

Contents

1. Editorial - Making our mark on 'Earth Strike Day,' 20th September
2. UCU Motion for TUC Congress 2019
3. TUC demands A Just Transition to a Greener Fairer Economy
4. Labour demands Green Industrial Revolution
5. GJA fringe at TUC
6. Prospect blames 'Free market' for collapse in renewable energy jobs
7. PCS declares 'Climate Emergency'
8. Bakers' Union conference declares climate emergency
9. Government's 'dirty bank' funds fossil fuels overseas
10. Labour to make climate change part of core curriculum
11. GJA at Glastonbury
12. EVENTS

1. Making our mark on 'Earth Strike Day, 20 September

The University and Colleges Union (UCU) will urge delegates to the TUC's annual Congress in Brighton (September 8-11) 'to call a 30-minute workday solidarity stoppage to coincide with the global school student strike on the 20th September.' At least three unions, with some 345,000 members, (UCU, PCS and the Bakers' Union) have already declared their support for a climate emergency.

Greta Thunberg has led the call for adults and workers to join the 'Earth Strike', the global school students strike, on the Friday 20th September. UK school students are preparing intensively for the event. They want citizens to walk out of work just before a crucial UN summit in New York, where nations are being urged to declare much stronger ambitions to tackle the climate emergency.

Friday September 20th is, for many, a normal working day. Under current UK trade union legislation, we need hardly say, workers can only 'lawfully' strike 'in furtherance of a trade dispute.' But the UCU has finessed this problem by calling for a 30-minute workday stoppage.

The hard scientific evidence points to species' extinction at a rate unprecedented in human history, with plastics polluting our oceans, fossil fuels polluting the atmosphere, and the climate breaking down across the planet. And as we also report below, in response to 'those workers whose jobs are at risk if we don't take action to make the transition to a greener economy a just one,' the TUC has made a fresh call for A Just Transition to a Greener Fairer Economy.

In Brighton, the Campaign Against Climate Change is organising an evening meeting on Tuesday September 10, *Trade unionists and climate strikes: responding to the climate emergency and Organising for a Green Industrial Revolution*, with speakers including youth climate striker and trade unions. And on Monday 9th, the GJA's evening event focuses on Organising for a Green Industrial Revolution, building workplace action on air pollution as a workplace and climate issue, and campaigning for a Just Transition.

So Brighton is a big opportunity for trade unionists to call for all forms of appropriate action available to them on 20th September, the 30-minute workday stoppage proposed by the UCU, supporting the day with banners, events, speakers, brass bands and generally making our support powerfully. Anything to match the scale of the climate breakdown. <https://bit.ly/2JXYUTY>

2. UCU Motion for TUC Congress 2019

In line with its 2019 national conference, the UCU, with 110,000 members in Adult Learning, Universities and Colleges, will submit the climate solidarity motion below to the TUC Congress on 8 to 11 September. *'We are calling on all the TUC affiliate unions, student unions throughout our colleges and universities and politicians and community groups, to support the call for a 30-minute workday stoppage.'*

Here's the full text of the UCU motion:

Congress notes:

- *The Earth's temperature has already risen by one degree above pre-industrial levels. The autumn IPCC report warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees.*
- *Carbon emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030 and reach zero carbon by 2050 in order to avoid a dangerous tipping point the tremendous impact of the school students strikes in shifting government complacency over climate change forcing them to amend the 2008 Climate Change Act*
- *Greta Thunberg's call for a Climate Strike and for adults and workers to join the global school students strike on the 20th September which will begin a week of action on climate the solidarity strikes organised by trade unions in Belgium and France.*

Congress believes:

- *Climate change is a trade union issue.*
- *The future of our planet is at risk if we don't organise now to force governments to cut emissions in line with the IPCC report.*
- *Taxing the very wealthy and closing tax loopholes in line with Labour Party manifesto commitments will meet the cost of cutting emissions.*
- *We must keep the pressure up. The school students have led the way but educators and the trade union movement as a whole must now act to ensure that they don't fight alone.*

Congress resolves:

The TUC to call a 30-minute workday solidarity stoppage to coincide with the global school student strike on the 20th September.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2G8Lm5v>

You can add your support for the TUC motion here: <https://bit.ly/2Lgg5S6>

3. TUC demands A Just Transition to a Greener Fairer Economy

'We'll stand up for those workers whose jobs are at risk if we don't take action to make the transition to a greener economy a just one,' says the TUC in its latest call for A Just Transition to a Greener Fairer Economy. The TUC says 'the move to decarbonise our economy has the potential to offer exciting opportunities for the UK.'

Representing over 5.5 million workers, the TUC argues that *'the lack of a comprehensive just transition policy means that many well paid, highly skilled, unionised jobs, are under threat.'* But shut out from much of government policymaking, it says, *'The opportunities from moves to 'decarbonise the economy' will not be realised unless the 'workers most affected have a seat at the table where key decisions are taken.'*

The strategy says, *'Energy intensive industries, including the energy, transport, manufacturing and construction sectors will be key to achieving this transition.'* But, it adds, *'This is a project that will require change right across our economy, and trade union members have the expertise to deliver it.'*



Rebecca Long-Bailey speaking at the launch with Tim Page (TUC), Baroness Brown (Committee on Climate Change) and Paul Novak (TUC).

Not for the first time, the TUC calls for change from the failed neoliberal approach of the 1980s *'which left workers behind, and communities devastated.'*

The TUC's big asks include:

A cross-party commission on long-term energy strategy. Unions, industry and consumers should be involved. What is now needed, the TUC says, is a consensus on how the energy policy options set out by the Committee on Climate Change should be delivered, including due regard to the social impacts.

- 1. Government must invest to deliver change,** through progressive taxation and regulation, in household energy efficiency, public transport, and public service responses to extreme weather.
- 2. Workplace Transition Agreements in companies and organisations,** covering jobs, skills, pay and other issues. Unions should have access to all

workplaces to explain the benefits of trade unions.

- 3. Every worker should have access to funding to improve their skills.** 'Workers in energy intensive sectors have the skills and expertise that will be required to help these sectors transition to lower carbon models.' Apprenticeships are the best guarantor of skills excellence. Proper funding of the adult education sector is essential.
- 4. The 'green economy' (and beyond) must recognise unions and bargain with them** to ensure good quality jobs 'with terms and conditions at least as good as those in energy and carbon intensive sectors.' Government has a key role in making this happen, as a funder and procurer of new energy and broader infrastructure.

The TUC strategy reflects three of the GJA's Just Transition demands:

- Inclusion of Just Transition principles in the UK's Industrial and Clean Growth strategies.
- The right to appoint workplace environment representatives.
- A Just Transition Commission, to develop a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead, along the lines of the Scottish Commission.

However, the TUC's proposed 'Commission' appears to relate only to the energy sector and the energy intensive industries, like steel and much manufacturing. The TUC rightly insists that 'the UK must retain a strong manufacturing base, and not simply export carbon-intensive jobs overseas.' But the frontline of climate breakdown is everywhere - with a firefighter up on Saddleworth Moor. In A&E where a nurse cares for patients with heat exhaustion. With a marine biologist concerned with species extinction. On a dyke with an environment agency staffer organising flood relief. And yes, in a steel plant or with a gas worker. These are all union jobs fighting austerity and climate breakdown, also on the frontline.

As the NEU General Secretary said recently: 'Just Transition is an issue for every citizen, with educators playing a key role in ensuring that young people have the skills to be successfully part of the transformation to a low carbon economy that works for everyone.'

So the TUC is right to insist that every unionised workplace should have a workplace transition agreement. But there is a danger that TUC's transition focus is narrowing to energy, just as awareness of the climate crisis is widening. And is the level of ambition right? The TUC's strategy constantly refers to a transition to a 'low carbon economy,' when all eyes are now on zero carbon by 2050, or sooner, a much tougher ask, with appeals to all citizens and workers to play their part.

<https://bit.ly/2XWQund>

4. Labour's Green Industrial Revolution

Labour is calling for a Green Industrial Revolution, with public consultations around the UK 'so that it works for your region, your city, your town,' and your workplace. The roundtables kicked off in Morecombe on 5 June, where the focus was on the area's potential for good, green jobs in offshore wind, tidal power and community-owned renewable energy. <https://bit.ly/2Lg5FCd>



Rebecca Long-Bailey said:

We will need a government that is truly representative and responsive to the public interest, willing to invest to safeguard our future, as well as unashamedly interventionist. We will need modern and participatory democratic institutions, rolling back the privatisations that have led to rip-off energy and public transport costs. Ultimately, tackling the environment and climate emergency will require the UK to reimagine its energy system, transport, agriculture, housing – its entire economy – so that it works for the many, not the few, long into the future.

Online consultation:

www.labour.org.uk/greenrevolution

Next stop: **Cornwall!**

Saturday 22 July, 2.00 - 4:30pm

Heartlands

Robinson's Shaft

Dudnace Lane

Pool

TR15 3QY

5. GJA fringe at TUC - Organising for a Green Industrial Revolution



The GJA's fringe meeting at this year's TUC in Brighton (9 September) focuses on Labour's campaign for a Green Industrial Revolution <https://labour.org/gree> to confront the climate emergency. Meeting emissions targets remains elusive and air quality deteriorates, driven by fossil fuel emissions, but unions are organising at work and in the community to tackle the health risks and to build an alternative zero carbon economy. At this meeting, we will launch our new, free online training module on Just Transition. Our invited speakers include the Shadow Minister for Climate Justice and Green Jobs, leading trade unionists from the UCU and Bakers Union, and Friends of the Earth.

More details in our next Newsletter.

6. Prospect blames 'Free market' for collapse in renewable energy jobs

Prospect, the energy and public sector union with 143,000 members, has revealed that the number of jobs in renewable energy in the UK plunged by a third between 2014 and 2017, as the government cut incentives and support schemes. New green generating capacity fell by a similar amount, causing havoc among companies in the sector. The union, which organises in renewables, says the cuts reflects the government's overriding 'free market' ideology.



The union says the situation is similar to the devastation caused to coalmining communities in the 1980s and demands instead a "just transition" to a clean energy future.

Sue Ferns, Prospect's Senior DGS, said,

'The government's market-led approach has failed, and resulted on offshoring green jobs while UK workers are left behind. Without a proper industrial strategy from government that promotes low-carbon generation like renewables and new nuclear, we will be unable to secure the future of our energy supply, which is under threat in the coming decade.'

<https://bit.ly/2XaDmHD>

7. PCS declares 'Climate Emergency'

On 25 June 2019, PCS, the public and commercial services union with 182,000 members, declared a climate emergency on behalf of members. The move follows unanimous support from PCS members at its annual delegate conference in May. The declaration is based on the worrying scientific evidence:

- The grim prospect of species extinction on land, sea and air. Species are disappearing at a rate unprecedented in human history.
- The UN scientists' call for a rapid and radical transformation of our economies by 2030 if we are to stabilise the climate.
- Climate emergency declarations in UK Parliament, Welsh Government, political parties, scores of local authorities, and cultural institutions.
- The demands of Extinction Rebellion and the UK wide student protests, part of the global student climate strikes.

PCS believes trade unions must lead the case for radical action for a 2030 zero carbon emissions target. 'As a trade union our primary objective will always be to protect members' jobs. In a climate emergency we assert the best way to do that is to create or repurpose jobs to combat the environmental and climate crisis.'

Demands include the establishment of a National Climate Service as part of the wider one million climate jobs campaign, set out in the PCS Energy Democracy and Just Transition pamphlet. It wants a fully funded and staffed civil service and wider public service able to

coordinate and deliver the action required.

The union's Climate Change and Environment Committee will consult members on the plan. The union is encouraging its members to appoint more green reps, demand 'green' facility time, and set up workplace 'Green Forums.'

<https://bit.ly/2fvtV1p>



8. Bakers' Union conference declares climate emergency

<https://bit.ly/2JvEb9l>

In May, the Bakers' Union, with 20,000 food industry members, backed Greta Thunberg's call urging others join students striking for climate action.

'Many trade unionists across the trade union movement have been inspired by the action taken in the last few months by young people determined to defend their future. As trade unionists, let's stand in solidarity and add our voice to the call for climate action,' the union said.

The union organises across the fast food, food retail and food production, including major manufacturing sites with high energy use in food processing. Now, in the latest stage for its climate campaigning, the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union declared a Climate Emergency on May 1st, at its annual conference, and agreed *'to endorse the general "earth strike" on 20th September 2019.'*

The move follows the same initiative by over 50 local councils. The union wants to see a worker led transition to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Bakers' Union strategy also calls on its branches to:

- Demand workplace Green Forums, with urgent talks with employees to reduce carbon emissions, improve recycling and develop green transport plans.
- Appoint green reps and to request facility time.



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.

9. Government's 'dirty bank' funds fossil fuels overseas

UK Export Finance, the government's export credit agency, invested £2.5bn in fossil fuel projects overseas, of which £2.4bn went to low and middle income countries. The government's support for fossil fuels is the 'elephant in the room,' undermining the UK's climate and development objectives, according to the Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee. UK funding risks locking developing countries into high carbon dependency for decades to come.

MPs urged UK Export Finance (UKEF) to stop all spending on global fossil fuel projects by 2021 and align its activities with achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, following the lead of other export credit agencies, such as Sweden's agency, which has placed a cap on such spending. Earlier this year, Net Zero, a report from the independent Committee on Climate Change, told the government bluntly that export finance is not aligned with climate goals, and often supports high-carbon investments.

Oil Change International also told MPs that, 'the oil, gas and coal to be extracted from already-developed fields and mines (see diagram below) would take the world well past the 1.5 degrees specified in the Paris goals, and almost to 2 degrees of warming. Even if coal were phased out overnight, the oil and gas alone would take the world beyond 1.5 degrees.'

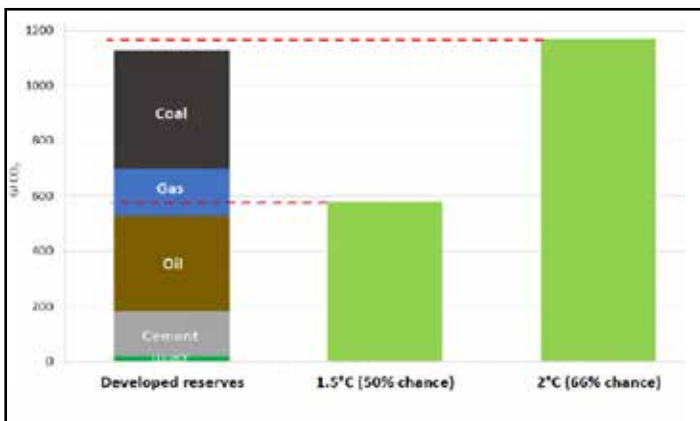


Diagram shows committed emissions from fossil fuel reserves (left hand column) compared with Carbon Budgets for 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees of global warming in the Paris agreement.

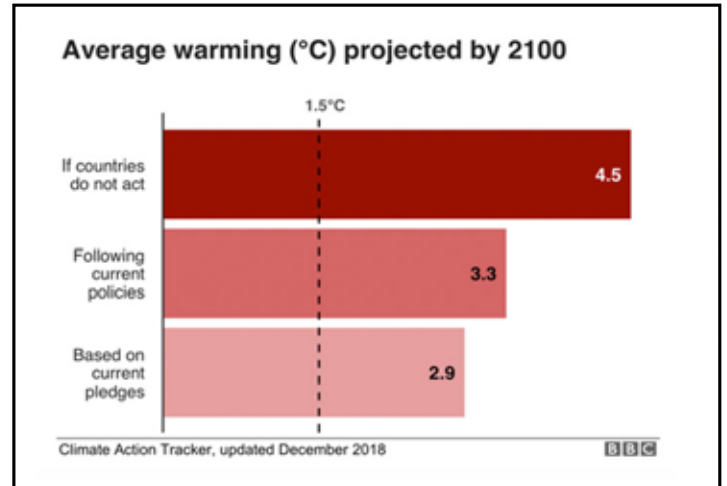
The EAC chair, Mary Creagh MP, said achieving net zero by 2050 - a target the government is widely expected to formally adopt in the near future - should 'mean ending our addition to dirty fossil fuels.'

Environmental Audit Committee report: <https://bit.ly/2NPGorW>

Net Zero report: <https://bit.ly/2IUk9lo>

We are not on track to halt global overheating

If we add up all the promises to cut emissions made by countries that have signed the Paris climate agreement, the world would still warm by more than 3C by the end of this century.



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46384067>

10. Labour to make climate change part of core curriculum

Climate change will be a core part of the curriculum from primary school onwards. Under plans set out by Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner MP, the next Labour government will ensure all young people are educated about the ecological and social impact of climate change. A review of the curriculum will also make certain that it focuses on the knowledge and skills that young people need in a world that will be increasingly shaped by climate change, particularly in renewable energy and green technology jobs.

<https://bit.ly/2SbJDRR>

11. GJA at Glastonbury

The GJA showed up at the festival in June at the Green Futures field. We participated in a range of debates and spoke at the Energy forum to provide a trade union voice. We were also there raising money with the Workers Beer Co. Huge thanks to our UCU/ GJA team who did a great job at The Liquid Bar throughout the week.



12. EVENTS

Greening construction conference

This conference is a must for unions in construction, buildings materials manufacture, energy and local government.

Buildings and construction contribute 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. As the need to tackle climate change becomes ever more urgent, the drive to cut emissions from the built environment is gaining speed. The EU wants to achieve Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) in new construction by 2021. So the construction sector is heading for fundamental changes in the very near future. Transition to green construction presents both a challenge and opportunity.



This conference asks how construction can be transformed into a green and inclusive industry, through examples that combine comprehensive vocational education and training (VET), a holistic approach to the building process and high energy performance standards.

Trade union speakers include:

- Lee Loftus, British Columbian Building Trades, Canada.
- Jesper Lund Larsen, 3F United Federation of Danish workers
- Kristof van Roy, from Constructiv, Belgium.

Organised by Linda Clarke, a member of the GJA steering group, other speakers at the conference include expert contributions from the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, Ireland; Builders of Passive Social Housing; specialists in energy efficient housing and construction; and environmental engineers and other specialists.

Thursday 18 July 2019, 10.30am-17:00pm
Room CG28
University of Westminster Marylebone Campus
35 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5LS
(opposite Madame Tussaud and diagonal from Baker Street tube station)

To reserve a place, contact, Melahat Sahin-Dikmen
M.Sahindikmen@westminster.ac.uk
or Linda Clarke: clarkel@westminster.ac.uk

Climate Emergency: Education for the future



Student strikes have inspired a generation of new activists, pushing the climate emergency to the top of the political agenda. Now, education unions the NEU and UCU, backed by the NUS, have joined forces to organise a one-day conference, Climate Emergency: Education for the future, on Saturday 12 October in London.

'Curriculum, Activism and Education' are the key themes. The conference is aimed at workers and students from across the world of education, unions and environmental campaigning to discuss how we can work together to bring about the change we so desperately need. The organisers say, the transition to a zero-carbon society to keep below a 1.5 degree increase is the most urgent problem facing humanity and is technically feasible. The obstacles are entirely political.

Saturday 12 October 2019, 10:00 – 17:00
Regent High School
Chalton Street
London NW1 1RX
(near Euston or Kings Cross stations)

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/32mPHLS>

Hazards Conference 2019 - Cleaning up toxic work!

Hazards Conference is the UK's biggest and best educational and organising event for trade union safety reps and activists. It consists of a mixture of plenary sessions, meetings and a comprehensive workshop programme. Delegates have the opportunity to exchange experience and information with, and learn from, safety reps and activists from other unions, sectors and jobs across the UK.

30th National Hazards Conference
26 – 28 July 2019
University of Keele, Stoke-on-Trent

Read report of last year's Hazards 2018 Conference:
<https://bit.ly/2JE6zoK>