging’ (38%), ‘backwards’ (36%), ‘dangerous’ (33%).

## \$2 Trillion

Windfall profits made by fossil fuel producers above their 2021 income. Magic money tree. Right there. From **IEA World Energy outlook**.

## Graphics of the Month

The top ten countries account for 75% of global energy transition investment. Original graph [here](#)



## Supporting the Greener Jobs Alliance

The GJA is a loose coalition of organisations involved in climate change work.

We wish to make it clear that the views expressed in our publications and activities do not necessarily reflect the position of all the organisations whom we work with.

We will always seek to make that clear by listing the organisations that have specifically signed up to a particular initiative.

## Is your local school involved in Let's Go Zero 2030?

**Explore the map** to see where teachers, students and school communities are taking action to become zero carbon by 2030.

## Web sites of the month

The **C40 Intelligence Hub** puts together lessons being learnt by cities across the world as we innovate our way to transition. This edition includes Climate Budgeting, Building reuse and repair economies, redesigning city streets, how to transform transit in two years, tackling energy poverty and the Urban 20 communique to the G20.

## DeBunk: Rebutting False Climate Narratives Series

Misleading information is a major blocker of climate action. Over the coming months DeSmog will pilot the **DeBunk project**, a social media info service designed to correct false climate narratives, arm the public with science (and its sources) and expose serial misinformers and pro-fossil fuel agendas.

## Election of the Year



**Democracia**  
Photo: Lula Da Silva