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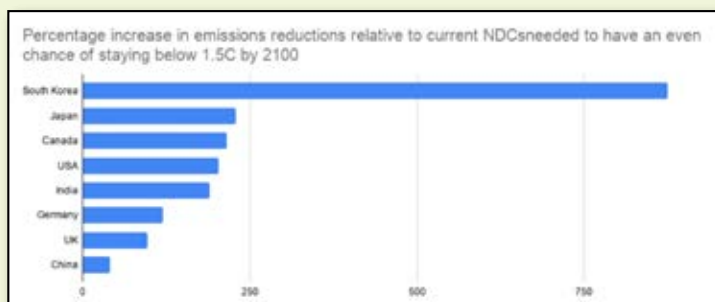


1. Editorial: From the G7 to the COP.

The announcement of a net zero 2060 target by China and the election of Joe Biden in November began to break the logjam blocking the Paris Agreement.

But we require a structural shift in priorities if we don't want the future to burn through our hands. The new pledges currently being made would take us to a 2.4C average temperature increase by century's end; down from the 2.6C previously projected. Current policies and practice, however, still have us heading for 2.8C (a world of chronic water and food shortages, flooding coastal cities, overwhelmed and collapsing states).

A recent [study by US Researchers](#) calculated how much more each country would have to do to keep within the 1.5C target. China would have to do half as much again. The UK and Germany would have to do twice as much. The USA, Canada, India and Japan, four times as much.



In China, Tsinghua University (their most prestigious Science Uni) has just put out a [report arguing for emissions to peak by 2025](#); which has sparked a serious debate about how quickly this can be done and how fast they can decline thereafter. Coal will peak

by 2025, but the quantity of additional capacity added before then, as the rapidly decreasing carbon intensity of energy production is counteracted by an absolute increase in capacity to maintain poverty reduction, is a live issue.

The new US pledge to cut 52% of emissions by 2030 is very welcome - especially after 4 years of delirious denialism under Trump. But, 50% is what is needed globally. For the US to do their fair share and get down from their current 17 tonnes of carbon emissions per person to the 2.3 tonnes global average needed by 2030 to stay within 1.5C would require a dramatic shift in financial and technical resources to the developing world.

Under Obama the US contribution to global green transition was about \$3 billion a year. Under Trump it was 0. Biden proposes \$5.7 billion from 2024. This is peanuts. Up to 2024, the US South Pacific command is planning to invest \$26 billion in upgrading missile systems. Investment in US green infrastructure is scheduled to be around \$80 billion a year. US military spending is \$780 billion a year; almost ten times as much. The UK follows suit. Cuts in overseas aid - because charity begins at home and we are so much more hard done by here than people in, say, Yemen; £24 billion extra on the armed forces; £27 billion on roads; just £12 billion in green infrastructure. Its as if they can't see where the real threat is.

The upcoming G7 meeting in Cornwall from June 11th-13th is a meeting of the world's wealthiest countries; with 10% of the world's population but 62% of its wealth; the USA, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Canada and Italy (in that order). Their "global leadership" means that they set a "rules based international order" for others to follow, while often giving themselves a free pass. Setting the scene for the COP, this G7 is being pitched as an forum for addressing the climate crisis in a divisive way - making a huge fuss about coal in developing countries while remaining the world's biggest investors in fossil fuels, making loud accusations of human right abuses elsewhere while turning a blind eye to their own - when we desperately need co-operation, not conflict.

The bottom line is that the Copenhagen COP agreed to \$100 billion transfer annually from developed to developing countries by last year. This has never been met. It is not impossible. Between 2016 and 2020, the five largest banks in the UK alone invested £60 billion a year in fossil fuel projects around the world. So the money is there. Its just a matter of what those with control of it choose to do with it.

2. Global union movement prepared for COP26

Six years since the Paris Agreement was signed, we see that the countries are not doing enough. The objectives are clear, but the concrete plans are missing. Long term commitments are necessary to plan the transition, but without concrete measures backing them up, they are easy to make. We need more plans that act today. Ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, or 'NDCs' as the climate plans are called in the Paris Agreement, are needed. The ITUC made an analysis of the NDCs that were presented and found that only one in four countries have ambitious climate plans, and nearly nine out of ten countries are denying working people and communities a say in their own future by not using social dialogue.

Just Transition is the bridge to a fossil-free economy. If we are going to transition every industry, and we must, in line with achieving net-zero emissions, then we need to make that transition just. That requires unions to be at the table to develop an agreed plan that gives workers a secure future. There is no excuse for not delivering NDCs that meet our three criteria: ambitious climate plans, Just Transition plans and social dialogue. Due to the pandemic, it is still not certain that COP26 can take place as an in-person conference in November in Glasgow, but the global trade union movement has their climate priorities ready:

ITUC COP26 priorities:

Climate ambition with Just Transition: raise climate ambition with Just Transition policies and measures in enhanced NDCs.

1. Implement inclusive climate policies that respect and promote human and labour rights.
2. Provide climate finance to decarbonise the Global South.
3. Implement strong industrial policies and investment plans underpinning the transition to zero-emission economies.



Photo: DVIDSHUB www.flickr.com/photos/dvids/

The rest of the world will judge the G7 very severely if it does not pay its dues, and stump up the \$100 billion.

The demand that it should must be heard loud and clear from all of us in the next month in a very single minded way.

Paul Atkin (Ed)

To back up these demands, we will organise our unions from the bottom up. On September 22, we will set up our 3rd global conversation about our future. Join the Global Day of Action to Climate and Employment Proof our Work (CEPOW)! Workers around the world will invite their employers to have a conversation to discuss the plans for resilience and sustainable business — safety, jobs, emissions, a secure pathway for the future. That is the strength of leadership needed from all of us.



Bert De Wel
Climate Policy Officer International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org

3. Just transition - The scores are in for the UK

..... and they are not looking good. The ITUC scorecard reveals that the government has been marked down as a failure in all 3 categories – climate ambition, social dialogue, and just transition. This will not come as a surprise to readers of this newsletter, but it is a blow to the UK’s ambitions to show climate leadership ahead of COP26.

SCORECARD 2021 NDCs #JustTransition for #ClimateAmbition

Can we halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and keep global warming to 1.5°C ?

100s of governments said they will put forward an enhanced NDC before the end of 2020. Will your government be next?

UNITED KINGDOM

Climate Ambition – plans to cut emissions by 2030, measures for climate adaptation and commitment to climate finance.

Just Transition – plans for industries and sectors.

Social Dialogue – workers and their unions have a seat at the table to design climate policies and their implementation.

An NDC is a Nationally Determined Contribution – the climate plan that each country makes with its pledge to all other countries in terms of tackling its own greenhouse gas emissions. Governments first put forward their NDCs in 2015. In the Paris Agreement they requested each other to put forward ‘enhancements’, or upgrades to their plans starting in 2020.

Net zero by 2050.
45% emissions reductions by 2030.
National Adaptation Plan to be prepared.

ITUC CSI IGB JUST TRANSITION CENTRE

We know the picture is not the same across the countries of the UK and even within regions. That is why the GJA is carrying out research to map these differences to provide a deeper assessment. We intend to publish the results in the autumn. We know that there have been some token efforts to engage with unions through the creation of bodies like the Green Jobs Taskforce. This was wound up last month and does not reflect a commitment to social dialogue, never mind the sterner test of embedding just transition policies.

In Scotland and Wales, a stronger framework exists, or is in the process of being set up. For example, the Wales Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill 2021 aims to establish a Social Partnership Council with union representation. This would provide the strongest statutory footing for union engagement in the UK.

It is vital that the trade union movement in the UK uses the opportunity between now and the COP to maximise the pressure on all levels of government and industry to implement the just transition provisions of the Paris Climate Agreement. The GJA recognises the limitations of both this principle and the even weaker provisions of social dialogue. Both are often an exercise in going ‘through the motions’ and failing to respond effectively to worker concerns. However, having a ‘seat at the table’ is a legitimate union demand, providing it is linked to strong union organisation, and effective bargaining structures. In these circumstances social dialogue can be one step on the road to achieving climate justice. www.ituc-csi.org/scorecards-ndcs

Union engagement at all levels – A worker voice is needed where decisions are taken that can affect jobs. This includes the workplace, company, industrial sector, local, regional and national authority level. For example, the increasing devolution of the skills system means that unions need a strong intervention in local government strategic decision making. The Yorkshire and Humber region currently represents the best practice on social dialogue with the establishment of the Climate Commission, that was reported on in the last newsletter.

The Local Government Association advises its members to do this - unions need to step up to get their voice heard.

‘Local authorities have an important role to play in helping to ensure a ‘Just Transition’ to a low carbon economy by working with partners to ensure training and skills opportunities are provided to those whose jobs are at risk.’

[A councillor’s workbook on the local pathway to net zero | Local Government Association](#)

In the London, Eastern and South Eastern (LESE) Region of the TUC a research project is underway to contact around 50 of the largest authorities to find out whether this obligation to engage is being carried out. The results of this study will be included in the GJA report on Just Transition implantation. We welcome any updates from readers on how their local or regional authority is doing so that we can get a more detailed breakdown of UK performance.



4. Aviation and climate change - busting the myths

Workers in aviation are understandably cautious when the contribution of flying to climate change is brought up. For the most part, the need to reduce the amount of flying is clearly understood, as is the concept of a Just Transition. However, in such conversations, a number of nuggets of 'received wisdom' often crop up. We deal with some of these myths here.

1. Climate change activists want to stop all flying -

what is actually needed is a reduction in flying not an end to it. Being able to fly to places we can't otherwise reach allows us to experience other cultures, build relationships and solidarity across continents, and broaden our horizons. These are real benefits. How much of the enormous amount of flying that went on pre-pandemic fulfilled such criteria is up for debate (see point 3 below). But there is a place for flying in the world, just not at the levels we saw previously.

2. Technical solutions have no role to play in combatting climate change -

this impression comes from (a) the focus of activists on reducing the amount of flying, and (b) dismissal of industry 'greenwash' about technical solutions. In actuality, the development of technical solutions is crucial, especially if we aren't eliminating flying altogether (see above). What flying does happen must be as climate friendly as possible, so we support R&D into new types of engine, alternative fuels, different aircraft etc. However, we have to be realistic, such developments will not become a reality in the time frame for urgent action we currently face, and are not the wholesale panacea the industry portrays them as in order to carry on with 'business as usual'. But funding the necessary research is crucial to transforming the future of aviation, and we welcome it.

3. People can't go on holiday overseas any more -

efforts to reduce the amount of flying are NOT about families taking a holiday abroad once a year. The real focus is on frequent flyers who take many flights, this is where the crux of

the problem is. Global elites fly regularly and with impunity. Private jet travel, the most climate damaging air travel, has increased rapidly during the pandemic as the wealthy seek to avoid lockdowns and the rules that apply to everyone else when travelling. Meanwhile scheduled flights have reduced by two thirds. Of course, the pandemic has made this a very real issue for many, and no doubt there will be a reduction in flying abroad for a holiday as a result. And that's a good thing, it helps. But no one is looking to deprive ordinary holidaymakers, it is those whose wealth allows them to ignore the damage they cause who are the primary target.

4. The workforce will have to find other jobs -

the basic demand around Just Transition, and a Green New Deal, is that the jobs needed must be planned, not left to the market which is unlikely to provide them. A future aviation industry is one of the areas that will need lots of jobs - initially in research, development, testing, building, then subsequently in operating and maintaining. A climate friendly aviation sector will be more labour intensive. But there will also be a need in other sectors. A true commitment to fighting climate change, backed up by planning, funding and coordinating, will generate many jobs, both in aviation and elsewhere.

Ultimately, there are no alternatives to reducing the amount of flying if we are to achieve our climate targets - neither technology nor offsetting will enable that. But this does not mean there is no work, and it doesn't involve huge sacrifices on the part of working people. Hopefully the above points dispel some of the myths that tend to be perpetuated.

5. Will Government let Eurostar go bust while bailing out airlines?



Photo: Cunaldo <https://www.flickr.com/photos/38425817@N00>

This [report from TSSA](#) sounds the alarm at the government's parsimonious brinkmanship in refusing to tie Eurostar over the crisis, while carelessly giving £1.8 million to airlines with no environmental strings attached. There is a very real risk that this will lead to Eurostar going bust by September; requiring 60,000 additional flights to replace it, putting an additional 580,000 tonnes of CO2 into the air every year and losing 3,000 jobs.

A campaign will be launched shortly and we will cover it in the next Newsletter. In the meantime updates are given [@FutureofRail](#) on Twitter and on the [Future of Rail](#) page on the TSSA website.

6. Union Conference roundup - National Education Union



At a well attended online conference a motion calling for the union to carry out a carbon audit and plan to go zero carbon by 2030, increase campaigning capacity by building climate change into Reps courses and union CPD, campaign for

an overhaul of the curriculum to make it capable of dealing with the crisis, to push for local Just Transition Committees with Local Authorities that have declared climate emergencies, active support for the [Lets Go Zero 2030](#) campaign in every school, to work with the COP26 coalition and initiate a united front to organise actions at the DFE and Treasury in September calling for curriculum review and investment in green jobs now - was passed with 97% in favour.

The first ever climate crisis fringe meeting - organised by the NEU Climate Change Network and COP26 coalition attracted 64 delegates and heard from Mika Minio Paluello (TUC) Suzanne Jeffery (COP26 coalition and CACCTU) Bea Harrison (Teach the Future) Djivension Macius (Haiti Action for Change and C40 Global Youth Forum) Paul Atkin (NEU CCN and Greener Jobs Alliance) and Kevin Courtney (NEU Joint General Secretary).

7. From the Ground Up

COP26 Coalition From the Ground Up: Taking Action, global online gathering for climate justice. The GJA attended several of the sessions, including:



Building the Health Movement for Climate Justice, hosted by Medact, explicitly linked the climate and Covid crises within a context of global inequality and injustice, and called for a response worldwide that involves health workers and recognises these links.

Crash Landing: Global aviation and the climate crisis, brought aviation campaigners including pilots and engineers to testify to the environmental impact of flying and the absence of short term solutions other than an urgent need to reduce.

Start the Just Transition Now, included representatives of Green Jobs Oshawa and JustSpace. A brave struggle is ongoing to save hundreds of jobs at the General Motors Assembly plant at Oshawa, Canada, threatened by closure, and seeking a publicly owned repurposing to the mass production of electric vehicles. JustSpace brings together grassroots campaigners in London, providing a comprehensive response on affordable housing, density and transport with a view to making the Mayor's London Plan as equitable and egalitarian as its rhetoric claims it to be.

8. A fairer, greener future

Greener Jobs Alliance and Friends of the Earth took part in the public online meeting called by **Haringey Green New Deal** in April. The huge employment crisis in the UK has had a devastating impact on places like Haringey; which has the UK's fastest rate of unemployment growth, with 45% of the workforce in Tottenham unemployed or on furlough.

Without action against climate change, the borough will face devastating weather events include heatwaves and flooding, so there is a need for a game-changing plan from the government to create millions of new well-paid, secure and future-proof green jobs.

Green jobs aren't just about home insulation and renewable energy - they can be any work that provides a decent livelihood whilst supporting a low-carbon future; key worker jobs like teaching, health and social care.

Yvonne Field, Founder & CEO of The Ubele Initiative spoke of the 58% higher unemployment impacts on BAME communities; also more likely to be on zero hour contracts and the green professional space being 97% white.

Edward Harlow, Haringey District, NEU, spoke about the failure of the curriculum to prepare young people for the future, with critical thinking sidelined in the curriculum.

Denis Fernando, of Friends of the Earth and Greener Jobs Alliance outlined how economic scarring as a result of just one year's unemployment will impact on young people over 20 years.

Despina Johnson, CEO of Enterprise Enfield & North London Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise outlined the central need for green skills, as well as other factors for businesses such as digitisation, the importance of carbon footprint reduction and upskilling.



Mick Holder, TUCAN

Clean Air Day has been held every year since 2017 and is co-ordinated by [Global Action Plan](#).

The need for action is clear. From the recent verdict at nine year old Ella Kissi-Debra's inquest making a direct link between the air pollution she endured and her untimely death to the recent study published by University College London stating that globally we are experiencing at least 8.7 million deaths related to air pollution annually.

The Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) has been encouraging union members and reps to take up the issue of air pollution with their employer and push for action to reduce exposure.

This year the Hazards Campaign and TUCAN are marking Clean Air Day with an on-line event saying just that. You can join in by going to the link below.

'One of the aims of Clean Air Day is to build awareness of how air pollution affects our health,' says Janet Newsham of the Hazards Campaign and TUCAN *'but the reality for most people in the UK, they have no information about the poor quality of air they breathe in their homes, in their communities and in their workplaces.'*

'We need our local councils to provide more accurate, and transparent information about the quality of air we all breathe.'

'TUCAN is supporting the monitoring of air pollution in workplaces and we know that air pollution from work is a major contributor to the pollution in our environments.'

Visit here for more information on [Clean Air Day](#)

9. Support for Tertiary Education from SOS UK



Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), a charity founded by NUS, has just launched its new [SOS-UK website](#) and [new support and programmes offering for the tertiary education sector for 2021-22](#).

This combines updated and improved versions of long-standing successful programmes such as **Green Impact** and **Responsible Futures**, as well as a new **staff & student engagement programme** an **Education for Sustainable Development changemakers programme**, **recycling audits for universities and colleges** and **Carbon Literacy training**.

Check out their successful webinar series. Sign up to any programme and get free access to all of them.

For more information or to get involved with SOS-UK's work, visit their website or join one of their webinars on [13 May](#) and [14 June](#) (12-1pm) to give an overview of our 2021-22 offer with the opportunity for Q&A.

10. Debate: Climate Jobs and Net-Zero

In the last edition of this newsletter, Graham Petersen wrote a very generous review of my book *Fight the Fire: Green New Deals and Global Climate Jobs*. Graham also proposed a 'couple of points for further discussion,' where we disagreed. Graham and the editor of this newsletter have asked me to respond.

I am responding in the same spirit that Graham wrote. We have worked and campaigned together for many years on climate jobs and on climate work within the union movement. This is a discussion between comrades on the same side.

But, on the two disagreements. The first starts with words. I make a clear distinction between 'climate jobs' and 'green jobs'. I define climate jobs as jobs which directly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, like work in renewable energy, building rehab or driving buses.

Graham argues that many jobs, like work in steel or delivery, will also be part of a new low carbon economy. I agree with this. All jobs, can be greener, but some – like those in coal and gas – will have to go, with the workers found new jobs in the low carbon economy. They should be offered permanent, decently paid public sector employment in a new National Climate Service. Some jobs cannot be saved, but all workers can be.

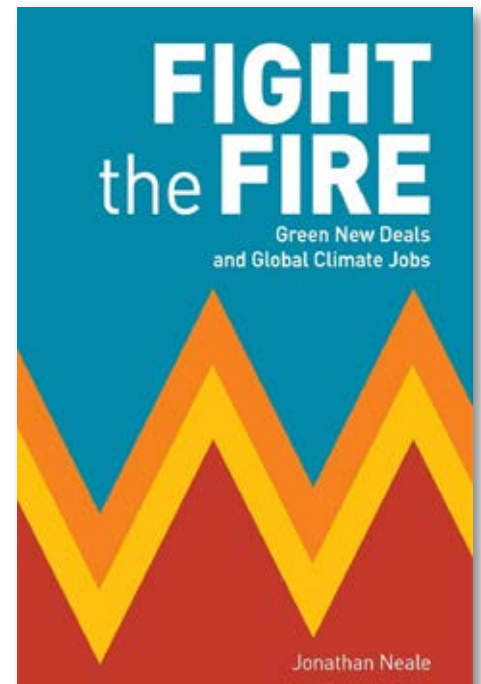
There are two advantages to saying 'climate jobs' within an overall Green New Deal.

One is political. As a slogan, 'climate jobs' condenses a lot of meaning. It says that the solution to the threat of climate change is jobs, and that the solution to a lack of jobs is jobs to stop climate change.

The second is that insisting on the importance of jobs which act directly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions concentrates the mind. What I argue all the way through the book is that some jobs will make more difference, faster, than other jobs. Those key jobs are where we should demand public spending on new jobs.

The second disagreement is over 'net-zero'. I argue in the book that 'net-zero' is a con. Plans for net-zero depend on either 'offsets' or 'carbon removal'. Offsets allow an employer to continue emitting greenhouse gases. Carbon removal schemes assume technologies which either do not yet exist or are nowhere in use. This is a view that has been gaining support among scientists for some time. A [recent article](#) in The Conversation makes the arguments clearly and forcefully.

As with climate jobs, only massive government action can avert climate breakdown. That will have to produce cuts of at least 90% in CO2 emissions and therefore to be on such a scale that we will have to prioritise hiring workers into narrowly defined climate jobs. We will not be able to do that if we institutionalise carbon offsets, or imagine that some future carbon storage will solve the problem.



However, Graham has a very good reason for wanting to consider measures towards net-zero seriously. As he says, the XR proposal for net-zero by 2025 is impossible. He is right. Net-zero by 2025 could only work if we closed down large parts of the economy, leading to a general and near total economic collapse.

We have to build the new economy as we gradually close down the old economy. That will take fifteen to twenty years, For that reason alone, complete closure over five years will never gain majority support.

The problem then becomes, as Graham says, how are unions to negotiate with management in the short term? After all, management are proposing net-zero measures, and we need to be able to negotiate and guide them.

I agree with Graham that negotiation and defense of workers are the daily bedrock of trade union work.

There are presently three sorts of campaigns over climate in the trade union movement. One focuses on negotiation with management, like the Greener Jobs Alliance. The second focuses on public ownership of energy, especially renewable energy, like Trade Unions for Energy Democracy. The third focuses on winning massive government action on jobs, like the One Million Climate Jobs campaign and Labour for a Green New Deal.

These approaches overlap. Many of the same people, like Graham and me, support all three. And all these approaches have the same goal – stopping climate change. The more we can come together in practice, the better.

So in negotiations, we should point out to management, and to our members, that net-zero will not work, and that scientific opinion is turning against it. But there are still many areas where we can work to stop climate change.

The work of the PCS cultural workers group in campaigning against fossil fuel subsidies is exemplary. And there is Graham's important point about delivery drivers and electric vehicles. This can be extended to argue with all employers to buy only fully electric vehicles. Many unions are currently negotiating for their pension funds to disinvest in fossil fuels.

Where employers have begun to close down traditional jobs and factories, we can propose ways of staying open to do climate jobs. We can also campaign publicly for those alternatives and, if need be, launch workplace occupations.

Jonathan Neale



11. Net-Zero. ITUC draft position



The ITUC has put this text for affiliates to discuss in the run up to the COP.

Hard-to-abate industry sectors, such as steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, aviation, shipping and trucking, are responsible for nearly one-third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

They have a vital role to play in meeting the Paris Agreement objective of limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

Industry transition roadmaps need to guide the process of decarbonisation in all countries and sectors. All industry and investment plans should be 100% climate proof. Governments have to provide a framework for investments in breakthrough technologies such as hydrogen, batteries and others.

No industry and investment plans should contain net-zero loopholes. Net-zero plans risk locking in fossil fuel technologies through inappropriate use of CCS (carbon capture and storage), CCU (carbon capture and use) and BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage).

Negative emission technologies involving carbon capture will be necessary to stabilise the climate. However, they should only be implemented in hard-to-abate sectors and not serve to prolong the life of fossil fuel technologies” (our emphasis).

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12. Statistics of the Month

35%

The proportion of people who had “any awareness” of what Net Zero means in a recent government survey. *Wicked Leeks*

0

The number of Conservative MPs who are supporting the Climate Emergency Private members Bill.

7%

The annual rate at which global greenhouse gas emission have to fall from now. <https://www.ceebill.uk/>

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.