

#### Editorial

1. UN Climate talks
2. Apprenticeship Policy
3. Education Sector

4. Climate Change and Refugees
5. Yorkshire Unions lead the way
6. Events
7. Resources

#### Editorial

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the newsletter. It has been written against the backdrop of the election result in the USA, and the start of the CoP22 meeting in Marrakech.

Trump has called climate change a “hoax” and has promised to embark upon a four-year process of withdrawing the US from the Paris deal. Unions in the US will have important decisions to make to avoid going down the jobs at any cost road.

The Paris Climate Agreement came into effect November 4th, 2016. More than 90 countries have ratified the deal, which is enough to turn it into international law. The EU has signed but the UK would be removed from the obligation after Brexit. Theresa May has committed to signing by the end of the year. Unions will need to ensure there is no watering down of this commitment. In fact, as the article below shows the commitment will need to be strengthened. We will provide a report of COP22 in the December newsletter.



## 1. ‘Not enough is being done, not nearly enough’ – UN

A year on from the groundbreaking Paris Agreement on climate change and the UN is warning <http://web.unep.org/emissionsgap/> that, ‘Not enough is being done. Not nearly enough and not fast enough.’ The international body coordinating efforts to deal with climate change says the world is heading for temperature rise of 3.4°C this century, even with the Paris pledges.

Two-thirds of the world’s carbon gas emissions come from trade union heartlands - coal and gas power stations and heavy industries like cement, steel, chemicals and other industrial production. As nations take stock of the Paris agreement at the latest conference in Marrakech this November, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is calling on governments to raise their ambition and commit to securing a ‘Just Transition for workers and their communities...*Employers, with workers and their unions must sit together and commit to protect our future through a just transition strategy.*’ (Continued on page 2)



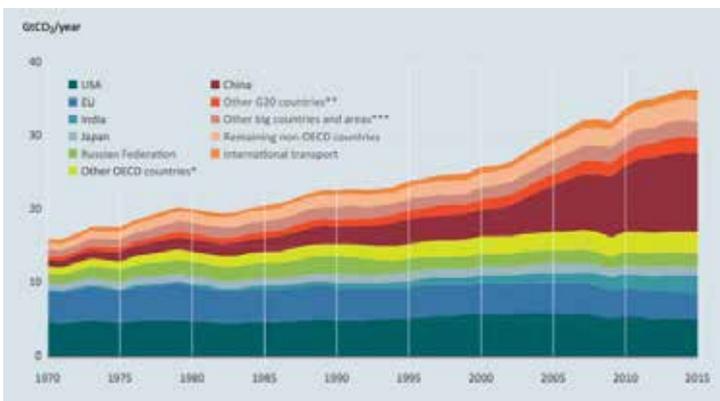
## UN 'emissions gap' report 2016

*'Not enough is being done. Not nearly enough and not fast enough.'* This is the blunt finding of the latest UN tracking report on the world's carbon gas emissions.

The UN's annual Emissions Gap Report <http://web.unep.org/emissionsgap/> estimates the difference between the UN's aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions and what's happening in the real world. The central aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep the global temperature increase by the end of the century to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. We are actually on track for global warming of up to 3.4 °C

### The rise and rise of carbon gas emissions

Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel use and industry



The UN's latest report shows that:

- Total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to show a steady increase, reaching approximately 52.7 billion tonnes ('gigatonnes') in 2014.
- Coal and gas power stations, cement, steel, chemicals and other industrial production account for over two-thirds (68%) of total global greenhouse gas emissions.
- To keep below 2 degrees, the 'emissions gap' for 2030 is 12 to 14 billion tonnes above this safe limit.
- To limit global warming to 1.5°C the emissions gap is even higher - three billion tonnes a year higher - that's equivalent to five times the whole of the UK's carbon gas emissions.
- Government pledges don't cut the mustard. The UN report shows that the so-called 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' will ensure that global average temperatures rise by between 3.2°C and 3.0°C.
- The 'carbon budget' available to all nations for limiting warming to below 2°C will have run out by 2030.
- At this rate, the 'carbon budget' to keep below 1.5 degrees of planet warming will have been heavily overdrawn by 2030.

## 'Climate action isn't a job killer'- ITUC

The ITUC's submission <http://bit.ly/2fZgM2M> to the UN climate change conference (COP22) in Marrakech, Morocco (7 -18 November 2016) warns that greater unity is needed across the labour movement to tackle climate change. *'The times when climate action was raised as a job killer are behind us,'* the ITUC says.

Once again, the ITUC will be leading a global trade union delegation to the UN's annual climate summit.

The ITUC says:

**“***Ambitious emissions reduction and adaptation policies are now recognised as vital to protect jobs, people and communities from the impacts of climate change, and investment is creating jobs in renewable energy, public transit, energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable agriculture, forestry, water and more.*

*But the long-term objective governments have set for themselves and our societies of staying well below 2°C in average temperature increase, and aiming at 1.5°C, will only be reached if concrete measures are taken to dramatically change our production and consumption patterns and if national emissions reduction objectives, in particular in developed countries, are reviewed with greater ambition, before 2018.*

*We know millions of workers and families still depend on a fossil-fuel-based economy for their jobs and livelihoods. Employers, with workers and their unions must sit together and commit to protect our future through a just transition strategy.*

**”**

The ITUC statement is strong on the need to move away from fossil fuels and extreme methods of extraction (for example, fracking). It says, 'studies show that at least 80 per cent of current fossil fuel reserves will need to be left in the ground to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.' It also recognizes that, *'the global common good should be given priority over the profits of large fossil fuel companies that continue to promote the use of ever greater quantities of coal, oil and gas.'*

The ITUC picks up this point in calling for 'universal access and democratisation of energy if we are to achieve ambitious climate action...Energy companies need to be restructured in order to allow for democratic involvement.'

Yet with the UN's own evidence (see this briefing) that carbon gas emissions are spiralling, does the ITUC go far enough? Trade Unions for Energy Democracy argues that, 'As a movement we cannot afford to be ambiguous about the need to struggle for full

democratic control over global energy systems. This is necessary in order to drive public renewable power at the speed and scale required. In the energy sector, it is hard to imagine how a “just transition” can be achieved without a shift towards public ownership.

As difficult as it will be to make this shift actually occur, it pales in comparison to the challenge posed by reaching targets set in the Paris Agreement – the “well below 2 degrees” and “net zero emissions” targets that lie at the heart of the UN’s strategy.

### A \$1 billion drop in the ocean



*The Guardian*, 4 November 2016: A \$1bn fund for cutting the climate change impact of oil and gas has been announced by 10 of the world’s biggest oil companies, aimed at keeping the firms in business and cutting the burning of coal and oil.

*The Guardian*, May 2015: ‘Bosses at the world’s big five oil companies have been showered with bonus payouts linked to a \$1tn (£650 billion) crescendo of spending on fossil fuel exploration and extraction over nine years, according to Guardian analysis of company reports.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/25/oil-company-bosses-bonuses-1tr-spending-fossil-fuels>

The ten from big oil announced the fund <http://www.oilandgasclimateinitiative.com/news/announcing-ogci-climate-investments> on the day the global Paris climate change agreement came into force. But commentators call it a “drop in the ocean.” The companies were not serious in tackling global warming.

The fund will apparently be for reducing leaks of natural gas from fracking and drilled wells, and carbon capture technology. It won’t support renewable energy, smart grid and battery storage technologies which are transforming the electricity industry.

On the plus side, managers of investments totalling more than \$2.6tn have already committed to pulling out of fossil fuel companies.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/22/leonardo-dicaprio-joins-26tn-fossil-fuel-divestment-movement>

## 2. Apprenticeship Policy

The Government has set out a plan for 3 million new apprenticeships by 2020. In previous newsletters we have already commented on the lack of any reference to sustainability, climate change and a low carbon economy in the ‘Vision’ policy document. There is also the issue of the poor quality of many apprenticeships. There has been a policy U-turn recently following criticisms that the new scheme did not support disadvantaged communities which has been welcomed by the TUC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37763895>

Unionlearn has issued a Charter for Apprenticeships setting out minimum standards <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/charter-apprenticeships>

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) have issued a statement underlining sustainability skills at work [http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/iema\\_skills\\_for\\_a\\_sustainable\\_economy\\_-\\_position\\_statement\\_forweb.pdf](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/iema_skills_for_a_sustainable_economy_-_position_statement_forweb.pdf)

The GJA recently attended a meeting called by the NUS to review apprenticeship policy. It will be a priority area for us as we argue for an industrial strategy capable of delivering our climate commitments.

## 3. Education Sector

The second annual report on sustainability in tertiary education has been released this month by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), National Union of Students (NUS), University and College Union (UCU), Association of Colleges (AoC) and the College Development Network. There was a large trade union input to the survey with around one third of the respondents being UCU representatives.

The report makes for worrying reading. For example, only a quarter of respondents consider that sustainability is a strategic priority for their institution. Further evidence that what is being taught in our colleges and universities fails to reflect the global challenge of the environmental crisis and climate change.

Read the full report here <http://bit.ly/2f2t3iV>

On a more positive note the NUS Dissertations for Good project has been launched. It is the new NUS scheme connecting students with organisations to complete research projects on sustainability topics. The GJA has registered and we will be reporting on progress in future newsletters.

The web site is at [www.nus.org.uk/dfg](http://www.nus.org.uk/dfg)  
For media enquiries please contact Kim Croasdale [kim.croasdale@nus.org.uk](mailto:kim.croasdale@nus.org.uk) or [dfg@nua.org.uk](mailto:dfg@nua.org.uk)

## 4. Climate Change and Refugees

In the last six years over 140 million people were forced to move because of climate change disasters: droughts, harvest failures and devastating storms. Our warming planet is driving long-term environmental damage and sudden catastrophes. The UN believes that the number of 'environmental refugees' could reach 300 million people by the middle of this century. A national conference has been arranged

### **Climate Refugees'- The Climate Crisis and Population Displacement: Building a Trade Union and Civil Society Response.**

**Saturday 11 February, 10 – 5 pm, NUT Conference Centre, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, Euston, London**

Register now at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-crisis-population-displacement-a-union-civil-society-response-tickets-29200167487>



Photo: Hakim, ActionAid

*“Extreme weather events”* are an existential threat: Hurricane Sandy inundating New York City. Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, killing over 6,000 people and destroying millions of jobs. Drought, water scarcity and agricultural crises in Somalia, Darfur, Syria and sub-Saharan Africa. Wildfires raging through Fort McMurray, Canada. And flooded cities in the UK. Climate change is devastating jobs and whole economies, and is a growing concern to trade unions for whom effective responses are now a fundamental issue of economic, employment and income security. Yet 'environmental refugees' have no legal status in international law and, as yet, no champions across civil society.

**'Climate Refugees' - The Climate Crisis and Population Displacement: Building a Trade Union and Civil Society Response** is supported by trade unions and environmental, refugee and human rights campaigns. It will include expert briefings, and new

evidence of the impact of climate change on human security. We aim to dispel myths about refugees, debate a possible new UN human rights framework for environmental refugees, and raise demands for stronger government leadership on this fundamental issue.

#### **Speakers**

##### **Climate change and population displacement**

Chair: Clara Paillard, President, PCS Culture Group;  
Speakers: Prof Joanna Haigh, FRS, Co-Director of the Grantham Institute at Imperial College;  
Amjad Abdulla, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (tbc); Dave Green, National Officer, Fire Brigades Union; Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)(tbc)

##### **Building a trade union and civil society response: Panel and debate**

Chair: Wilf Sullivan, TUC Race Relations Committee.  
Speakers: Zak Cochrane – Stand Up To Racism - dispelling the myths of migrants; Asad Rehman, FoE Senior Campaigner, International Climate - the politics of climate migration and the UN Refugee Convention; Zita Holbourne, Vice-President, PCS -post-colonialism and structural inequalities.

##### **Breakouts into Strategy Workshops**

- Mitigating climate change: unions and campaigns working together – lead Jonathan Neale, Global Climate Jobs
- Raising awareness of climate change impacts across unions, students and the wider public – lead tbc
- Fighting xenophobia and hostility to refugees – lead Zak Cochrane, Stand Up To Racism
- Campaigning internationally to protect climate refugees: a new UN Protocol to the UN Refugee Convention – leads Asad Rehman, FoE, and Dave Green, FBU

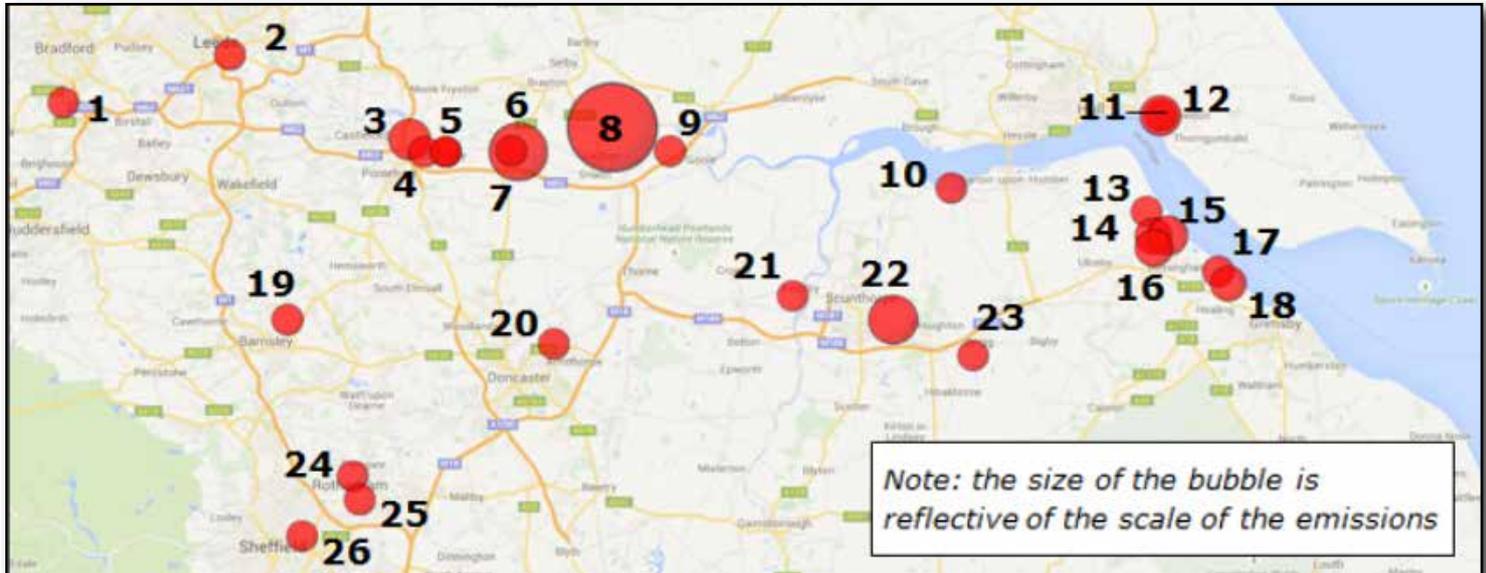
##### **Way ahead**

Strategic priorities from workshops and nominations for Climate Refugees Organising Group.

## 5. Yorkshire unions lead the low carbon way

Yorkshire and Humber Regional TUC has set up a task force to confront the challenges of carbon gas emissions from Yorkshire's heavy industrial belt. This region is home to important industries such as steel, chemicals, cement, ceramics and glass as well as major power stations for electricity generation. These industries employ thousands of workers in generally well paid, unionised jobs. And the region has the highest levels of industrial carbon gas emissions in the country.

### Yorkshire's major carbon gas emitters



**Key:** 1.BASF Chemicals 2.Allied Glass 3.Ferrybridge 4.Glass 5.Stoeleze Glass 6. Eggborough 7.Glass 8.Drax 9.Glass 10.Cemex 11.BP Chemicals 12.Gas Power Saltend 13.Gas Power 14.Total Refinery 15.Immingham CHP 16.Phillips 17.Chemicals 18.Centrica Gas 19.Glass 20.Ardagh Glass 21.SSE Gas 22.Tata Steel 23.Glanford Gas 24. Beatson Glass 25.Tata Steel 26.Outokump Steel

Following COP21 in Paris in December 2015, there is a global drive to reduce carbon gas emissions. By as soon as 2030 the UK government is committed to cut our carbon emissions by nearly two-thirds.

### BP Chemicals, Hull



The regional task force follows the TUC's participation in a Europe-wide project on Industrial Regions and Climate Change. Led by the Brussels-based European TUC, Yorkshire & the Humber was one of 7 heavy industrial regions taking part, along with North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany, Upper Silesia in Poland, Asturias in Spain, the Port of Antwerp and others.

Unions in each region led workshops with industry and regional government partners to pinpoint key issues for a low carbon future. The final report says that, 'Trade unions want to be fully involved in drawing up regional

*plans for a socially fair transition to a low carbon future.'*

Unite's Martin Mayer was in Brussels in October for the project's final conference. He said: "One thing is certain – we cannot afford to lose thousands of well-paid jobs in Yorkshire's heavy industrial belt. Can trade unionists in these industries rise to the challenge and pressure their employers to invest in the new technologies and processes required to achieve these tough new emissions targets – and save their collective futures? Can we win government and local authority support especially for the infrastructure funding required? We urgently need to get together to answer the questions."

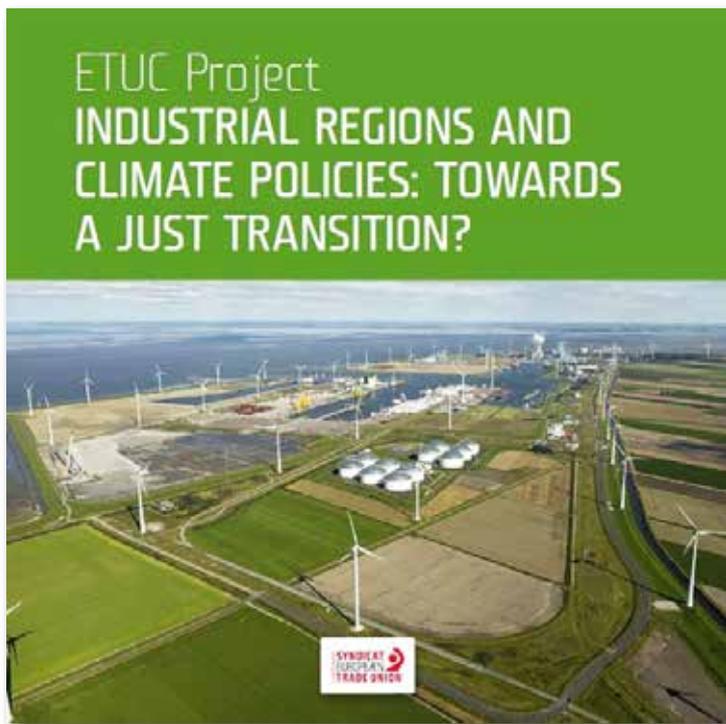
Bill Adams, TUC Regional Secretary, says:

**“***The task force aims to bring unions, employers and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) around the table this coming year to help make change happen. The government has promised to publish a new Industrial Strategy for the UK. Working alongside unions in Yorkshire, we have to seize this opportunity to campaign for public and private investment in jobs, new plant, new technologies and skills for all our futures. The incoming investment in wind power is really welcome. But as big a challenge is securing a future for all our heavy industries in the region. Whether we are in Europe or out, we have to work together for the regions long term, sustainable future.***”**

The ETUC study reached four key conclusions:

1. Industrial regions need strategies for a just transition to low carbon industry.
2. Involvement of trade unions and employers is essential.
3. We must accelerate the deployment of breakthrough technologies
4. Investment in skills is needed to prepare the workforce for transition

*Industrial Regions and Climate Change*, go to:  
<https://http://bit.ly/2g55aLQ>



*Strategies for a low carbon future in Yorkshire and the Humber.*

<http://bit.ly/2fGBLV9>



For more information contact Greener Jobs Alliance,

Email: [gjacomsg@gmail.com](mailto:gjacoms@gmail.com)

Website: [www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk)

## 7. Resources



The Australian education unions support a project called 'Cool Australia'. It has just produced resources that can be used in schools and other training contexts that utilise the approach taken in the Naomi Klein book '*This changes everything*'.

<http://bit.ly/2fMtjUx>

## 6. Events



This month sees an important conference take place in Birmingham. The Lucas Plan was a pioneering effort by workers at the arms company Lucas Aerospace to **retain jobs** by proposing **alternative, socially-useful applications of the company's technology and their own skills**. It remains one of the most radical and forward thinking attempts ever made by workers to take the steering wheel and directly drive the direction of change.

Today, in 2016, 40 years after the Lucas Plan, we're facing a convergence of crises: **militarism and nuclear weapons, climate chaos, and the destruction of jobs by automation**.

These crises mean **we have to start thinking about technology as political**, as the Lucas Aerospace workers did. The conference will aim to re-open the debate about industrial conversion and democracy.

Saturday 26th November 2016, 9am - 5pm  
at BVSC, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DR

**BOOK NOW!**

<http://lucasplan.org.uk/tickets/>

For further details <http://lucasplan.org.uk/>