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**To: All Branches**

Dear Colleagues,

**Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) Newsletter No. 57 – February 2024:**

### **Introduction & History – The GJA:**

The Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) came into existence as a result of funding from Battersea and Wandsworth TUC. The GJA was launched to promote skills training and job creation to meet the needs of Britain's rapidly growing low carbon sectors and to green the whole economy. The transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy can drive sustainable economic recovery and job creation in every part of the country as well as making existing jobs more secure. But this requires a more strategic national and local approach to deliver the workforce skills needed and to stimulate demand for clean energy and energy efficiency services.

The Greener Jobs Alliance liaises at a national and local level to build the broadest possible support for the policies, investment, partnerships and commitments needed to drive the transition to a low carbon economy.

The Greener Jobs Alliance liaises with training bodies, colleges, universities, employers, local and national Government, trade unions, housing associations, campaign and community groups – to build the policies, investment and partnerships needed to drive the transition to a low carbon economy.

GJA Founder Graham Petersen: The founder GJA Secretary and Newsletter editor was Graham Petersen who is well known to the CWU and has a long standing working relationship with the Union. He is a former TUC tutor and course designer who created safety reps training courses and the successful TUC Occupational Health & Safety Diploma Course. He was the head of the Trade Union Studies Centre at South Thames College before retirement from the post and has been a visitor and guest speaker at CWU events and meetings. After 30 editions, Graham stood down at the GJA AGM and handed over to Paul Atkin as newsletter editor and Tahir Latif as GJA Secretary. Graham remains a GJA Steering Group member and is now working part time for the Wales TUC having recently written a publication for them 'Greener workplaces for a just transition – a Wales TUC toolkit for trade unionists' which was circulated by the CWU Health, Safety and Environment Department.

**GJA 'Free' Courses:**

The GJA runs a number of 'free' courses on the environment for Trade Union Reps in different parts of the UK which have been attended by a number of CWU Reps with details published in the newsletter.

### **The GJA now offer three 'on-line' courses as follows:**

#### **1. Climate Change Awareness**

This short introductory course is aimed at trade unionists and anyone wishing to develop their understanding of the issues around climate change. The course is divided into 4 modules. The modules contain background information, short videos, graphs and illustrations.

- **Module 1:** Climate Change Explained
- **Module 2:** International Responses
- **Module 3:** Trade Union Responses
- **Module 4:** Getting Involved

At the end of each section, there are references and links to additional materials if you want to go further. There are no formal tests and you can work through the materials at your own pace but there are optional quizzes to check your understanding at the end of modules 1, 2 and 3.

#### **2. A Trade Union Guide to Just Transition**

Social justice must be at the heart of the development of a net-zero carbon economy. The course covers:

- The meaning and history of the term just transition
- Why it should be a priority issue
- UK and international policies and case studies
- Ideas for developing an action plan

It is aimed at trade unionists and anyone wishing to improve their understanding of why just transition should be central to climate change policy.

#### **3. Air Quality – a trade union issue**

The following issues will be explored in this free online course. It is made up of 3 modules,

- **Module 1:** The Causes and Health Impacts of Air Pollution
- **Module 2:** The Law and Government Policy
- **Module 3:** Trade Union Responses and Campaigns

**Link to GJA on-line Courses:** <https://greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/courses/>

### **TUC Green Rep Courses:**

**The TUC has announced a series of new 'free' to attend 'Green Rep Training Courses' for 2024 as follows:**

All union reps and officers are welcome, new or experienced, and whether in any Union role. All trade unionists can benefit from understanding what the TU movement can do to protect and empower Union members during the climate crisis.

- Stockport College Online 5, 12,19 Feb '24
- City of Bristol College In-person 11,18, 25 Jun '24
- Newcastle College In-person 11,18, 25 Jun '24

**Link to the TUC 'Green Rep' Courses:-** <https://www.tuc.org.uk/training/TUCcourses>

### **Paul Atkin Editorial GJA Newsletter Issue 57 –**

Paul focuses this issue's editorial on ensuring that Labour is pressed on delivering on environmental commitments and a solid green industrial plan in the middle of the current climate emergency and as stated in the 'Guardian' this month – "Voters want to know that Labour will change the country for the better rather than just muddling on." It has to be foundational for any politics that is adequate or relevant for the times we are actually in! Paul points out that at a time when even the CBI is calling for £50 billion to be invested in transition by 2030, the Labour leadership's needs to up its investment proposals remembering that politically, their environmental pledge was Labour's second most popular policy and at the same time 'kick-start' growth in the economy. The GJA's letter to shadow minister Rachel Reeves sent in October still awaits a response! 75% of Labour Party list members oppose any watering down of Labour's original environmental plan and commitments! **Read the full editorial & Newsletter Edition 57 attached.**

### **Contents GJA Newsletter 57:**

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- **Grantham Institute: why £26 Billion annual investment is needed**
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- **COP Report back meeting**
- **TUC Green Rep Courses**
- **Yorkshire and Humber Just Transition Network**
- **And Still We Rise Festival**
- **Green Bites**

### **Green Bites:**

- **£43Billion** - The cost of fitting CCUS to all 4 Biomass units at Drax power station. This is estimated to add £1.7 billion to overall annual fuel bills across the UK. Drax is already subsidised at £600 million a year.
- **1** - The number of 1.3 MW wind farms needed to offset the gas that would be lost if no new licences were awarded in the North Sea.
- **500,000** - Number of trees planted in London since Sadiq Khan took over from Boris Johnson.
- **28** - The number of insurance companies that have already refused cover for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.
- **1954** - The year that fossil fuel and car companies first knew about the effect of greenhouse gases.
- **60%** - The projected cut in demand for fossil fuels by 2050 just from the domino effect of reduced costs and increased efficiency of electric batteries, making them stranded assets whatever they do.

### **What is a just transition?**

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*General Secretary: Dave Ward*

A just transition seeks to ensure that the substantial benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically – be they countries, regions, industries, communities, workers or consumers.

A rapid increase in the speed and scale of actions required to reduce the risks of climate change will create new economic opportunities.

Whilst a just transition is mainly based on environmental considerations, it is also shaped by other structural changes affecting labour markets, such as globalisation, labour-saving technologies and the shift to services.

A just transition is an integral part of many of the global commitments adopted by countries. The Paris Agreement acknowledges *“the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”* and highlights the importance of workers in responding to climate change.

Furthermore, the just transition concept links to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, explicitly drawing together SDGs No 12 – climate action, No 10 – reduced inequalities, No 8 – decent work and economic growth, and No 7 - affordable and clean energy.

Many countries have recognised the challenge that this transformation entails and are taking measures to protect those that are most vulnerable and affected by the changes, including across the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) regions.

- The European Union’s Just Transition Mechanism is integral to the EU’s Green Deal, targeted at ensuring “a fair transition to a climate-neutral economy, leaving no one behind” and aims to mobilise at least €150 billion over the period 2021-2027;
- The Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration signed by 50 countries at COP24, which states that: *“a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs are crucial to ensure an effective and inclusive transition”*;
- Climate Action for Jobs Initiative, co-led by the International Labour Organisation, Spain and Peru, with 46 countries committing to develop “national plans for a just transition and create decent green jobs”.
- The UNFCCC Gender Action plan, whereby parties to the UNFCCC have recognized the importance of involving women and men equally in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive.

#### **Quote of the Month**

*“The optimal time to increase public investment is precisely when an economy driven by market forces is not working. That time is now.”*

***D.Abbott MP - Morning Star***

**Much more in the GJA Newsletter No 57 February 2024 attached.**

**Attachment:**

- GJA Newsletter No.57 for February 2024.

Yours sincerely



**Dave Joyce**  
**National Health, Safety & Environment Officer**



Image by Peg Hunter on Flickr

## Editorial: “Ambition were made of sterner stuff”: The £28 billion pound question

*What is more irresponsible than ditching a green industrial plan in the middle of a climate emergency?... Voters want to know that Labour will change the country for the better rather than just muddling on.” Guardian Editorial 3/2/24*

Just muddling on it is, then?

Although the climate crisis is not, as XR have argued, “above politics”, it does have to be foundational for any politics that is adequate or relevant for the times we are actually in.

At a time when even the **CBI** is calling for £50 billion to be invested in transition by 2030, the Labour leadership’s plan to cut its proposed level to £4.7 billion a year (from £28 billion) and the insulation programme to £1.3 billion (from £6 billion) - falls suicidally short in more ways than one.

Politically, this pledge was Labour’s second most popular policy, partly because it actually offered hope. Something the leadership seems frightened of.

Environmentally it will make sure that the UK continues to slip back from meeting its targets; with catastrophic consequences, here and elsewhere.

Economically, maintaining a level of investment barely higher than that of the Tories (£1.2 billion a year on insulation budgeted from 2022-26 for example), will ensure a stagnant (and increasingly unsustainable) economy in which conditions of life continue to erode. See the Grantham Institute Report below on p 3.

Without the investment needed to kick start growth, there won’t be any. Abandoning this investment in the hope that there will be a miraculous recovery, produced presumably by liberating the same animal spirits of the Financial Sector that led to the 2008 crash and has kept us in the doldrums ever since, isn’t so much putting the cart before the horse, as hoping the cart will move without one.

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- And Still We Rise Festival
- Green Bites

Our [letter to Rachel Reeves](#), sent in October and still awaiting a response, puts this to her in more detail. We'd suggest that local Labour Parties, and affiliated unions might like to ask these questions of their MPs and PPCs too.

Keir Starmer says that Labour's "ambition" remains intact, and sent round a ludicrous email to Party members claiming that this shrunken commitment would achieve all the things that the £28 billion would have. But, we can add up, and we know that "ambition" without the means to realise it is simply not credible.

We need better and will have to mobilise for it. A straw Poll on Labour List showing 75% of respondents opposing this retreat shows that a resistance is there to be mobilised. Let's get on it!

Paul Atkin Ed

# IEA projects massive acceleration of Renewable Energy



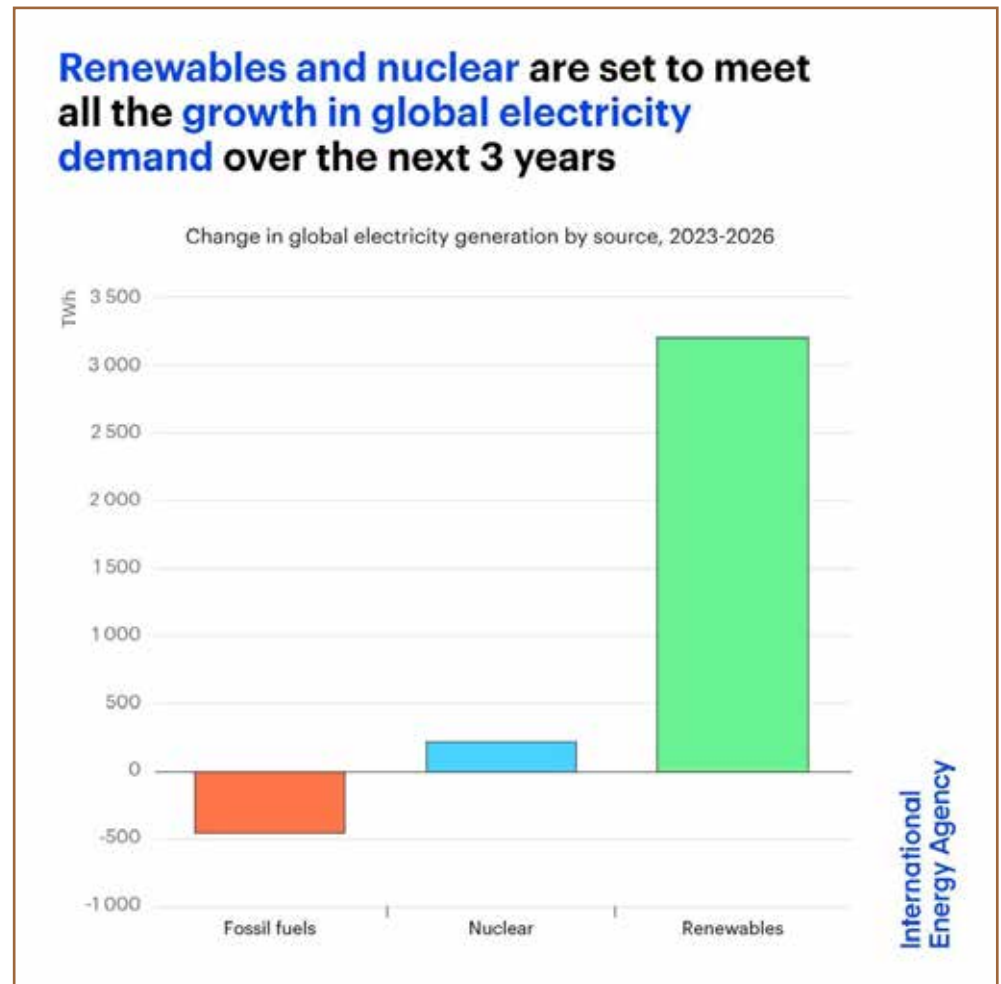
The IEA's [Renewables market report](#) shows the world's capacity to generate renewable electricity is expanding faster than at any time in the last three decades, meaning that a tripling of global capacity by 2030 is achievable.

The amount of renewable energy capacity added to energy systems around the world grew by 50% in 2023, reaching almost 510 gigawatts (GW), with solar PV accounting for three-quarters of additions worldwide.

The largest growth took place in China, which commissioned as much solar PV in 2023 as the entire world did in 2022, while China's wind power additions rose by 66% year-on-year. The increases in renewable energy capacity in Europe, the United States and Brazil also hit all-time highs.

This report - the first comprehensive assessment of global renewable energy deployment trends since the conclusion of COP28 - shows that tripling global renewable capacity from 2022 levels by 2030, as agreed by the Parties, would take it to 11 000 GW. This is in line with the IEA Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario.

Under existing policies and market conditions, global renewable capacity is forecast to reach 7 300 GW by 2028. Although this growth means that renewables account for almost all newly added power capacity worldwide, that trajectory would see global capacity increase to just 2.5 times its current level by 2030, falling short of the tripling goal. In their accelerated case forecast, global cumulative capacity more than doubles to reach over 8 130 GW by 2028, putting the world nearly on track to meet the global tripling pledge.



# Grantham Institute: why £26 Billion annual investment is needed



Photo by John Englarton Flickr

*This Report, authored by Nicholas Stern and others, makes the very basic case that without this level of investment the UK economy will both fail to make the necessary transition to sustainability, and will stagnate into the bargain. Their argument is summarised below. Ed*

- The UK has a major productivity growth problem, with chronic underinvestment across both the public and private sectors a key cause.
- Investing in the global transition to an efficient, resilient and inclusive economy needs to be a bigger part of restoring productivity and output growth.
- Too much current investment continues to be in the unsustainable economy, such as development of new oil and gas fields in the North Sea and the construction of homes and offices that are not energy-efficient or climate-resilient – this raises costly risks.
- As a centre of innovation, the UK is well placed to build knowledge networks and supply chains for the goods and services of the 21st century.
- Investment needs to cover all key sectors: energy, transport, housing and industry, plus agriculture and waste. Much will come from the private sector, but government has a basic role to play to guide investors ... enabling workers to participate in the 21st century economy.
- The UK needs to increase annual public investment by around 1% of GDP (£26 billion at current prices) to make up for decades of underinvestment.
- Together with a set of public policies to drive innovation and address gross systemic inefficiency, this would help crowd in private investment in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, and could form part of a rise in annual overall public and private investment that taken together is equivalent to at least 3% of GDP, or £77 billion.

[Full report here.](#)

## Port Talbot motion

The announcement that TATA steel is set to close down its two Port Talbot blast furnaces, shedding around 2,800 jobs, is a devastating blow to the workers, the local community and the regional economy.

This decision is far more about the interests of TATA's shareholders than about the climate, and shows what happens without the full participation of workers in transition plans.

This [background briefing](#) from CACCTU explores the technological issues for steel decarbonisation, the TATA plan and the alternative plans put forward by the relevant unions (Unite, Community and GMB) for people wanting to propose the motion at their branch or other TU forum.

[This motion of support](#) for Port Talbot workers has been written for urgent adoption by union branches, regions and trades councils. Please table the motion in your union and share it widely with colleagues.



Port Talbot Steelworks. Wikipedia. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port\_Talbot\_Steelworks



# Future Homes proposed standard is not the future but the past

The government is proposing a new Future Homes Standard, which is [open to consultation](#) until 6 March,

This has been much criticised, including by the Passivhaus Trust, the AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) and the UK Green Building Council for being too low; lower indeed than many houses already built today, lacking ambition, and for the approach to ventilation and air-tightness. [See their detailed response here.](#)

It also stands in sharp contrast to the European Union's revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which includes the requirement to calculate whole life carbon emissions of buildings and to develop proposals for climate neutrality.

Fran Bradshaw, architect and Passivhaus (PH) expert, agrees that a better option would be to adopt the passivhaus standard, which has been tried and tested now for more than 30 years; achieving the low energy and increased comfort that 'zero carbon' building aims for.

Cost differentials have also decreased substantially since the first PH projects in the UK. So much so that, were the standard to be adopted widely, these would cease to be significant; so the benefit of reducing CO2 is matched for the residents by the benefit of reduced energy costs and increased comfort.

Fran considers that the proposed Future Homes standard is not the future but a slight reworking of the present.

- Fabric improvements are minimal and embodied energy is ignored. This is a false economy because with new build, getting the fabric right isn't difficult, and it's much more expensive and complicated to change later.
- As well as needing the fabric to be more energy efficient - given that new houses will be with us for the next 50/60 years or more, and given the climate uncertainties predicted - being prepared for greater extremes, for hotter (and colder) weather, for strong winds should be a priority.
- Air source heat pumps are required for heating and airtightness is acknowledged to be crucial in reducing heat loss, but only extract ventilation is proposed. The key principle with low energy building, especially in the UK climate, is "no insulation without proper ventilation". Without managed control of fresh air intake, as well as extract, and with high density occupation and/or increased occupant daytime use, indoor air quality could suffer, which will have a direct effect on occupant health and wellbeing.

Jenny Brierley, ventilation researcher, adds her disappointment. She explains that the proposed Future Homes Standard offers no real improvement in fabric standard. It is driven by decarbonisation (absolutely needed), but with reducing energy use seemingly now less important than switching to zero carbon energy. It seems that fabric improvements and airtightness are only considered necessary as far as needed to make heat pumps work efficiently. Ventilation could easily be under-specified, as builders often overshoot the target airtightness. The potential risks to health of poor ventilation are now much more widely understood, especially in the housing association sector.

This shift from 'fabric first' to 'decarb first' seems even more problematic in retrofit. Fuel poverty is now so widespread, yet this approach risks households being exposed to even higher energy bills.

*Linda Clarke*



# GKN factory occupation



**This is the film** Reel News made with GKN workers just before Xmas, detailing their struggle

- to save jobs and reopen the factory under workers control
- transitioning from producing autoparts to cargo bikes and solar panels,
- prioritising the needs of the local community over profits.

Their plan involves continued occupation and mobilisations to stop the bosses getting rid of everybody, alongside a popular share ownership scheme to raise the million euros they need to start production.

When this video was made, they were under threat of everybody being sacked on January 1st; but had already raised over 300,000 euros in shares.

The bosses have now agreed to delay the sackings until at least June 2024, after a NYE party packed out the factory with 7,000 people; and in the past month they've doubled the money raised in popular shares to over 600,000 euros.

Now they have extended the share scheme until June - and are now very confident they can raise the full million euros.

If your union branch, organisation, or even a group of friends want to contribute, War on Want have set up this [go fund me page](#).

The workers say they can't create an alternative model to capitalist fossil fuel production in just one factory - but they can create an example of what is possible.



*GKN: trade union delegation to Florence*

Reel News are planning a trade union delegation from the UK to the GKN factory in Florence; to show solidarity and spread their visionary ideas back here, like the need for every sector to make plans for a just transition. **This film** details ideas that came out of a union workshop on a just transition for the hospitality sector for example.

The delegation is likely to go in late Spring/early summer, depending on developments; like a big mobilisation/demonstration, or even the start of production under workers control.

Get in touch with [info@reelnews.co.uk](mailto:info@reelnews.co.uk) if interested in coming.

An interview with the GKN workers giving the latest information about their struggle and the way they think can be [read here](#).

# GJA: Response to the interim report of the London Climate Resilience Review

The Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) submitted a response in 2023 to the consultation on London climate resilience. In our response we put forward 10 proposals. None of these were included in the interim report.

We are now responding to the [interim report that was published in January 2024](#) as follows:

The GJA welcomes the 20 recommendations that are directed in the report at the Government and the Mayor. We believe the report could be strengthened by adopting a recognition of climate risks and their impact on workplaces. In particular:

**a) Heat** – Extreme heat is identified along with flooding as one of the main risks on Page 16. There is no reference in the report to the specific risks of high temperatures as an occupational risk. Millions of Londoners spend a significant part of their lives in workplaces. For many this will be in the hottest part of the day during heatwaves.

## Recommendations

i) Include a section on the occupational health risks of extreme temperatures.

ii) Add a recommendation to Government to legislate for maximum temperatures in the workplace in line with [TUC guidance](#).

## b) A clear strategic vision –

The report's recommendation 1 (Page 17) refers to the need for a clear national and regional strategic vision. It asks the question '*who should be consulted about the vision*'.

The GJA firmly believes that trade unions should be consulted. In our submission we made several recommendations on how this could be done. None of these appear in the interim report.

In fact there is not a single reference to trade unions as stakeholders. This is an oversight that needs to be addressed. Adaptation policies will have major impacts on the world of work.

The example of heat stress given above is one of many cases where workers will be impacted. It follows that unions recognised in the workplace will need an input at local, regional, and national level.

## Recommendations

i) National Government should adopt legislation that recognises the right of unions to appoint Green Reps

ii) National Government should establish a Just Transition Commission which includes key stakeholders like trade unions.

iii) The Mayor should establish a Just Transition Commission for London with trade union membership and a workstream on adaptation and climate resilience measures.

iv) Employers should be encouraged to adopt climate mitigation and adaptation policies that are consistent with climate risks and form part of the bargaining process with recognised unions.

**c) Air pollution** – There are no references in the report to air pollution as an adaptation issue. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change which in turn exacerbates the main risks like extreme temperature, flooding and others specified in the report.

Equally, extreme weather magnifies the impact of air pollution. For example, the creation of heat canyons, particularly in high-rise areas that trap hot air. Urban Heat Islands are a particular problem in London. Increased temperatures generate ground level ozone that contributes to respiratory problems. Indoor and outdoor pollution has

significant impacts on workers and yet the regulatory framework does not reflect this.

## Recommendations

i) National Government should recognise air pollution as an occupational health issue requiring clear standards for workplace exposure and enforcement.

ii) National Government should ensure adequate funding for regional and local authorities to implement adaptation measures to deal with air pollution, excessive temperatures and linked factors like improving the energy efficiency and ventilation of buildings.

## d) National Climate Service

– Page 23 of the interim report contains a proposal for a Cabinet Office Minister for Adaptation and Resilience (Recommendation 8). We feel this runs the risk of putting climate adaptation in a silo. There is considerable overlap between climate mitigation and adaptation. Separating the 2 would not reflect the current approach where the Climate Change Committee combines oversight of both aspects. Separate reports on each are issued but they are under the same jurisdiction.

## Recommendation

National Government should establish a National Climate Service with a Cabinet Office Minister overseeing progress on both climate mitigation and reducing emissions, and the National Adaptation Programme.

*Graham Petersen*

# UCU: Mainstreaming the climate and environmental emergency

**How can trade unions reform themselves to meet the challenges of environmental breakdown, reinvigorate their democratic organs, and act more effectively as agents of societal change? The Universities and Colleges Union (UCU), which represents staff in Further and Higher Education, is seeking to work out and demonstrate this in practice. However, the only way to eat a whole jackfruit is in tiny pieces, as they say\*, which brings us to the knitty-gritty of Annual Meetings and Advisory Committees.**

Celebrating the first full year of CEEC's existence, the day had many opportunities to look back on how far UCU's grassroots and national campaigning has come. Perhaps most importantly, it saw the launch of a revamped Branch Green New Deal Bargaining guide, updated to include the lessons learned, including the University of Liverpool's pioneering local claim. It also celebrated the groundbreaking success in bringing the Further Education employers in England, the Association of Colleges, to the negotiating table. The Joint Trade Unions and the employers are meeting to form a Just Transition Commission, to gather expertise and set out options for fairly rebuilding the sector in the face of not just climate change, but the social and economic changes that will be part of meeting Net Zero. UCU's policy is to push for a comparable joint trade union claim in Higher Education, so hopefully there will be similar successes by this time next year.

The inspirational, wider benefits of practically organising for change were a recurring theme. UCU's President, Justine Mercer, explained that at international forums other trade unions have brought up the UCU's FE joint claim as an inspirational example of environmental bargaining. The General Secretary, Jo Grady, has spoken on UCU's environmental work at the Labour Party Conference. My co-chair, Vicky Blake, has represented UCU at popular trade union meetings, such as We Make Tomorrow, and attempts to develop practical green bargaining strategies with the Institute of Employment Rights. Through these events we are aware that UCU's work part-inspired the PCS proposed 'National Climate and Biodiversity Service' and, in turn, it provides us with a fraternal challenge to equal their detail and vision.

Within the meeting, grassroots members spoke of their work to secure environmental change. Ruth Humphreys, Heriott-Watt University green rep, spoke on the range of grassroots actions happening across the green reps network. We heard from Beth Rice and Molly Scrase-Kings, Mock COP students who had travelled to the UAE and who, whilst critical of some of COP's concessions, wanted to make the case for international change in person. They reported that this is the first time that COP has acknowledged Climate Education, and a unified youth statement on Climate education had been presented to leaders.

The day's in-depth panel session focused on ethical finance, hearing from Dooley Harte, the UCU Pensions

Official, Ioana Balabasciuc from Invest for Change, and Kenneth Green from Make My Money Matter. Respectively, they spoke about securing change to workplace pensions, university endowments & divestment, and corporate banking (banking services for large corporations).

As per formal business, motions put forward by the membership were debated, amended, passed and sent to the National Executive Committee. The next year's Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee was also elected. Although only advisory, these create for members powers of influencing and convening, allowing them to act collectively rather than as scattered individuals.

With the foundations in place, UCU's green reps network, committee and grassroots membership look set to get stuck in over 24/25. With the potential for a change in government by the next annual meeting, and a need to more concretely reimagine the education sector's place in a Just Transition, time is of the essence

\*ok, normally they say 'eat an elephant', but not in the GJA newsletter.

*Peter Wood, UCU Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee Co-Chair, Open University Associate Lecturer and Acting Branch President*



Photo by Gabriel McCallin Unsplash

# Trade Unions and The Global Climate Emergency

Feedback from the UK International Trade Unions Congress (ITUC) delegation to the 2023 COP28 global conference in Dubai

Wednesday 21 February 6pm to 7pm

[Register here](#)

*This hour long webinar, chaired by the TUC, is a chance*

- *to find out more about how the COP process works and the role of the trade union movement within it.*
- *to hear first-hand from Jenny Cooper (NEU) and Tony Wright (UNISON), the two UK trade union delegates in the ITUC delegation, about their experience of representing the UK trade unions at this global climate event.*
- *To discuss highlights and frustrations - where does it leave the ITUC ambitions on the commitments to a global and just transition to getting to Net-Zero and what are the next steps for the wider UK trade union movement to consider?*

*There will be a Q&A session at the end.*



## TUC green rep courses

Join us for new free green rep training courses this year.

All union reps and officers are welcome, whether you're still finding your feet or a veteran, and whether you're already an elected green rep or another role-holder. All unionists can benefit from understanding what our movement can do to protect and empower our members during the climate crisis.

Stockport College	Online	5, 12, 19 Feb '24
City of Bristol College	In-person	11, 18, 25 Jun '24
Newcastle College	In-person	11, 18, 25 Jun '24

Sign up at [www.tuc.org/training/TUCcourses](http://www.tuc.org/training/TUCcourses)

## Yorkshire and Humber Just Transition Network

Join our new forum for trade union green reps and climate/environment activists

- > Learn from other unions and workplaces
- > Access new resources and useful events
- > Develop cross-union campaigns and strategies
- > Share your campaigns and gather support
- > Share successes and setbacks
- > Meet other green reps and activists
- > Lead the green transition for Yorkshire and the Humber

Contact [sperry@tuc.org.uk](mailto:sperry@tuc.org.uk) to join our mailing list, get the details of our next meeting, and see recordings of our previous meetings online

TUC Yorkshire & the Humber

Friends of the Earth have circulated [this link](#) with BBC News's dramatic and scary item on how the climate is warming up. Please share widely.

## 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.





## ‘And Still We Rise: The War on Want Festival of Solidarity & Resistance’

Saturday 24 February,  
Friends Meeting House, London.

With over 40 speakers from 25 countries, including Greta Thunberg, journalist Owen Jones, author Naomi Klein, and activists Lidy Nacpil and Nnimmo Bassey.

[More details and to book tickets here.](#)

## New Rules

The people of Paris voted for cleaner, greener streets in a city-wide referendum this month. Like cities in the UK, Paris has seen a huge rise in SUVs in recent years. These vehicles emit 25% more CO2 than standard cars, take up more space on the street, and cause more deadly collisions.

The referendum tripled the price of on-street parking for a heavy, large and polluting SUV or 4X4 (to €18 an hour in the city centre). A good start to driving them out of the city altogether.



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## Scrumpping on the High Street?



**Tucson Arizona** plans to plant a million trees by 2030, mostly in the poorest, barest neighbourhoods. Many of these will be Mesquite trees which grows seed pods that can be made into flour. High Street/neighbourhood orchards anyone?

Hull looks set to become the first UK city to give people the “right to grow” food on disused council land. [From BBC](#)

# Green Bites

## Stats of the Month

£43 Billion

The cost of fitting CCUS to all 4 Biomass units at Drax power station. This is estimated to add £1.7 billion to overall annual fuel bills across the UK. Drax is already subsidised at £600 million a year. [From Ember](#)

1

The number of 1.3 MW wind farms needed to offset the gas that would be lost if no new licences were awarded in the North Sea. [From the Guardian](#)

500,000

Number of trees planted in London since Sadiq Khan took over from Boris Johnson.

28

The number of insurance companies that have already refused cover for the [East African Crude Oil Pipeline](#).

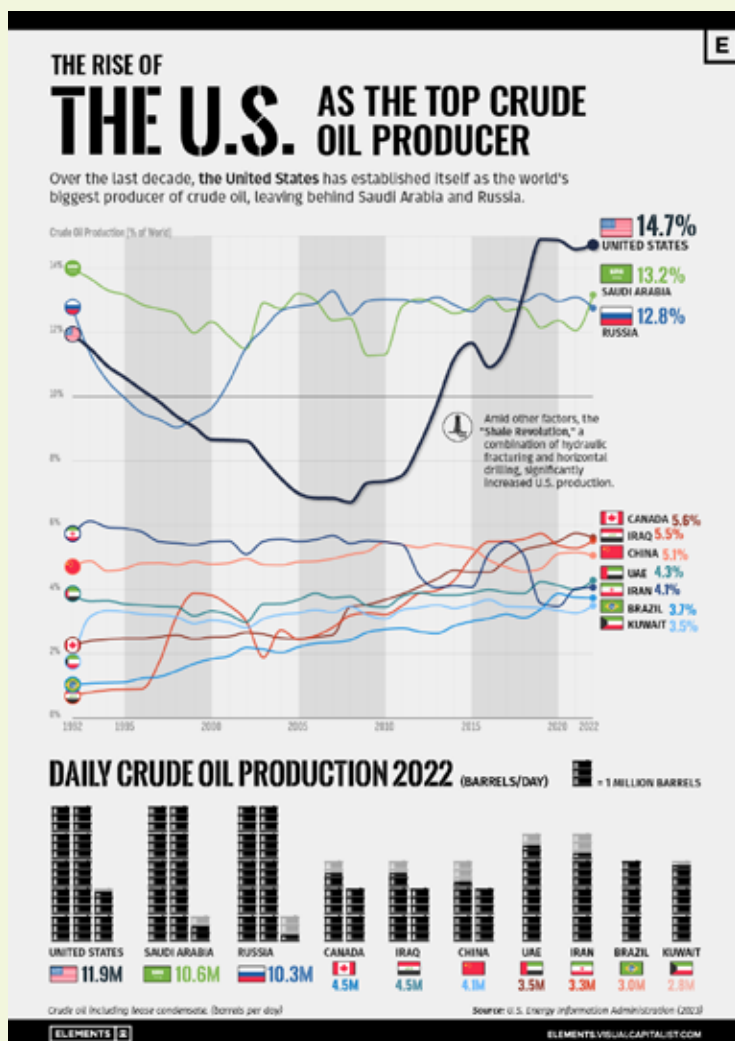
1954

The year that fossil fuel and car companies first knew about the effect of greenhouse gases. [From Desmog](#)

60%

The projected cut in demand for fossil fuels by 2050 just from the domino effect of reduced costs and increased efficiency of electric batteries, making them stranded assets whatever they do. [From RMI](#).

## Graphic of the Month



## Quote of the Month

*"The optimal time to increase public investment is precisely when an economy driven by market forces is not working. That time is now."*

[Diane Abbott MP in the Morning Star](#)

## Next Issue:

- Reports from GJA AGM
- Key contributions from **We Make Tomorrow Conference**
- The TUC's recommendations for a National Retrofit Strategy: *'Warmer homes in revitalised communities; A trade union plan to futureproof all homes and communities across the country'*.

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