

#### Contents

1. Editorial
2. Poland: Unions back the Solidarity and Just Transition Declaration
3. 'Markets have failed spectacularly'
4. Who backs a Just Transition?
5. Air pollution – all in a day's work
6. Just Transition in Parliament
7. Investors bite the bullet
8. Groundhog Day for carbon capture
9. TUC Yorkshire + Humber Region blazing a trail on just transition
10. AGM 2019

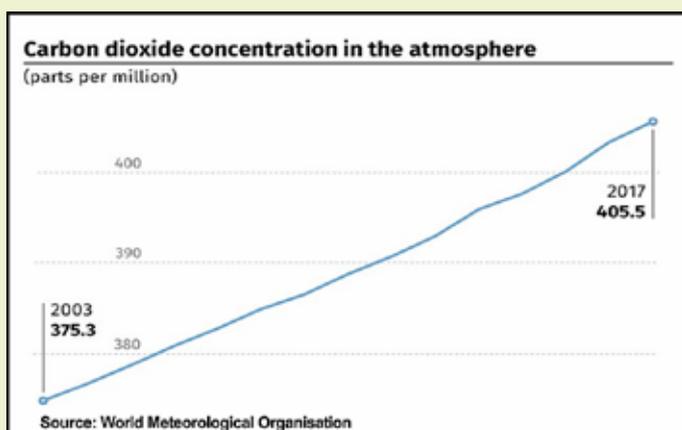
#### 1. Editorial: Wake Up Call! 1.5 to Stay Alive!



London, 1 December: thousands protest at the Polish Embassy and Downing Street

Thousands of protesters, led by the Campaign Against Climate Change, [https://www.campaigncc.org/together\\_for\\_climate\\_justice](https://www.campaigncc.org/together_for_climate_justice) marched in London ahead of the UN climate conference in Poland demanding radical action to curb climate change. [https://www.campaigncc.org/together\\_for\\_climate\\_justice](https://www.campaigncc.org/together_for_climate_justice). On 3 December, as politicians, officials and scientists from 195 nations assembled, the World Meteorological Organisation warned that the 'window of opportunity to halt climate breakdown is almost closed.'

According to *Frontlines*, the International Trade Union briefing, climate breakdown is causing indiscriminate destruction to jobs, livelihoods and whole communities in developed and developing nations alike. Unions going to Poland demand that governments invest in a Just Transition, a programme of new jobs and skills and social protections. The political momentum around Just Transition is encouraging, as Trade Unions for Energy Democracy points out, 'But there is no avoiding the fact that the actual transition to a low carbon economy is not on track.'



Greenhouse gas levels reached record highs in 2017

In Katowice, Poland, trade unions are calling on governments to sign the *Solidarity and Just Transition Declaration*, backed by public investment and action to make the transition away from fossil fuels a fair one.

## 2. Poland: Unions back the Solidarity and Just Transition Declaration

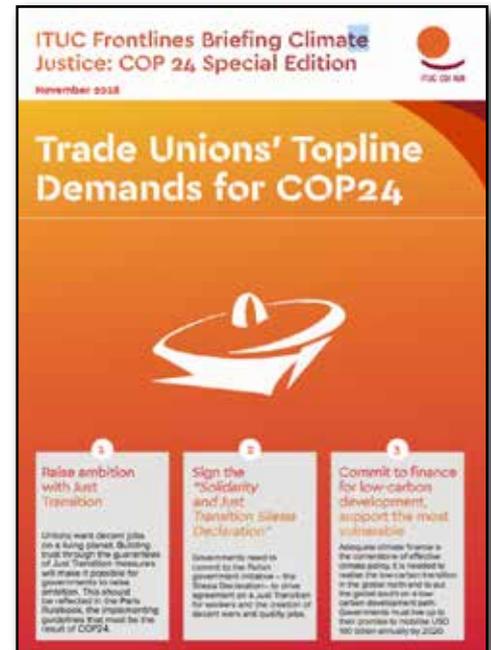
The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) delegation in Poland for the UN's climate change conference (December 3-14th), tabled three key demands.

[https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/frontlines\\_briefing\\_climate\\_cop24\\_en.pdf](https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/frontlines_briefing_climate_cop24_en.pdf)

- Governments to sign the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4936426-Solidarity-and-Just-Transition-Silesia.html> submitted by the Polish Presidency.
- Just Transition strategies at national level
- \$100bn annually for low-carbon investment finance in the least developed nations.

The UK government is among the 50 nations that have so far agreed to support the Declaration, as well as IndustriALL, the global union representing industrial workers <http://www.industriall-union.org/industriall-makes-joint-declaration-demanding-just-transition-at-cop24>. Sharan Burrow, the ITUC's General-Secretary, says:

*'Unions are committed to build jobs and decent work on a living planet, not a dead one. 2018 will be remembered as the year that climate devastation hit the Northern hemisphere. While workers and their families in Africa and Asia have long been suffering from high temperatures, droughts, floods and changing seasons, this year the North was hit, too.'*



In the UK, Europe, Canada, Taiwan and the US temperature records were broken. Heat strokes and forest fires have killed many people in California, Japan, South Korea and Greece.

The ITUC has tasked its delegates with a heavy schedule of lobbying governments and public events on Just Transition <https://www.ituc-csi.org/just-transition-centre>

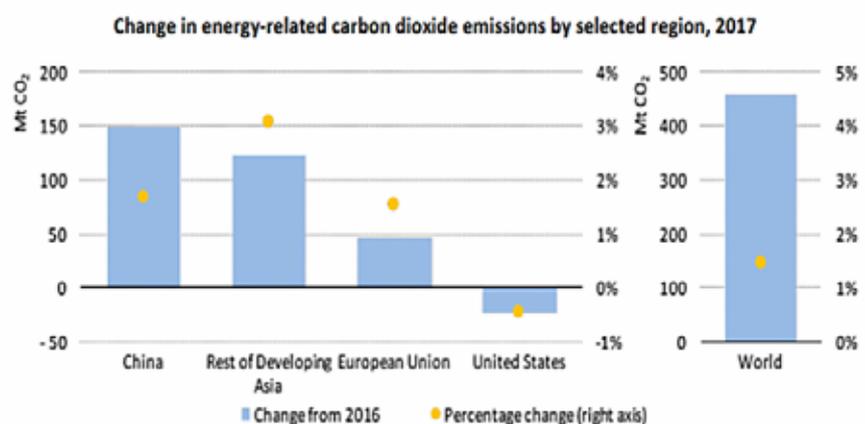
### UN Conference: the Silesia Declaration

“Just Transition” is about workers and their unions having a seat at the table to negotiate their future. The Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4936426-Solidarity-and-Just-Transition-Silesia.html> makes 3 key calls on all governments:

- A just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs. The aim is to ensure no community is left behind in the transition away from fossil fuels.
- Developing measures to make infrastructure climate-resilient and enhance institutional capacity, so that we create decent jobs for both women and men while improving resilience, especially in vulnerable countries;
- The potential for the creation of additional jobs as a result of increased global ambition.

### FAST FACT – Emissions rose in 2017 to historic levels.7

The growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 is a strong warning for global efforts to combat climate change, and demonstrates that current efforts are insufficient to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.



Source: ITUC



### 3. 'Markets have failed spectacularly'

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, is the guest speaker at a Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) event in Poland (9 December). The meeting's will focus on *Alternatives to Market Failures, and the Role of Public Ownership*. TUED argues that 'The onslaught of extreme weather and the increasingly stark scientific assessment leave no doubt that we face an ecological and civilizational emergency.'

In *When "Green" Doesn't "Grow": Facing Up to the Failure of Profit-Driven Climate Policy*, TUED shows [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yLnniSfVUo0eWv9PhM52fhafk9015h7sQlww3Rx-VGM/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yLnniSfVUo0eWv9PhM52fhafk9015h7sQlww3Rx-VGM/viewform?edit_requested=true) that 'In the year since the UN conference in Bonn, a stream of headlines and reports have confirmed that governments are not on track to meet their climate commitments.'

*'The market-focused approach to climate protection has failed spectacularly. Using "sticks and carrots" policies aimed at the private sector, governments anticipated a surge of new "green growth" investment creating millions of good jobs. This did not happen. It is now absolutely clear that climate policy must shift in a radically different direction. Unions can help ensure that such a shift occurs as soon as possible.'*

'Growing numbers of unions are questioning policies that push "public private partnerships" that please private investors who deliver too little and take too much. Unions are increasingly rallying behind the idea of a needs-based, "public goods" approach to climate protection—one that is grounded in extending public ownership and democratic control. Such an approach will give us a real chance to reach the Paris targets, and to advance the struggle for political and economic democracy, equality and decent work. This is the only way to achieve a Just Transition for all.'

### 4. Who backs a Just Transition?

Four governments have committed to national Just Transition plans:

- Canada: with a government Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities. It will provide advice on how to make the transition away from coal a fair one for workers and communities
- New Zealand: a Just Transition and economic diversification plan based on social dialogue with unions and broad stakeholder consultation. The plan will be for regions reliant on offshore oil and gas extraction, which New Zealand's government will phase out by 2050.
- Scotland: a national Just Transition Commission includes Unison, Prospect, Unite, GMB and other stakeholders, working on a low-carbon transition strategy. The Scottish government has banned fracking.
- Spain: government and mining unions have agreed to a Just Transition plan for coal mines scheduled for closure. Plans will cover economic 'diversification' ie new industries coming into affected areas, and compensation schemes for jobs lost.



Campaign Against Climate Change

In the UK:

- Unite wants a Just transition strategy for the car industry, based on new investment to develop the UK's electric and hybrid vehicles, battery power systems and charging infrastructure. Support for the 'upskilling and reskilling of the existing workforce' is a crucial part of this plan.

Elsewhere, a Prospect union rep <https://www.prospect.org.uk/blog/index/2018/November/15/wind-business-looked-like-future> shows how unionising the rapidly growing renewables industry is no walk in the park. Roy Stewart, an engineer, says,

*'It's harder for us in ScottishPower Renewables, as opposed to other businesses in ScottishPower, in that they haven't recognised Prospect, or any other union. That's a battle that I've got at the moment, to try and change attitudes. Our membership has increased dramatically over the past few years. So, it's steadily improving but I'm still trying to get the message out.'*

## The Poland Conference: what's at stake?

Negotiators must agree the complex rules needed to make sure countries actually fulfil their pledges under the 2015 Paris Agreement <https://bit.ly/2mhoFQi> and set the scene for them to raise those pledges by 2020.

COP 24 is the UN's 24th annual Conference of Parties (COP24) to its Framework Convention on Climate Change. In Paris in December 2015, 195 nations agreed to:

- a long-term goal to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change.
- the need for global emissions to peak as soon as possible.
- nationally-determined climate action plans.
- provide \$100bn annually to help the least developed nations adapt to climate change and invest in clean energy.

But the big flaw in the Paris Agreement is that the climate action plans at **national level are voluntary**. Now, as *Climate Home News* <https://bit.ly/1mM2UHQ> points out, at the end of this fortnight, negotiators must agree the complex rules needed to make sure countries actually fulfil their pledges under the Paris Agreement, and set the scene for them to raise those pledges by 2020.

The Polish city of Katowice will host the conference, a symbolic place for all workers worldwide to see whether governments will plan for Just Transition and decent work for communities on the frontline - faced with mine and power station closures and jobs losses in polluting industries. In Poland, with 100,000 coal miners and coal producing 80% of the nation's electricity, it will come as no surprise that Polish coal unions <https://bit.ly/2pAqjJA> see international climate action as a threat to their way of life. That's why the ITUC is demanding high level action to get a Just Transition plan as standard in government plans to tackle climate breakdown. <https://bit.ly/2QDkPns>

## 5. Air Pollution - all in a day's work

Despite all the publicity on air pollution, there's been a glaring lack of focus on worker protection. On building sites, in lorry and bus drivers' cabs and on the factory floor, tens of thousands of workers are exposed to dangerous pollution levels, including tiny carbon particles invisible to the naked eye. A glance at the strategies of the UK government reveal a complete absence of recognition that this is a workplace issue. Equally many of the city and regional policies fail to address this. Why? The explanation that the GJA has come up with is that it would place a greater responsibility on employers to do something about it.

The government approach is focused around individual solutions like healthier lifestyles and buying an electric vehicle. With their proposal to delay the prohibition on the sale of fossil fuel cars to 2040 this is not exactly a way of dealing with the issue in the here and now. Fortunately, the World Health Organisation Air Pollution global

conference in Geneva on 29 October made the link. The GJA was invited to participate in a roundtable on 'Protecting workers from air pollution'. Along with 2 representatives from the international trade union movement we identified a range of commitments needed to address this 'worker health emergency'

### Trade Union Clean Air Network

In November we met with the Hazards Campaign and the University and College Union to discuss the establishment of a group to highlight the need for action in the workplace. Other unions are being contacted and invited to a launch event on Wednesday, 6 February, 2019 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm in London (venue to be confirmed)

During November we ran training sessions for PCS and NEU trades unions and did a presentation at City Hall, London, attended by over 150 activists on air pollution issues. The GJA has also joined the Healthy Air Campaign group convened by Client Earth.

If anyone was in any doubt about the need for workplace action then take a look at this photo. It



shows contamination from the inside window of a bus. A driver in Tooting, London wiped the front window at the end of each shift to illustrate the black carbon and other contaminants being breathed in as part of a working day. We will be working with unions and others to arrange extensive testing of workplace exposures to fumes and dusts as part of our campaign to adopt legal standards that offer protection for workers whether they are exposed to indoor or outdoor pollution.

## 6. Just Transition in the Commons

A packed meeting at the House of Commons (14 November 2018) gathered unions, campaigners and investors to debate working together for a just transition. A New Economics Foundation (NEF) report <https://neweconomics.org/2018/11/working-together-for-a-just-transition> says many parts of the UK have long suffered from



under-investment and support. Mines, factories and power stations have closed without replacement jobs and skills. The question was not whether nations firmly unshackle their economies from the legacy of a century of oil, coal and gas, but when, and how do they do this fairly?

Clive Lewis MP, Shadow Treasury Minister, said we have to halve our carbon emissions in ten years, and do the same again in the next ten. 'If you miss these goals, then you miss holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.' Labour was working on a new 'sustainable economics' mission for the Treasury, with public and community ownership and investment at its heart.

For Unite, Gail Cartmail was concerned about the future of jobs and skills in industrial communities that Thatcher had destroyed. Unions could be forgiven for a 'once bitten, twice shy' response. 'Our members want union jobs and union rates', but some of the new employers as anti-union, are in the wind turbine sector. And this

government was hostile to unions, having stripped out trade union representation.

Sam Mason said PCS was working on proposals for a Just Transition Act <https://www.pcs.org.uk/resources/green-workplaces/pcs-green-policies> to underpin a planned economic transition. The union saw this as much more than just a floor of social protections, but a proactive policy for social justice. It was lobbying the Labour Party for changes to the machinery of government for a civil service ready to deliver on climate change as part of a National Climate Service.

NEF wants the government 'to mirror the example of the Scottish Government's Just Transition Commission by establishing **ten such commissions** in the areas most directly facing transition challenges' – like Port Talbot in South Wales, the automotive manufacturing cluster of the West Midlands, and Yorkshire, where the TUC has set up a Low Carbon Task Force backed up by a reps training programme <https://www.tuc.org.uk/>

## 7. Investors bite the bullet

Is the responsible investor now taking climate change seriously? Yes, according to Nick Robins of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change: <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-analysis/investing-in-a-just-transition>, who says: *'At last, the investment tanker is turning. Trillions of dollars in investment funds are now backing a rapid shift to a zero-carbon economy. The reason is simple: climate change wrecks the ability of institutional investors to deliver long-term returns for the world's savers and pensioners.'*

The Investing in a Just Transition project [http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Robins-et-al\\_Investing-in-a-Just-Transition.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Robins-et-al_Investing-in-a-Just-Transition.pdf)

, whose supporters include the ITUC, says, 'Investors will play a critical role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and they are increasingly taking action to respond to climate change risks and opportunities.' Up to this point, however, most investor strategies on climate change haven't included the impacts of disinvestment on jobs and communities – the so-called 'social dimension.' The transition to a zero-carbon economy needs 'careful management so that the transition is not just environmentally effective and economically efficient, but also socially inclusive.'

The project has is liaising with unions in the UK, including in the Yorkshire & the Humber region. There is a growing interest in 'place-based initiatives', where real dialogue can take place between investors, unions and local communities.

At a recent workshop in London, unions made the point that it's crucial investors don't repeat the mistakes of the past, when for example the closure of the coal mines left many communities permanently scarred. So, the 'governance' of investment decisions, ensuring that unions and their communities have a say, would be a key to making investment strategies support a just transition.

## 8. Groundhog Day for carbon capture

Just over three years since former Tory Chancellor George Osborne axed £1bn of public investment in a carbon capture and storage (CCS) project in Yorkshire, the government unveiled 'new plans' to deliver the UK's 'first' carbon capture project by the mid-2020s.

The plan includes £20m in supporting the construction of carbon capture technologies at industrial sites across the UK. Additional money is available for industrial sites with high energy use and carbon emissions. But there are fears that if the government again tries to run a competition between the projects in Yorkshire, Teesside, Scotland, and Lancashire then it will repeat the mistakes that led it to cancel the original projects.

For more information visit:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news-analysis/3067118/the-time-is-now-government-unveils-plans-for-uks-first-carbon-capture-and-usage-project>



## 9. TUC Yorkshire + Humber Region blazing a trail on just transition

The first trade union course on Just Transition took place in Leeds on November 26th-27th, 2018. It was attended by members of the following unions: BFAWU, GMB, NEU, PCS TSSA, UCU and Unite.

The course is part of the work that the Y+H Region is doing on climate change and jobs. It is co-ordinated by a taskforce consisting of trade unions (Unite, Prospect, GMB, UCU, BFAWU, PCS, and Unison), and includes Employers, Learning Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Universities (Sheffield and Leeds). It is also linked to the London School of Economics who are running a similar just transition project representing potential investors.

### Course delivery

The course was provided by the Trade Union Studies Unit at East Riding College. It was an accredited course run through the TUC Education programme using the 'Understanding Environmental Issues in the Workplace' unit at Level 2. The tutor was Graham Petersen.



*Course participants doing an activity identifying the pros and cons of different energy options.*

### Course evaluation

This was a pilot course using new materials. Positive comments were received during the review. It was felt that given the massive implications for trades unions of a low carbon transition that it was essential that all training programmes reflected this. The course was designed to use the experience of participants to shape the content of the activities and resources in the next stage of the programme.

### Next steps

The taskforce will need to consider the report and agree the range of training needs for members through to union officials. This particular course was designed for union reps who could then support shorter site-based membership training. Early in 2019 there will be a redraft of the materials based on feedback from the pilot. The GJA looks forward to working with the taskforce to protect jobs and conditions of employment in the region.

# Greener Jobs Alliance

**TIME TO GET  
SERIOUS ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Has there ever been such a massive gap between science and government policy?**

The next 12 years will be crucial as to whether we stand any chance of preventing the world from tipping in to ever more dangerous levels of global warming.

*What kind of Industrial Strategy will be needed to get us to net zero carbon?*

A panel including **Chi Onwurah**, Labour Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation and **Sampson Low**, UNISON Head of Policy will be presenting their ideas and responding to your comments and questions.

## **GJA Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, 29 January 2019 from 1.00 - 2.30pm**

UCU Head Office,  
Carlow St,  
London NW1 7LH  
(nearest tube Mornington Crescent)

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME**