

Contents

1. Editorial
2. That morning after feeling: Johnson's ten point plan
3. Labour's 'Green Recovery' – timely, or timid?
4. Green Jobs Taskforce
5. Clean Air campaigns take off
6. Climate breakthrough for Yorkshire and the Humber region
7. Workers can't wait – COP26 climate talks
8. 'Proud to be part of our union'

1. Editorial

On November 17, Prime Minister Johnson broadcast to the nation his '10-point plan for a Green Industrial revolution.' Except it's not. What's missing? A strategic plan to reach net zero by 2050 and the public investment in jobs and skills to match.

The UK, which is hosting important UN climate negotiations (COP 26) next year, is under national and international pressure to deliver an ambitious climate strategy that shows leadership, setting the bar high as countries around the world come to the table to pledge greater climate ambition. This isn't it.

It's not only unions that have been critical of the plan. E3G a European think tank has also commented on the weaknesses <https://bit.ly/3m31mZD>

A week before Johnson spoke, Labour launched its own plan for a Green Economic Recovery, calling for £30bn of spending over the next 18 months to create 400,000 new green jobs. This plan seems more focused on the here and now, the need to take swift action to deal with the economic fall-out from the pandemic and to kick start the work on the climate crisis.

Even so, whether Labour is putting out short term plans or a full length strategy, we believe it is essential for the Party to keep focussed on the radical building blocks needed to tackle the climate crisis:

- Public ownership of the energy sector – absent from this plan.
- Building green supply chains for UK manufacturing industries.
- Adoption of the *Just Transition* principle into UK law.
- A long term public investment strategy.
- Regional industrial strategies with strong partnership across unions, industry and communities.
- Prioritising the reduction of energy consumption as part of a low carbon building strategy.

Johnson, with typical hyperbole, said, '*Imagine Britain when a Green Industrial Revolution has helped to level up the country.*' As we report here, unions can't wait for Johnson's parcel to arrive, and instead, are organising in the UK and globally for urgent action on the climate crisis.

Photo: John Englart www.flickr.com/photos/takver/



Join the global trade union working group on COP26: cop26-tradeunions@lists.riseup.net
See Sam Mason's report, below.

2. That morning after feeling: Johnson's ten point plan

On 17 November, the Prime Minister announced 'My 10-Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs' <https://bit.ly/2UViq8a>

It began to unravel the next day, as the details emerged. The plans were good in parts, according to some business groups and campaigners, with funding announcements and policy signals including 'green' hydrogen, carbon capture and storage (CCS), nuclear, offshore wind, and electric vehicles. Some positive steps, at last, towards the UK's net zero transition.

But, based on the government's own figures published the next day, the 10-Point Plan will only deliver just over half of the reduction in the UK's carbon emissions required to meet the government's statutory targets. Carbon Brief's Simon Evans reckons it will only fill around 55% of the gap <https://bit.ly/3nOCuVZ>. Another 150Mt of annual CO2 savings must be found to meet current carbon budgets. And the UK is badly off track.

Measure	Value
CCUS	40
buildings	71
nuclear	1
walking	2
car ban	5
hydrogen	41
offshore	21
Total	181

$181 = 55\% \text{ of the gap}$

Source: [Twitter.com/DrSimEvans](https://twitter.com/DrSimEvans)

<https://bit.ly/399WXQU>

As usual with the Prime Minister, once something is put under the spotlight, confusion follows <https://www.e3g.org/news/green-without-the-recovery/> Like the government's indecision over replacing domestic gas boilers: With what? By when? Or the offer of 'up to £500m' for extracting hydrogen gas from water, when Germany is already spending £9 billion and is way ahead. And it turns out that only around £4bn of the £12 billion is new money, as compared with the £37 billion green recovery package announced by the German government.

There's virtually no mention of skills in Johnson's plan. And a bizarre disconnect in the number of green jobs created. The Green Skills Taskforce press release refers to '2 million green jobs,' Johnson says its '250,000.' The GJA has written to Minister for Skills, Kwasi Kwarteng, asking for an explanation.



Sharma also announced that, 'To drive our progress towards this national priority, the Prime Minister will establish a new Task Force Net Zero, putting a systems approach at the heart of our thinking.' Sharma will be chairing the UN climate conference in Glasgow next November. He will have his work cut out to explain by then how the UK will be the 'world leader' his boss is claiming.

Union Reactions to Johnson's plan

This year has seen perhaps the strongest ever union focus on a green recovery, as their reactions show.

Steve Turner, Unite:

A 'half-baked offer.' There is 'enormous potential to both create the skilled manufacturing jobs in communities crying out for the work and to super-charge the development of green technologies to better our futures.'

Education unions:

UCU, NEU, NUS and Teach the Future (TtF) said in a joint letter to the PM that the plan 'does not address education. 'Students must leave formal education with the skills and knowledge needed to understand the climate crisis and contribute to its solutions. We are disappointed this has been omitted from today's announcements.' <https://bit.ly/337X4cc>

Justin Bowden, GMB:

'All those in receipt of these Government subsidies and grants should use UK supply chains and therefore generate UK jobs and wealth. The record to date on the offshoring of wind farm fabrication and construction is just one pitiful example.'

GMB has called for a register of wind farms and solar power plants. The conditions for being paid subsidies to operate the renewables energy facilities should be that they are registered. A condition for being eligible to register ought to be that the ultimate company owning the facilities is not registered in a tax haven and that the local content supply % has been achieved.

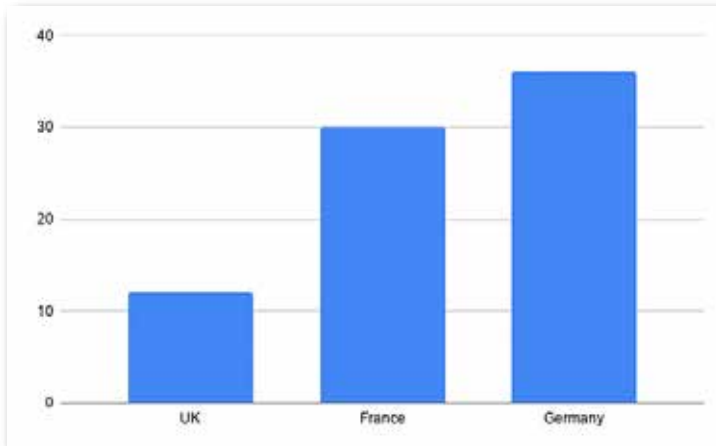
Mick Cash, RMT

'Without reform of the licensing and auction process for offshore wind, the Government will not deliver 60,000 jobs by 2030. We will continue to see manufacturing contracts go overseas, with serious consequences for supply chain jobs in port towns and cities across the UK. Over 11,000 jobs in offshore oil and gas and seafaring have already been lost during the pandemic with no clear paths to re-training or re-deployment in the green economy.'

3. Labour's 'Green Recovery' – timely, or timid?

Ed Miliband MP, Labour's shadow business and energy secretary, unveiled (9 November) Labour's Green Economic Recovery Plan <https://bit.ly/3fxzKtd> calling for £30bn of spending over the next 18 months to create 400,000 new green jobs. Labour's response to the pandemic and climate emergency followed months of consultations with unions, businesses, think tanks, and Labour members. Greenpeace broadly welcomed the plans. For the TUC, Frances O'Grady said, 'Fast-tracking investment in green infrastructure will help to create jobs across the economy and prevent the damage of mass unemployment.'

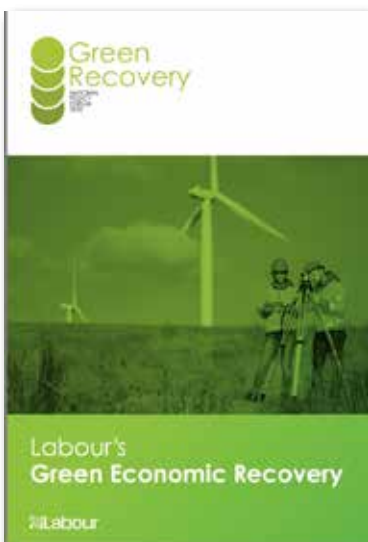
Labour's spending plan is on a par with France and Germany, and it's far ahead of the net £4billion announced by Prime Minister Johnson on 17 November, as Paul Atkins shows: <https://bit.ly/3pUjlyj>



Source: Paul Atkins' Urban Ramblings

But, it falls short of the TUC's recent £85 billion proposed for rail upgrades, social housing and green energy to create over a million jobs in the next two years. And, to the disappointment of campaigners Labour for a Green New Deal, the party dropped commitments in its 2019 manifesto to the public ownership of power supply and a 'just transition' for workers.

Matt Wrack, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), also believed the plan was 'timid': <https://bit.ly/2Kzc9gp> 'If ever there was a time for big, bold policies that can transform the lives of millions, this is it. Labour fails to mention the 2030 target at all; instead holding the government to account for being off track for net zero by 2050.'



But, in contrast to Johnson's efforts to seemingly boost his own image, Labour is committed to continue *'to bring together our members, citizens, businesses, and workers in every community in the country to map out our shared vision for a more prosperous, secure, and sustainable shared future.'*

In brief, Labour's key demands include:

- Accelerate investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Bring forward orders for electric buses to help struggling manufacturers.
- Expand energy efficiency and retrofit programmes, including in social housing
- A National Nature Service: an employment programme on nature conservation projects.
- Negotiate sector deals for automotive, steel and aerospace to protect jobs and promote net zero.
- Invest in carbon capture and storage and hydrogen to create highly-skilled work.
- Flood protection, prioritising the North West, Yorkshire and the East Midlands.
- A National Retraining Strategy.

Skills shortages threaten the UK's ability to transition to net zero. New technologies and the changing UK economy are shifting the demand for skills. The CBI has estimated that nine in 10 employees will need to reskill by 2030. Labour's twin-track *National Retraining Strategy* aims, firstly, to boost apprenticeships, workplace learning and other forms of education and training, to help people gain to access work. And secondly, Labour wants investment in our adult education and employment support services. In contrast to the Government's centralised approach, it would focus on coordinating local training provision through local providers, including local authorities, Further Education colleges and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

Labour's Green Economic Recovery Plan
<https://bit.ly/3m1DrK7>

Paul Atkins' Urban Ramblings
<https://bit.ly/35X87H1>

4. Green Jobs Taskforce

On 17 November, the GJA published a statement on the Government's Green Jobs Task Force, calling for a 'properly funded strategy with full union engagement'.

On 20 November, we asked Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister co-chairing the Task Force, 'Why is there no reference to skills in the Green Industrial Revolution plan?'

<https://bit.ly/370mNEp>

Once again, there is a danger of a disconnect between skills and industrial strategy. We echo the call of education unions and student organisations for a Climate Emergency Education Act.

<https://bit.ly/2UTCZ4K>

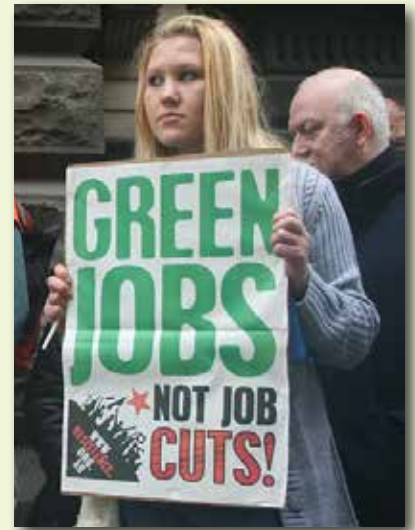


Photo: John Englart www.flickr.com/photos/takver/

5. Clean Air campaigns take off



To mark **Clean Air Day** (8 October), the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) organised a Clean Air Day Zoom meeting – the report is available here:

<https://bit.ly/3fuVSVc>

And Global Action Plan (GAP) launched its new manufacturing report, *Every breath we make: ensuring healthy air for manufacturing workers*

<https://bit.ly/3kZc2Hi>

Hilda Palmer, from the Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, and the Hazards Campaign, represented TUCAN at the GAP launch – it can be viewed here

<https://bit.ly/3nS0MyC>



Hilda argued that improving 'exposure level standards' is required but this needs to be in conjunction with effective enforcement and trade union action.

Meanwhile, Hazards has worked with *Reel News* to produce a video, *Covid transmission and killer workplaces*. It explains why the virus is so dangerous indoors, where aerosols can build up in the air. It's particularly dangerous in workplaces, where people spend the most time in an enclosed space in close proximity to others. It's why ventilation is so important – another issue that is barely being mentioned

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

Finally, a new report, *State of Global Air*, reveals that in 2019:

- 67 million deaths – 12% of all deaths worldwide – can be attributed to breathing polluted air.
- Air pollution is now the 4th highest global risk factor for early death and disease.

The report is from the Health Effects Institute in Boston: <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/>



Source: Global Action Plan

6. Climate breakthrough for Yorkshire and the Humber region

Bill Adams, Yorkshire & the Humber TUC regional secretary, writes:

In late October, Yorkshire's political leaders together took the highly ambitious step of agreeing to the creation of a Climate Commission for Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Climate Commission will look at energy, housing, transport, and the decarbonisation of industry, with the aim of making sure that workers and communities' benefit from the transition to a greener, more sustainable future.



History

The Yorkshire and Humberside TUC and many others across the region - including employers, political leaders of all shades and environmental activists - have been lobbying for such a body for a number of years, and in 2016, a taskforce was set up by the TUC after the county was identified as one of the seven biggest regions contributing to carbon emissions in Europe. Local climate commissions, especially in Leeds, also played a big part in laying the foundations for a county-wide approach.

Financial partnership

The commission will work with financial investors and use the Y&H TUC's established links with the Grantham Institute, which works with banks and investors from around the world. All these partners have an interest in the green economy and a just transition for workers and communities.

Research partnership

The Y&H TUC already operates a valued partnership with the leading research group, the New Economics Foundation. The NEF will work closely with our trade union affiliates and local communities to understand their needs, aspirations and concerns about income security. They will help identify what new jobs will look like, the skills needed, and how a just transition will affect them. For too long some communities have been the abandoned victims of industrial decline. We will make sure that this cannot happen again. We need social partnerships more than ever and a strong commitment to worker participation at all levels with their trades unions

European partnership

We are closely working with the European Climate Foundation, helping to provide a vital link between the trade unions and the strategic green economic plans of authorities across Yorkshire and Humber. Working with LEPs, mayoral and local authorities, employers, and trade unions this post will co-ordinate information vital to ensuring that opportunities are grasped, much needed skills retained, and investment directed to areas needing it most.

Green Ten Point Plan

The recent government spending announcement on the green ten-point plan is welcome but the details will need to be scrutinised to see how far the government's investment will go and how quickly we can expect urgent projects to start. At this stage, the investment looks small compared with governments in Europe.

Towards a better, greener future

https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/styles/related_content_large/public/Bill_0.jpg?itok=xF8sQrB2

2021 holds out an exciting prospect for us all as we begin to move towards net zero. Our aim at the TUC is to bring together all those striving for a modern, zero carbon, successful economy in the region and to ensure a just and fair transition for workers and communities.

Tens of thousands of new green jobs could be created in next two years in Yorkshire by speeding up infrastructure investment in social housing, home insulation, rail and environmental projects, says a new TUC report for a net zero carbon economy in the region: <https://bit.ly/3pWDo4I>

7. Workers can't wait – COP26 climate talks

Sam Mason, PCS Policy Officer, reports:

With the Coronavirus pandemic delaying the UN COP26 climate talks for a year, the *COP26 Coalition* – a collaboration of civil society organisations including trade unions - hosted *From the Group Up: Global Gathering for Climate Justice* (12 to 16th November). Over 8,000 people registered to participate in one or more of 55 inspirational online sessions.

The message of the gathering was clear. We can't wait another year for action on climate change and the ecological crisis. A Coalition statement, *We are not all in the same boat* <https://bit.ly/3nPxD0dE/> released ahead of the event, highlighted the interconnections between the global health and climate crises with widening inequality, racism, poverty, and displacement of peoples.

A headline trade union session organised between the ITUC and the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group - Workers Can't Wait: Just Transition Now! - set out the importance for the trade union movement to engage in these discussions. Speakers included from the TUC, STUC, ITUC Africa, Chile and South Africa along with closing contributions from the ITUC and CACCTU.

There was a shared belief in the interconnectedness of our world and the multiple crises we face, which needs a global response and consistent government policy. There was wide support for the public ownership of energy. 'Just transition' is a process not an end point, and much more than a catchphrase. Delegates emphasised the weakness of social dialogue in the South, the need to challenge power structures, and to emphasise the role of workers in processes of democracy.

Online sessions can be found here <https://bit.ly/3nRy5lk>. To join the COP26 Coalition Trade Union working group contact cop26-tradeunions@lists.riseup.net

Looking ahead, PCS is hosting an event on 26th November on transition strategies in the aviation, North Sea oil and gas, and auto sectors. These sectors that are central to decarbonisation debates but which also suffer impacts of the 'boom and bust' economy. To register for the event here <https://bit.ly/377P1gs>

We are also hosting a screening of the film *Company Town* on 25th November which features Rebecca Keetch from Green Jobs Oshawa and former organiser at the GM car plant. The film is an important insight into the workers fight to keep the open.

This is just the start of a year of a critical year action that cannot be wasted. Get involved!

8. Building greener unions

In New York City, unions are winning huge investment in renewable energy: video shorturl.at/sMQZ7



Unite's latest Quarterly Education report: a sector-by-sector round-up of the union's work on Just Transition, skills development, retraining and carbon reduction strategies.

Read how Unite stewards at Airbus, North Wales, worked with management to convert production from wings for commercial aircraft to ventilators to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/3fwcADF>

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.