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1. Editorial: Between the COPs

Until we solve this crisis, or it overwhelms us before we can, we are now permanently between COPs. Targets now have to be ratcheted up at every COP.

As we move into 2022 and towards the COP in Egypt, carbon emissions are still increasing, intense weather patterns are wreaking havoc; and there are four crucial shifts pending.

- President Biden's infrastructure plan is blocked in the Senate, and the autumn midterm elections look set to restore Republican majorities in Congress; pushing the USA back towards Trumpish denialism and rogue state territory.
- The Brazilian Presidential election in May, should give positive environmental momentum with the probable election of Lula da Silva of the Workers Party and removal of Bolsonaro.
- The **IEA report** that China will meet its renewables target for 2030 by 2026 may indicate that the **advocates of peaking fossil fuel use early** and getting off it fast have traction.
- The stuttering "recovery" from a pandemic that is still very much with us, has meant increasing demand for energy and huge gas price rises. This will hit households hard after April when the price cap is raised; with the average household bill reaching £2000 a year. This requires a campaign for faster insulation to reduce energy demand (and bills) and quicker transition to renewable sources.

Before the COP, Alok Sharma's standard reply to letters included this sentence. "We are fortunate in the UK to have a passionate, visible and vocal civil society with organisations who are among world leaders at demonstrating and promoting climate action."

We are indeed, and any government seeking to raise itself to the level of the challenge would work with that movement; so that society can feel, think and organise its way to sustainability. Instead, the Police Bill is trying to suppress it.

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Quote of the Month

The Government needs to think very carefully about how it achieves a green revolution. It must require electricity companies to shoulder this cost, as they will be profiting from these investments in perpetuity. Or perhaps it is time to bring services into public ownership because the Government is not proving able to regulate the sector in a way that doesn't cost the taxpayer.

Rico Wojtulewicz, head of housing at the House Builders Association (HBA)

Targeted at protest in general, but infrastructure obstruction in particular, this would allow **Serious Disruption Prevention Orders**, or protest-banning orders, to be imposed on

- people previously convicted of a 'protest-related offence':
- people who have been to two protests in the preceding five years which could have caused "serious disruption"; a phrase which has an **expansive, catch-all definition**.

Protest-banning orders can require you to

- keep police notified of your address,
- restrict who you can meet, where you go and when,
- your use of the internet.

Breach of these conditions could lead to a 51-week jail sentence, an unlimited fine, or both.

They are also proposing 'suspicion-less' stop-and-search powers, which risk criminalising people for carrying protest related items and to raise the sentence for 'obstructing a police officer' from one month to 51 weeks, or a fine, or both.

They clearly envisage that, as the crisis intensifies, so will protest. Instead of dealing with the crisis, they aim to squash the protests.

Recent acquittals of non-violent direct-action campaigners by juries indicates that this stick may break apart in their hands. It gives us a challenge to ensure that our actions build enough popular support to make sure that it does.

Paul Atkin

2. Greener Jobs Alliance AGM 2022

Our Annual General Meeting will be held online again this year, on Tuesday 8th February, from 12.00 to 14.00. We are very pleased to have the following guest speakers:



Olivia Blake MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Climate Change will present the Party's proposals for meeting the climate challenge and for a just transition for workers.



Des Quinn (Unite National Officer for the Automotive Sector) and Frank Duffy (Unite Senior Steward at GKN Driveline, Birmingham) will talk about the lessons of the GKN dispute last year, the development of a worker led green transition plan to prevent redundancies; and the potential of similar plans currently being developed by

workers in Rolls Royce plants today.

The AGM will also include a roundup of the year gone by, looking ahead to our activities in 2022, and plenty of scope for discussion, including Q&A to our speakers. We hope to see as many of our supporters as possible, please register by clicking [here](#).

3. GJA to launch new website and blog

We are upgrading our website to make it more dynamic and interactive; enabling our members and supporters to respond in 'real time' to the mass of issues we currently face. Existing resources, including the newsletter and courses will be maintained.

We will be introducing a blog space intended to facilitate healthy debate and discussion around the key issues trade unions and our associates face in these troubled times. As a 'loose coalition' of unions and other activists, GJA is often caught in the crossfire of different views, and sometimes between trade union leaderships and sections of their memberships.

We want our blog space to be a place for having the debates that are needed, free of the kind of enmity that mars debate elsewhere and obscures the issues themselves. As a movement we will not make genuine progress in defence of workers and in response to the climate crisis unless we flush out the differing views on issues like the role (or not) of nuclear power, alternative ways of dealing with waste, global and local supply chains, Just Transition etc. - without pejorative language or taking our ball home if someone disagrees with us.

The blog spot will enable us to do that. All blogs will reflect the views of the author unless explicitly stated otherwise, and all will come with an open invitation for anyone in the movement to reply.

Watch this space for notification of the website launch.

Tahir Latif

4. Unions Statement at close of COP

“I’m Richard Hardy, National Secretary for the trade union Prospect in Scotland, member of the General Council of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, and I was a member of the Scottish Governments ground-breaking Just Transition Commission. I will speak on behalf of the 210 million workers in 165 countries represented by the global trade union movement.

Mr President, no country has ever had so much time to prepare a COP. Never have the challenges been clearer than this year, never have the calls for action from scientists, young people, indigenous communities, women, citizens, activists, and affected and threatened workers in all corners of the world been louder. And yet as the voice of workers we are truly puzzled. To whom have you been listening in the run up to this COP? How has the outcome on ambition, finance, responsibility and inclusion fallen so short?

We believe that this deal will allow countries and companies to trade away our hope for a safe future. The loopholes in the Art.6 mechanisms will undermine the deep and fast decarbonisation that is needed.

Developing countries are going home without guarantees for the money that is owed to them. There are no concrete mechanisms to catch up on the previous promises of \$100 billion a year, only talks about a long-term finance goal, only limited progress on adaptation, and – above all – no Loss and Damage finance instrument. This is plain shameful on the part of those, especially the EU and the US, who have argued against the progress on the urgent needed support for Loss and Damage?

Yes, the global trade union movement is happy that “Just Transition” has finally found its way in the language used by many parties and observers. We saw and appreciate the adoption by donor countries of the declaration on “Supporting the Conditions for a Just Transition Internationally” and applaud the strong commitments made by signatories. We urge the parties to continue to work towards a Just Transition one that is about jobs, plans and investment.

Once again, we call on parties to step up their NDCs and create the millions of good quality jobs and decent work with your climate policies and measures, good quality jobs and decent work which the world desperately requires.

In closing I would ask everyone to remember for all future discussions: labour rights are human rights! Unions need a voice at the table in social dialogue processes that deliver on jobs, just transition plans and investments. This is how we will deliver the climate ambition that is needed. We hoped for greater ambition here in Glasgow, and as we move forward the global Trade Union movement demands that we set our sights much, much higher.

People power! Climate justice!”



5. Just Transition:

'Say nothing about us without us'

Over 100 delegates attended the ITUC Strategy Day at COP26 on Sunday 7 November, a stock-taking session midway through the international climate conference.

Things were not going well. The UK government was backing a new deep coal mine just a few miles south of Glasgow. The UN was failing to mobilise the long-promised \$100 billion for the global South. But the city's amazing 100,000 strong demonstration the previous day included trade union delegations from across the globe.

The ITUC event focussed on a showcasing union initiatives to achieve 'net zero' through a Just Transition. Unions have 'elevated Just Transition onto the global stage,' as the ITUC's Sharan Burrows said, 'with unions at the table in our framework of investment in green jobs and skills.' Roz Foyer, GS of the Scottish TUC, said her organisation was pushing Scotland's JT Commission to build a just transition that is based on full employment, well-funded public services and high quality unionised jobs.

Roz set out the issue from the perspective of workers, reflecting on the STUC's research into Green Jobs aimed at delivering sustainability and fair work 'in every sector of our economy by placing workers' voices at the heart of the debate.'

In Spain, delegates highlighted a pact between the social partners and the Spanish government provides for €250 million to be invested in mining communities, as the country's coalmines shut down in the near future.

In South Africa, **Lebogang Mulaisi**, Labour Market Policy Coordinator at COSATU, spoke of the challenge of incorporating organised labour into the formal structures being set up by the government on the just transition to a low carbon economy.

Nevertheless, during the COP, there had been 'no engagement' between trade unions and Alok Sharma MP, the UK COP President. As Anne-Beth Skrede from Norway pointed out, when it comes to negotiating transition deals, companies were more amenable to injecting fair work principles that Alok Sharma.

The danger ahead, as Roz Foyer argued, is that JT is hijacked into yet another form of greenwash: 'Say nothing about us without us,' she argued.

Philip Pearson

6. ITUC COP26 debriefing



The objective of the debriefing is to present a trade union evaluation of COP26, collect views from our affiliates and look forward to the climate and Just Transition agenda in 2022. To enable participation from different time zones, there are two 90 minutes sessions, at 7am (East session) and 3 pm (West session) London time: The cities listed here give a sense of the global scope of the expected attendance.

Wednesday 19 January.

- **EAST session:** 8am Brussels/9am Johannesburg/ 10am Nairobi/1pm Dhaka/ 3pm Manila, Singapore /4pm Seoul/ 6pm Sydney/8pm Wellington
- **WEST session:** 4pm Brussels/3pm Dakar-Lomé /10am Bogota, Toronto, Washington DC/12pm Montevideo, Sao Paolo, Santiago, Buenos Aires

Program:

- Opening East session by Roz Foyer (STUC) and West session by Mika Minio (TUC)
- COP26 evaluation, Bert De Wel
- Input from regional ITUC organisations and/ or regional COP26 participants (according to availability and time zone)
- Input from the Just Transition Centre, Samantha Smith
- Discussion with participants
- Presentation of the trade union climate and Just Transition agenda in 2022, Bert De Wel

[REGISTER HERE](#)

7. Moving on from Glasgow towards COP27 in Egypt

The last meeting of the COP26 coalition trade union caucus in 2021 took some time to reflect on what we'd achieved over the past year, not least the fantastic turnout of trade unionists across the country for the Global Day of Action on 5 November. The trade union bloc on the Glasgow demo was by far the most prominent but this in no way diminishes the turnout of our movement in the many towns and cities, unprecedented on the issue of climate change.

We were clear in our objective from the beginning that our focus in the caucus was on mobilising, setting aside union policy differences. Now the world moves on from Glasgow to Sharm el Sheik in Egypt this coming November, it's welcome there is real energy to build on what we have achieved. This was echoed by comrades internationally at the post COP meeting organised by the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy.

Internationalism and linking the climate struggle to industrial struggles has been another objective of our caucus. Therefore thinking how we support activists – trade union and wider - in Egypt will be important in the coming year where mobilising will be an entirely different challenge faced with a repressive regime.

It will also be a challenge to keep climate change high on our union agendas as the cost of living crisis worsens. Already the Tories – led by the 'Net Zero scrutiny group' - are building a narrative to blame the energy crisis on green levies and a heavy financial burden of net zero policies falling on those least able to afford them. As trade unionists we know the cost of living crisis comes from austerity, wage squeezes and attacks on workers. We also have the alternatives ready to counter these arguments such climate jobs, publicly funded mass retrofit, free public transport, and a publicly owned energy transition.

These are ultimately issues of Just Transition and climate justice which we need to link with the anger we saw last year at the treatment of workers to push for our alternatives and real action on climate change. Therefore, continuing to build our trade union engagement within the wider climate justice movement will be an important aim as we lead up to the Egypt COP.

Developing our strategy and how we go forward as a caucus will be the important focus of discussion at our next meeting on 18th January. Already ideas are emerging around May Day and another trade union climate mobilisation later in the year. But we need to hear from everyone to ensure we can develop the caucus as a grassroots body within our movement that builds our working class strength to demand a justice transition. To register to attend the meeting please complete the form [here](#): or contact Sam@pcs.org.uk for the zoom link and to find out more about the caucus.

Sam Mason



Photo: Philip Pearson

8. Are you listening DFE?

After the Department For Education published its rather limited draft Net Zero strategy at the COP in November, the General Secretaries of the British and Irish Group of Teacher Unions (BIGTU) sent a joint letter to Nadhim Zadawi pointing out that

- a collective effort is needed to radically bring about a low-carbon transition.
- no country is doing enough to meet the criteria - the United Kingdom ranks 42nd out of 73 countries in Education International's assessment of climate education in national climate targets (NDCs).
- There is a need to rethink education as part of the overall solution. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
- Therefore, it is imperative that education systems are strengthened to face the climate crisis through increased funding, improved infrastructure, and continuous professional development for teachers.
- none of the NDCs mention engaging teachers or teacher unions as a climate stakeholder group.
- BIGTU is alarmed teachers and education systems have been overlooked in these critical national climate action plans.

And called on the UK Government, the Governments of the devolved administrations, and the Irish Government to work up to the vision outlined by Education International in its [Manifesto for climate education](#) to ensure that Climate Change Education is fully embedded in our education systems, specifically demanding

1. Governments ensure quality climate change education (CCE) for all.
2. Every student transitions from formal education climate-literate and equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle climate change, adapt to uncertainties, and take part in building a more sustainable future.
3. Quality climate change education is based on science, and addresses the ethical, cultural, political, social, and economic dimensions of climate change.

4. Teachers are trained and supported to provide quality climate change education.
5. Schools and learning environments are transformed, to support quality climate change education.

Larry Flanagan, General Secretary, Education Institute of Scotland (EIS), Chairperson BIGTU

John Boyle, General Secretary, Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO), Secretary, BIGTU

Mary Busted, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union (NEU)

Jo Grady, General Secretary, University and College Union (UCU)

Jacquie White, General Secretary, Ulster Teachers' Union (UTU)

Kieran Christie, General Secretary, Association of Secondary Teachers' in Ireland (ASTI)

Frank Jones, General Secretary, Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT)

Dr Patrick Roach, General Secretary, NASUWT

Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union (NEU)

Seamus Searson, General Secretary, Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association (SSTA)

Michael Gillespie, General Secretary, Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI)

The DFE strategy falls well short of these points and is currently being consulted on; to be published in April. The next Newsletter will look at their response to the union critique, that of [Teach the Future](#), and feedback from consultation discussions so far.

Paul Atkin

9. Teach the Future (TtF) Crowdfunder - share and donate

In January 2022, TtF hope to fund more research into the current state of climate education so we can make our case to MPs ([here's what we found last year](#)). We also need funds to create media stories ahead of the second reading of our bill, and to hire a PR agency to help spread the word.

[Please donate to our campaign](#), to help our fight to ensure all students are empowered with the skills and knowledge needed for the green jobs of the future. Climate education must not be limited to science and geography, but woven throughout the whole curriculum like a golden thread; so that no child is excluded from learning about the crisis in a way that matters to them.



Students teach the DFE at the COP. Are they listening?

Photo: Teach the Future

10. Green Jobs and skills – Regional updates

The GJA newsletter will provide regular updates on the state of play in different parts of the UK. In this issue we look at London. In the next issue we aim to focus on the Yorkshire and Humberside Region.

The report **Green Jobs and Skills in London** was published in October 2021.

It was commissioned by the 32 London boroughs that are organised into 4 hubs (see p 2-3).

Current green jobs in London 2020 - The report estimates that there are 234,000 green jobs representing 4.4% of total employment. These are defined as 'those jobs that facilitate meeting net-zero and broader environmental goals.' 3 sectors represent 82% of this total:

- Green Finance – 50,700 (22%)
- Home and buildings – 58,200 (25%)
- Power – 82,900 (35%)

Projected green jobs in London to 2030 and 2050 - The report contains low, central, and high scenarios. The total number of green jobs projected under the central scenario rises from 234,000 in 2020, to 505,000 in 2030 and then a little over 1 million in 2050. This represents a 4.5-fold increase in green jobs in London over three decades.

Equality and diversity - These jobs are less diverse than the overall labour market. Women account for 1 in 3 compared to almost half overall, BAME workers represent only 30% compared to 36% overall.

Job loss – The report calculates that there are 390,000 jobs at risk from the transition.

Skills – The report identifies that 'there is an urgent need to increase education provision in subjects and courses that are relevant for green jobs, and to support those already in the labour market in non-green jobs to, retrain and upskill to acquire the skills that they need, in order to meet the rapid expansion of the sector over the coming decade'.

Trade unions are not mentioned in the 115-page report, which given the references to just transition, is problematic.

Despite this the executive summary concludes: 'London is one of the most inequitable places in the UK, with huge inequalities in pay, qualifications, health and outcomes such as poverty and deprivation. The changes that we are about to see through the shift to green sectors provides an opportunity to turn those around.... By doing so, as well as driving a just transition, these green jobs could also drive inclusive growth and tackle the underlying inequalities that have existed in London for decades.'

The challenge for the trade union movement is getting a seat at the table - Unions in each of the 4 hubs will need to work together to ensure that the references to a just transition are not just empty phrases. **We need green jobs and skills taskforces in each of the boroughs covered by the report.** Where these committees already exist, union representation is vital. The link between a just transition and representation of organisations set up to deliver justice in the workplace and community must be reinforced.

The record so far on this is not good. Most London boroughs do not engage with unions on the issue of green jobs and skills. This is partly down to the fact that in many places the unions have not been calling for it in a systematic way. There are some exceptions. In the LB of Wandsworth after years of campaigning the UCU and Battersea and Wandsworth TUC have been offered a seat on 2 Skills and Jobs forums that have been set up as part of a local climate action strategy. The Green Jobs and Skills report will form the basis for the first meetings in 2022.

This is the year when the noise around just transition must be translated into action in local authorities across the UK. Jobs and skills will be central to this and trade unions must make their voices heard.

Graham Petersen



11. A Green New Deal for Leeds City Region

Almost 16,000 long term green jobs could be created across Leeds City Region through investment in a planned and fair transition to a sustainable economy, according to a new report produced jointly by the Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport (GALBA) and Green House Think Tank.

The report, A Green New Deal for Leeds City Region: GALBA's Vision for a Sustainable Local Economy, calls for public investment in jobs that meet the needs of local communities and also tackle the climate emergency. The report analyses the types of jobs needed to build and sustain a zero carbon economy and estimates the numbers that could be created with the right investment in different sectors: reuse and recycling, public transport, building retrofit, renewable energy and training.

The report recognises that workers in the aviation industry have been hit hard by the pandemic and calls for their skills and experience to be used in the green economic transition. The report also sets out concerns about the claims made by Leeds Bradford Airport's owners around potential job creation from the airport's expansion plans. GALBA's view is that more airport-related jobs would simply lock in high carbon dependency, precisely when we urgently need to make the transition to a zero carbon economy.

Chris Foren, chair of GALBA, said: *"Our vision is for a forward-looking, ambitious and sustainable economy that reduces reliance on aviation and other high carbon industries, and encourages investment in our local communities, while also addressing other key challenges around transport, energy supply and housing. The research behind this report suggests that nearly 16,000 long term jobs could be created in Leeds City Region by pursuing such an investment strategy, with nearly double that number in the transition phase."*

He added: "Our starting point is to accept four facts:

- the climate crisis is a real and present danger
- to prevent its worst effects, we must cut all emissions in half by 2030
- it is not possible to cut aviation emissions in half by 2030
- people need secure and meaningful work

So we must change our economy to build a better future for everyone. We reject any suggestion that we have to choose between creating good jobs and protecting our climate. We can - and must - do both. Our generation has seen the emergence of a human-created climate crisis. We must also be the generation to fix this, by making best use of our most valuable resource – our people."

The report has support from Leeds Trades Union Council, the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union group and Safe Landing. It is available to download from [GALBA's website](#). Leeds Bradford Airport's expansion plans are currently on hold. GALBA has asked Secretary of State Michael Gove to 'call in' the plans and hold a public inquiry but Mr Gove has not yet made a decision on GALBA's request.

Nick Hodgkinson





12. Trade Union Freedom and Greener Jobs in the North of Ireland?

The North of Ireland is the only jurisdiction in Britain or Ireland not to have climate legislation, but in the run up to the Stormont elections in May, there are now significant initiatives which could catalyse green unionised jobs. There are two competing Climate Bills passing through Stormont. **One, introduced by the Green Party**, has cross party support apart from the DUP, who have introduced a **watered-down version**. Both Bills are weak on workers' rights, green jobs, and a Just Transition.

Gerry Carroll, a People Before Profit Member of the Legislative Assembly, has also proposed a **Trade Union Freedom Bill**. If this passes, the potential for the trade union movement to secure a Just Transition with cleaner, greener, and unionised jobs would be very much enhanced.

Even as the importance of many, especially 'key' and so-called 'low skilled', workers is clearer than ever because of the pandemic; too many are still forced to fight for basic demands like fair pay, sick pay and decent conditions. Several unions have taken strike action on these in recent months, and more are planning to. But many unions are unable to represent workers in small workplaces; must spend a lot of money and time organising postal ballots; are unable to strike in solidarity with each other; and are restricted about which conditions they can negotiate with employers.

These result from Westminster anti-trade union legislation, not voted for locally in the North of Ireland, to which most trade unionists are opposed. The Trade Union Freedom Bill represents the first attempt to modernise these laws and to address the imbalance they have created in workplaces. Covid has exposed the precarity of workplaces, and we need to empower workers and their trade unions to address it.

It aims to:

- Legalise solidarity action;
- Allow trade unions to ballot online and in-person;
- Expand the conditions on which trade unions can negotiate with employers;
- Enable trade unions to organise in thousands of smaller workplaces;
- Introduce extra protection for workers from dismissal related to industrial action; and
- Simplify the processes involved in taking strike action.

There is a clear interrelationship between the Climate Bills proceeding through Stormont now and the need for a Just Transition for workers and communities to deal with the climate emergency and make the necessary structural changes to the economy and local communities.

Greener jobs should be unionised jobs and Members of the Legislative Assembly at Stormont have the capacity in this legislative session to secure this important objective for the economy in a manner which does not presently exist under the Tory regime in Westminster.

If they exercise the political will to do this, they will point the way forward for a Just Transition for the people of the North of Ireland and provide hope for trade unionists in Britain that they can also overcome anti-union legislation.

Declan Owens

13. Calendar of Global Events

- Feb: IPCC Report impacts on eco systems
- April Biodiversity Summit: China.
- April: Biden Climate Summit.
- Sept: Climate week during UN General Assembly
- Nov: COP27 in Sharm El Sheik Egypt.

14. Statistics of the Month

97%

How much the top 1% would have to reduce their carbon emissions by 2030 to do their bit to stay below 1.5C

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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.