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1. Editorial - Welcome to 2017

The impact of a Donald Trump presidency has not taken long to emerge. The new White House website refers to an 'America First Energy Plan', getting rid of 'burdensome regulations in our energy industry' and scrapping Obama's 'Climate Action Plan.' There is no mention of climate change, only the unlimited use of coal, shale gas and oil. The environment is reduced to protecting air and water.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/america-first-energy>

This is one of the reasons why GJA supporters attended the protest outside the US Embassy in London on 21 January 2017. Trump's plans for the USA are bad enough but the impact of these and other policies are going to have far-reaching consequences for the rest of the world. In 2017 the Greener Jobs Alliance will be campaigning with others to push back on this and the de-regulated economy being suggested by the UK Government post -Brexit.

In the UK the Government has just published the Green Paper on Industrial Strategy. The article below contains a summary and initial response. We will publish a full assessment in the February newsletter.

2. Report of our AGM

Greener Jobs Alliance – AGM and priorities for 2017

The GJA's key achievements in 2016 were highlighted to a packed AGM in January 2017, held at UCU Head Office, London. Graham Petersen, GJA Secretary, reported that we had over 13,000 hits on the new website and 450 people took our new online environmental training course since it was launched in June 2016. We welcomed Labour's Shadow Energy Minister, Alan Whitehead to the meeting, in a speech which demonstrated the gulf between the government's inaction and Labour's ambitions for a low carbon future. He urged unions to step up and play an active part in energy and industrial policy. Delegates then recommended a set of priorities for the GJA in 2017. The AGM also paid tribute to the work of the late Ken Montague, a strong GJA supporter, who sadly passed away in December.

This report covers our main achievements in 2016, and the GJA's new strategic priorities for 2107



Priorities for 2017

A discussion took place to identify key areas of work for the next 12 months. New funding has been secured for a new 2 year project running from 2017-19. Battersea and Wandsworth TUC supported our bid and this will enable us to develop our programme. It is vital that we work even more closely with like-minded organisations in what are likely to be difficult times ahead for the trade union and climate movements. Both the TUC and some national unions are cutting back on work on climate change. So the GJA's own resources to promote organising and action will be crucial. [For the work plan adapted following discussion click here.](#)

Labour's Energy Policy – debate with Alan Whitehead, MP

Labour's Shadow Energy Minister at the new Department for Energy & Industrial Strategy gave a presentation on the current state of the energy sector. He said that the Government is issuing a Green Paper on Industrial Strategy in January (see GJA comment, below), followed in March by a new Low Carbon Plan arising out of the government's 5th Carbon Budget. Yet the government was already falling behind on its commitments to meet its 4th Carbon Budget.

A key question for Labour was, How do we make the transition to a low carbon energy economy in terms of jobs, skills and building UK supply chains? It will be essential that unions respond to these government initiatives.

The Labour Party's mission is that by 2030, 60% of our energy will be sourced from renewable and low carbon energy. Currently electricity is on course to meet EU renewables targets. But we are way behind in developing a low carbon strategy for domestic heating, with over 90% of homes still relying on conventional gas for heating and hot water, with no clear alternative plan. And our homes insulation programme was in ruins, with over seven million homes lacking proper insulation.

Alan felt that tidal energy had massive potential. He

said that unions had an important role particularly in relation to understanding the potential for new industries. He also said that it was important to protect infrastructure that would be needed for conversion to a low carbon future. For example, North Sea wells and gas pipes could be reused for carbon capture and storage (CCS). He deplored George Osborne's decision, when Chancellor, to vandalise the UK's CCS programme

The debate that followed highlighted the:

- Importance of off-shore wind.
- Developing a clear financial strategy to support a new energy strategy, especially in light of the scandalous decision to privatise the UK's publicly-owned Green Investment Bank.
- Need for an education strategy in the Construction sector.
- Issue of public ownership and control of our energy system
- The need for a National Climate Service to support the 1m climate jobs campaign.

It was agreed that we needed to continue this discussion with the Labour Ministerial team, and the GJA agreed to liaise with Alan and the Labour Party to explore these areas in more detail.

Graham Petersen GJA Secretary

[What is the GJA? Click here.](#)

3. Industrial Strategy Green Paper

On **January 21st** the Government started a consultation process on industrial strategy. Previous strategies adopted by the 2 previous administrations have manifestly failed to deliver a modern economy moving rapidly in a low carbon direction. This is not a surprise since these policies failed to address the fundamental issue of climate change. These failures have been highlighted over the last 6 years in numerous GJA assessments.

This 132 page document makes a passing reference to climate change but is not referred to as one of the central 3 challenges despite all the rhetoric in the lead up to the Paris Agreement (which doesn't get a mention either) A low carbon economy, however, gets a reference in the '10 pillars' of the strategy. 'Delivering affordable energy and clean growth' is pillar No. 7. It states:

"we need to keep costs down for businesses, and secure the economic benefits of the transition to a low-carbon economy." (Page 11)

This section refers to a couple of documents being prepared for 2017. They are an 'Emissions Reduction

Plan' and a 'Long-term road map to minimise business energy costs'. This last one is revealing since the focus of the paper appears to revolve around reducing business costs and very little detail on the energy plan and how it will be costed.

The initial reaction to this paper from the GJA is one of yet another opportunity missed. We will be making a submission to the consultation which closes on April 17th. We would welcome any comments from our supporters to help with this response.

Please send to [gjacomsg@gmail.com](mailto:gjacoms@gmail.com)

Read the Green Paper here: <http://bit.ly/2kjQeHz>

4. Just Transition in Scotland

In the December newsletter we commented on the great climate work taking place in the PCS trade union. This month we are highlighting trade union activity in a country within the UK – Scotland.

A conference was organised by Friends of the Earth Scotland as part of a partnership with the Scottish TUC and unions. Their joint statement in which they challenge the ways in which economic development has been governed in Scotland and the UK, says the government should take a decisive lead with plans to transform key sectors, for example electricity generation, energy storage, transport infrastructure, energy efficiency and sustainable heating for homes and businesses. *“Where necessary to secure change at sufficient pace and scale, options for public and community ownership or partial stakes in flagship projects and enterprises should be pursued.”*

FoES and STUC issued a joint statement at the conference said that Scottish Government plans so far have been too slow and off the blocks and unambitious. The statement was supported by WWF Scotland and Unite, UNISON, PCS, UCATT, UCU and the CWU. As the new Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Plan are being drafted, unions will be pressing for bold measures which show that the Scottish Government is determined to make change happen. **To read the statement and report click here.**

5. Yorkshire ‘test bed’ for Labour’s industrial strategy

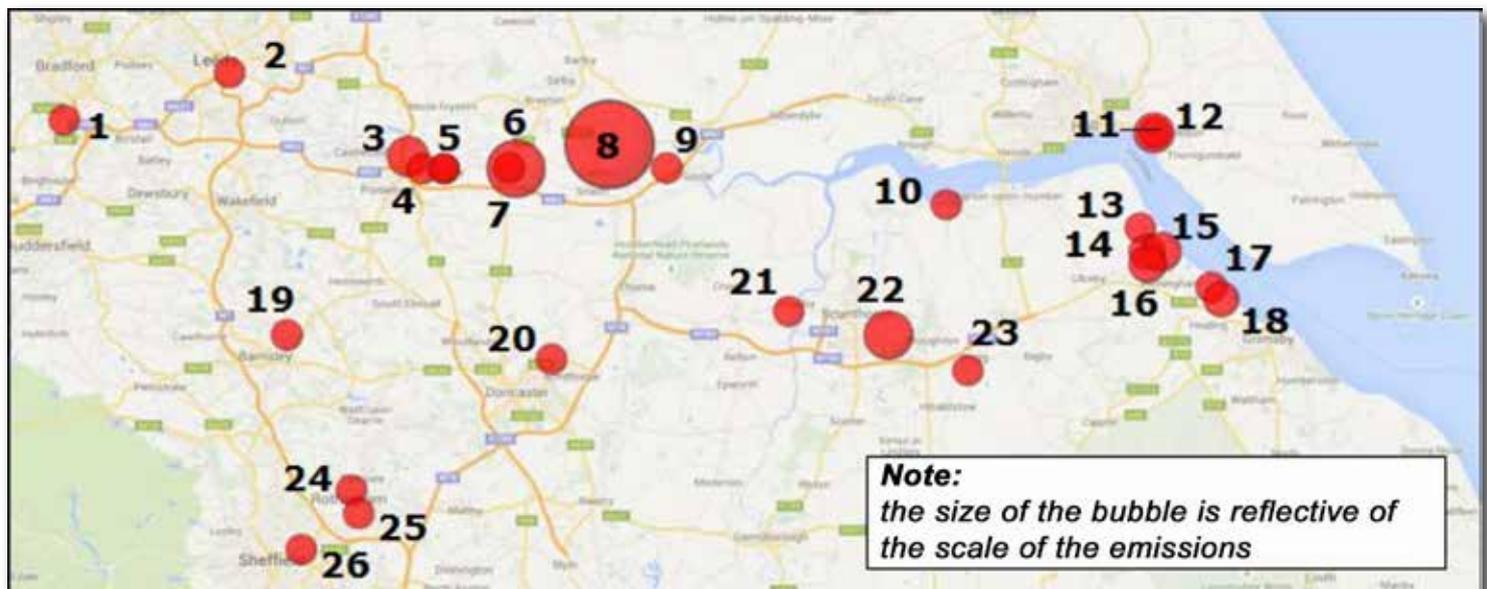
Yorkshire ‘test bed’ for Labour’s industrial strategy

If there was ever a test bed for Labour’s new industrial strategy review it’s in the Yorkshire and Humber region. There you’ll find the highest concentrations of heavy industries and power stations in the UK – from steel and cement works to major power plants like Drax. No region has a bigger carbon footprint than this, and no bigger question to answer than, *How to protect and develop high carbon industries in a low carbon economy?*

It’s a question that Labour’s new public consultation (<http://www.labourbeis.org>)

on industrial policy has to get to grips with. Labour argues that, ‘An industrial strategy is important because it allows us to democratically decide the kinds of economy and society we want, and the goals we wish collectively to achieve.’ It’s in exactly this spirit of consultation and shop floor engagement that the regional TUC based in Leeds has set up a Low Carbon Task Force. With leading backers including Unite, the GMB, USDAW, Unison and Prospect, the Task Force aims to work with industry, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Sheffield Climate Alliance and FoE to develop a ‘just transition’ strategy for the region’s high carbon industries.

Top carbon emitters: Yorkshire and Humber



Bubbles represent industrial and power plants’ carbon emissions. Full details available in TUC report: <http://bit.ly/2fGBLV9>

Yorkshire and the Humber has the UK's highest concentrations of energy-intensive industries such as cement, steel, chemicals, glass and ceramics. There are some 28,000 jobs directly in these industries, and thousands more in the supply chain and local economy. But the *Leeds Local Enterprise Partnership* (LEP) has hit on the problem of the 'missing middle,' as good paying, skilled industrial jobs disappear while low paid work (and a few high-end financial sector jobs) moves in. It's an impossible scenario for the sustainable 'good growth' they want to achieve.

Dealing with carbon emissions from heavy industries is one of the 'hard areas' of energy policy. Making a tonne of steel currently involves emitting nearly two tonnes of carbon gases. New steelmaking processes and capturing the carbon are two ways to shrink steel's carbon footprint. The government's '*2050 Industrial Roadmaps*' <http://bit.ly/1FQaHMK> for heavy industry says firms can cut their carbon emission by three-quarters with investment in new processes, switching to electricity rather than fossil fuels, and sharing waste heat and new technologies like carbon capture and storage. But this comes at a price - up to £16 billion in new investment is needed, impossible without government support.

Sector	For maximum cuts in carbon emissions: examples of new technologies needed
Iron & steel	Carbon capture and storage technology needed; retrofit or rebuild to boost efficiency; on-site renewable energy.
Chemicals	Biomass to generate heat and as chemical feedstock; carbon capture & storage (CCS); energy efficiency measures; clustering of chemical production to optimise energy use.
Oil Refining	Carbon capture; refinery refits with best available technology.
Cement	Carbon capture; fuel switching to biomass or waste; product substitution.
Ceramics	De-carbonise heat by substituting fossil fuel with electricity or biomass; CCS.
Glass	Electric melting and biogas; new glass recycling strategies with local government.
Pulp & paper	Clustering and heat networking; 100% electricity; heat recovery; biomass based heat and power.
Food & drink	Biggest energy demands in baking, brewing, meat and sugar manufacture: improve process controls; greater energy efficiency in refrigeration, heating and cooling; low energy lighting systems; on-site renewable energy.

Source: *2050 Industrial Roadmaps*

Labour is rightly asking, What structures do we need in place to deliver an industrial strategy across local, regional, and national levels, and how should they interact? The democratic answer has to be based locally and regionally. The closer the consultation with employees, unions, industry and the business support groups like the Local Enterprise Partnerships, the sharper the focus on what's needed, and the quicker we call for the investment to deliver good paying, skilled jobs in a low carbon future.

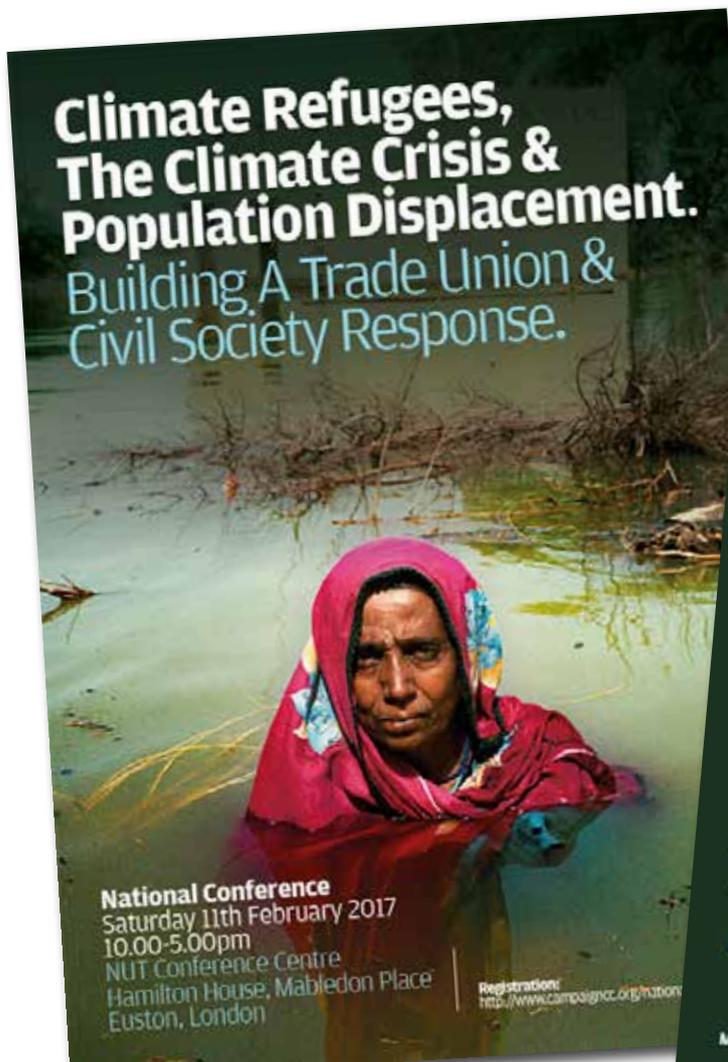
As Clive Lewis MP commented when launching Labour's review: 'An industrial strategy is important because it allows us to democratically decide the kinds of economy and society we want, and the goals we wish collectively to achieve. The question is whether the Tories are ready to do this. At some point the Secretary of State for Business, Greg Clark MP, is going to have to make a choice: is his industrial strategy going to be led by market forces, or is it going to take new directions and lead our economy into the 21st century?'

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jan/05/market-labour-industrial-strategy>

6. Climate Refugees Conference

'Climate Refugees' national conference, February 11 2017, London

There's still time to register for Europe's first 'Climate Refugees' conference in London on February 11th. It's organised by the Campaign Against Climate Change and Friends of the Earth, with the backing of the GJA, environmental groups, trade unions and migrants' and refugees' organisations. The CACC/FoE joint letter in the Guardian (10 January) set out the growing crisis of climate change and enforced migration, which are increasingly linked together. Yet, the letter says, 'those displaced have no legal standing under existing international refugee and asylum law.'



**Climate Refugees,
The Climate Crisis &
Population Displacement.**
Building A Trade Union &
Civil Society Response.

National Conference
Saturday 11th February 2017
10.00-5.00pm
NUT Conference Centre
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place
Euston, London

Registration:
<http://www.campaigncc.org/national>

Over 140 million people have been forced to move in recent years because of climate change disasters - droughts, harvest failures and devastating storms. Our warming planet is driving massive long-term environmental damage and sudden catastrophes. The UN says environmental refugees could reach 300million people by mid-century.

This conference from the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group aims to dispel refugee myths, work on a new Protocol for the international protection of those affected by climate change, raise demands for stronger action, and agree a climate refugees campaign statement.

Expert Contributions from:
Prof Joanna Haigh (Grantham Institute at Imperial College), Asad Rehman (FoE), Clara Paillard (PCS), Amjad Abdulla (Alliance of Small Island States tbc), Dave Green (FBU), Sharan Burrow (ITUC, tbc), Wilf Sullivan (TUC), Zak Cochrane (Stand Up To Racism), NUT, PSI, Zita Holbourne (PCS), Jonathan Neale (Global Climate Jobs), Suzanne Jeffery (Campaign Against Climate Change), and more.

Four Workshops on:

- Unions and campaigns for climate jobs.
- Raising awareness of climate change impacts at national and global level.
- Unions and campaign groups challenging xenophobia and hostility to refugees and migrants.
- Joint work to draft a new Protocol for the international protection of those affected by climate change.

More information: <http://www.campaigncc.org/nationalconference>

Supporters so far: Campaign Against Climate Change, FBU, TSSA, CWU, PCS, NUT, Stand Up to Racism and other unions and environmental campaigns.

You can read the Guardian letter here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/09/desperate-exodus-of-the-climate-refugees>

Trump's climate denial is just one of the forces that points towards greater suffering because of the inaction of governments.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/23/donald-trump-climate-change-war>

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Johnson is lauded as a leading climate sceptic at the heart of government

<http://www.thegwpf.com/climate-sceptical-boris-johnson-is-britains-new-foreign-secretary/>

Keynote speakers include Diana Holland, Unite, Dave Green, FBU, Asad Rehman, FoE, Professor Joanna Haigh, Grantham Institute, Clara Paillard, PCS, Wilf Sullivan, TUC, Zak Cochrane, SUTR, Zita Holbourne, PCS, Jonathan Neale, One Million Climate Jobs, Suzanne Jeffrey, CACC and many more.

For details and registration: <http://www.campaigncc.org/nationalconference>

7. Ken Montague Obituary – ‘Thank you for the days’

We are deeply saddened at the death of our friend, great climate campaigner and socialist, Ken Montague, who passed away on 9 December 2016. Ken (first left in our photo, below) was a founder member and secretary of the Campaign against Climate Change’s *Trade Union Group*, shaping its development and especially the world renowned One Million Climate jobs campaign.

As the CACC has acknowledged http://www.campaigncc.org/ken_montague in its tribute to Ken, his work was unseen and often unsung, he would lead from within and by argument and persuasion. Most especially Ken was a great organiser, making the seemingly impossible happen and always without any great fuss. He encouraged the Trade Union Group to campaign increasingly effectively within the wider trade union movement, and to develop a deeper understanding across the labour movement of the climate crisis.

One of his greatest feats was the nationwide climate jobs caravan which involved organising two low emissions vehicles and the co-ordination of many, many people and events across the UK. The highly visible tour put the case for trade union campaigning on climate and for climate jobs in towns and cities across the country. It was a huge logistical operation, coordinated humbly as usual, by Ken himself.

He always looked for ways through debates which encouraged understanding between people and more often than not a solution. Such skills were last employed in one of Ken’s last achievements, before the news of his illness - organising of the first official

fringe meeting for the CACC Trade Union Group at this year’s TUC conference.

In December 2015, Ken was in Paris demonstrating for climate justice. We have wonderful memories of Ken from this time and the meetings and protests that he took part in. From his experience in Paris he proposed the idea of a conference on climate change and refugees. He set up a conference organising group partnered with Friends of the Earth and drawing support from a wide range of trade union, migrant and refugee organisations.

One way we can acknowledge his friendship, his passing and contribution to the environmental movement is to help make a great success of the ‘Climate Refugees’ conference <http://www.campaigncc.org/nationalconference>, which takes place in London on 11 February 2017.

The reflective music played and sung at Ken’s funeral service in Brighton was The Kinks’ ‘*Thank you for the days, Those endless days, those sacred days you gave me*’. Amen to that.

We send our sincere condolences to Ken’s family - his partner Janet and children Brendan, Kate and Alex.



Appendix

Linked Articles

Our main areas of work in 2016

Last year's AGM identified 5 priorities (in italics). Progress during 2016 was as follows:

- **Industrial Strategy - *Intervening in the national debate around Industrial Strategy. Using the Paris Agreement to highlight the need to embed climate change in sector strategies.***
GJA presented at a range of conferences and events. These included the Tolpuddle Festival in Dorset, Global Labour Institute summer school in Barnsley, TUC conference in Brighton, and the Lucas Plan Conference in Birmingham. We critiqued the Government's Apprenticeship Policy for failing to address climate change and sustainability at a number of policy forums. Worked with the NUS and Education International to explore how the Sustainable Development Goals alongside the Paris Agreement Article 7 should be implemented.
- **Alternative energy and divestment strategy - *Identifying opportunities to work with partners around these key themes.***
The GJA linked with People & Planet and 350.org to support actions on responsible investment / divestment. We presented at the Energy democracy workshop at the Climate Rising event in January and support the work of Trades Unions for Energy Democracy.
- **Education for Sustainable Development - *The knowledge and skills needed for the transition to a low carbon economy are not in place. Produce an online course for TU members on climate change.***
The GJA's first On-line environmental courses were launched in June at the UCU Congress in Liverpool. Four Climate Change modules have been written with very positive feedback from participants. Stockport UNISON Branch were the first to organise membership training using the materials. Our work on ESD formed the basis of a presentation at a climate change conference in Gran Canaria in April.
www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31

- **Communication - *Create a web site for the GJA to house resources on educational for sustainable development (ESD).***
The GJA Site was launched in June and has so far received over 13,000 hits. 447 people have logged in to at least 1 training module.

Monthly Newsletters have been produced to provide regular updates. We have 175 subscribers and supporters registered and this number continues to rise. <http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/>

- **Local Initiatives - *We should continue with the approach of providing practical case studies to illustrate the strategies above. In particular, air quality and energy and continuing support for the Responsible Futures (RF) work in Further Education.***

We did a presentation for the Greater London Authority at City Hall in June on Air Quality. Our work in Tooting with the Furzedown Low Carbon Zone has highlighted the importance of a community response. We have helped organise local events that include film nights and festivals. Our work with colleges on the RF pilot has not been taken any further due to the current resourcing issues in the sector and its de-prioritisation of sustainability work.

GJA 2016 - Financial Summary

Income 2016	£6,453.80
Expenditure 2016	£3,744.19

We ended the calendar year with a balance of £2,709.61 Details of the above accounts are available for inspection. Our income in 2016 came from our server teams at Glastonbury and Latitude festivals so a big thanks to them. At Glastonbury we met up with Michael Eavis as part of the Workers Beer Company 30th anniversary celebrations to thank him for his support when the GJA was launched.

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GJA Work Plan 2017

- GJA's *Green Skills Manifesto* – update the manifesto to support national trade union and education sector lobbying. Co-ordinate an annual skills event with TUC affiliates and the NUS on 'Skills and Research for a Low Carbon Transition'
- Review the government's *Industrial sector strategies*. Commission research into 1 sector. Construction and apprenticeships should be a key focus. Just transition and divestment require input as well as the role of local authorities.
- GJA's Online Training Resources – Develop a minimum of 3 on-line courses for union members on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Courses on Air Quality, Responsible Investment / Divestment and Energy Democracy.
- GJA Website – Develop the site as a repository of climate education resources and debate. Register a minimum of 10 links from national union web sites. Continue to produce GJA's monthly newsletter with original analysis and relevant content.

New GJA Website Briefings:

★ What does Brexit mean for our environment?

★ What do we mean by Just Transition?

- Regional and local work – Promote local activity that underpins and informs the national areas above. A work programme with Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council will be devised to reflect the funding support that has been received. Priorities could include:
- Apprenticeship policy with a focus on quality and sustainability
- Production of a low carbon plan incorporating energy efficiency and social ownership models. It could be used as a campaign document in local elections and engagement with workplaces and community groups
- Air quality campaign that builds on work done in previous years

GJA post holders - 2017

Secretary: Graham Petersen (previously UCU now BWTUC)

Chair: Rachel Drayson (NUS), who has replaced Russell Warfield (NUS)

Treasurer: currently Graham Petersen

GJA Steering Group - 2017

Rachel Drayson (NUS), Graham Petersen (BWTUC), Philip Pearson (CACCTU), Linda Clarke (UCU), Pete Murry (Green Party), Sam Mason – (PCS), (tbc) –NUT. Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, TUC and People & Planet will be followed to find out if they want to take up their offer of a place. Posts will be confirmed at the first Steering Group meeting in February.

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What is the GJA?

The GJA was launched in 2011 to campaign around the issue of the jobs and skills needed to transition to a low carbon economy. Our work combines supporting local projects through to advocacy at regional, national and international level. It is a loose coalition of trades unions, student organisations, environmental groups and individual supporters. We believe that our focus on the workplace and the need for worker / union engagement means the GJA helps to fill a large gap in climate change work.

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JOINT STATEMENT ON JUST TRANSITION

Friends of the Earth Scotland
Scottish Trade Union Congress
UNITE
UNISON Scotland
Public and Commercial Services Union
Communication Workers Union
University and Colleges Union
WWF Scotland

It's time for a Just Transition in Scotland, moving to a modern low-carbon economy in ways which protect workers' livelihoods, create a new industrial base and deliver a fairer Scotland. The need for action is urgent *in order to* avert the environmental and economic costs of climate change and to rebalance the economy to one which provides enough decent jobs making things in clean ways.

We share a concern that plans for this transition so far have not been ambitious enough and that progress has been slow except regarding on-shore wind. There has been little planning to ensure the protection of the people most affected, *in particular those* who work in sectors reliant on fossil fuels. It is necessary to confront the danger of losing a large part of the industrial base as employment in traditional sectors declines. Workers, if losing their job in these sectors, should be able to redeploy to new sectors and opportunities for retraining must be expanded.

As a new Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Plan are being drafted we hope to see a pipeline of ambitious investment projects and the capacity to finance them put in place. Scotland *has the opportunity to* create an example which other nations might follow. However fine words and targets are not sufficient on their own and experience to date shows that the growth of renewable energy generation does not necessarily result in the creation of new manufacturing and engineering capacity and employment in Scotland. Specific measures are needed to ensure that these benefits accrue.

The government should take a decisive lead with plans to transform key sectors, for example electricity generation, energy storage, transport infrastructure, energy efficiency and sustainable heating for homes and businesses. Where necessary to secure change at sufficient pace and scale, options for public and community ownership or partial stakes in flagship projects and enterprises should be pursued.

Employment and social benefits for Scotland, and *in particular for* communities most affected by industrial change, should be secured through creation of local supply chains, community benefit clauses and local ownership. Social justice and equity *have to* be built in, with no-one left behind in this transition to economic and environmental sustainability.

We aim to create a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities, invite others to join our commitment to promoting a just transition and help assemble the powers, finance and enthusiasm to ensure it happens in Scotland.

13 December 2016

JUST TRANSITION Draft Report - A new determination to see change happen (Page 11)

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JUST TRANSITION Draft Report - A new determination to see change happen

Pressure is on the Scottish Government to take a much more hands-on approach to both economic development and climate change plans. The idea of a Just Transition to a new, clean, more balanced and more just economy is bringing together trades unions and environmentalists in Scotland.

In a joint statement issued by FoES and STUC at the conference in December they share the concern that plans so far have been too slow and not ambitious enough - supported also by WWF Scotland and the Unite, UNISON, PCS, UCATT, UCU and CWU unions. As the new Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Plan are being drafted they will be pressing for bold measures which show that the Scottish Government is determined to make change happen.

The conference heard Stephen Boyd of the STUC set out the shortcomings of the current approach taken over the last decade. A plethora of bold ambitions and targets regarding job creation contrasts with failure to create any new manufacturing jobs in Scotland out of the renewables revolution. Local supply chains have not been developed and no Scottish-owned renewables businesses have been created. The roots of this problem lie in timid and inconsistent policy, lack of long-term finance and failure to ensure local ownership and control. He also said that civic society in Scotland lacks the resources necessary to engage on a level playing field and that the government should be willing to fund that engagement.

The contrast with the approaches of other European countries was brought home by Andy Cumbers and Julian Schwartzkopf of E3G who presented his study of how Germany had managed structural change in the Ruhr region with the engagement of trade unions and emphasised the industrial consensus embodied in that country's *Energiewende* – the planned transition by Germany to an energy portfolio dominated by renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development; and the eventual abolition of non-renewable energy sources.

Andy Cumbers has looked at both Denmark and Germany and concluded that long-term grassroots campaigning and diverse coalitions in support of energy transformation have been at the root of the changes in those countries. Consistent policy enabled the creation of local industries and employment. Crucially he says that decentralised regional and local power has allowed space for collective participatory solutions. In contrast he saw over-centralised structures and strong vested interests blocking progress in the UK and Scotland.

Philip Pearson of the GJA (previously at the TUC) spoke about the huge investments needed in new plant and new technologies to cut carbon gas emissions in the foundation industries like steel, chemicals and cement manufacture. Consultation with trade unions and was a vital part of the process of industrial change, and to help protect jobs in the transition to a low carbon future. For their part, unions needed to be

playing a much more active part in pushing for regional industrial strategies.

Mika Minio-Palluelo called for a different approach to industrial policy to capture the economic and social benefits of the massive investments planned in decommissioning and of offshore wind. She advocated that the Scottish Government creates a public offshore wind company and use it to drive the development forwards.

Public investment should be channelled into some key aspects of low-carbon infrastructure, said Robin Parker of WWF Scotland. In Scotland's *Way Ahead* the Low Carbon Infrastructure Taskforce had selected energy efficiency, to stop money and carbon leaking from buildings, district heating and transportation as top priorities. The Climate Change Plan being drafted should be made into an industrial plan.

Cheryl Gedling of PCS emphasised the importance of involving trade union members in industrial transformation. Experiences of setting up workplace environmental representatives have shown that it helps green the workplace but they should be given facility time for this – something which the Scottish Government can act on straight away.

The conference was organised by Friends of the Earth Scotland as part of a partnership with the STUC and unions. Their joint statement in which they challenge the ways in which economic development has been governed in Scotland and the UK, says the government should take a decisive lead with plans to transform key sectors, for example electricity generation, energy storage, transport infrastructure, energy efficiency and sustainable heating for homes and businesses. "Where necessary to secure change at sufficient pace and scale, options for public and community ownership or partial stakes in flagship projects and enterprises should be pursued."

As Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland commented,

"We should be responding to climate change in ways which protect workers' livelihoods, create a new industrial base and deliver a fairer Scotland as well as rapidly reduce our emissions. There will be hundreds of thousands of new jobs in a low-carbon economy."

"So far we have seen good growth in renewable electricity but progress on the transformation of other parts of our economy has been slow. The forthcoming Climate Change Plan will be key. We need ambitious policies for decarbonising transport and heating, for example, which will also provide decent jobs, cleaner streets and warmer homes."