



Photo: Callum Shaw on Unsplash

## Editorial: Everything they touch turns to Truss

Our new and unimproved Prime Minister, Liz Truss, opposes onshore wind and plans aggressive new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea and will try to have another go at fracking. This is motivated by the current increase in costs for oil and gas – which makes them expensive for consumers and profitable for producers.

Going for increased oil and gas extraction is suicidal for the climate and will have no impact on household costs. Onshore and Offshore wind, and solar, can be expanded far more quickly, will reduce carbon emissions and bills, but would also dent the profitability of the fossil fuel producers, for whom Truss seems nervously protective. These profits are huge, and Truss wants the companies to keep them.

Last week, the **TUC released figures** showing excess profits for UK based fossil fuel producers of £170 billion in the next two years. A windfall tax on that at the rate currently applied in Norway (56%) would raise £90 billion. The 78% Norway is considering would raise £132 billion. And these are excess profits; so, taxing the lot at 100% couldn't be described as unreasonable, even by opponents of public ownership.

Even the lowest of these rates would pay for Labour's proposed £26 billion investment to insulate our housing stock by 2035 three times over, with £12 billion left over to do the schools and hospitals too.

Similarly, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that the widespread resistance to insulation on the Right is because insulated homes reduce bills by reducing demand for an otherwise profitable product.

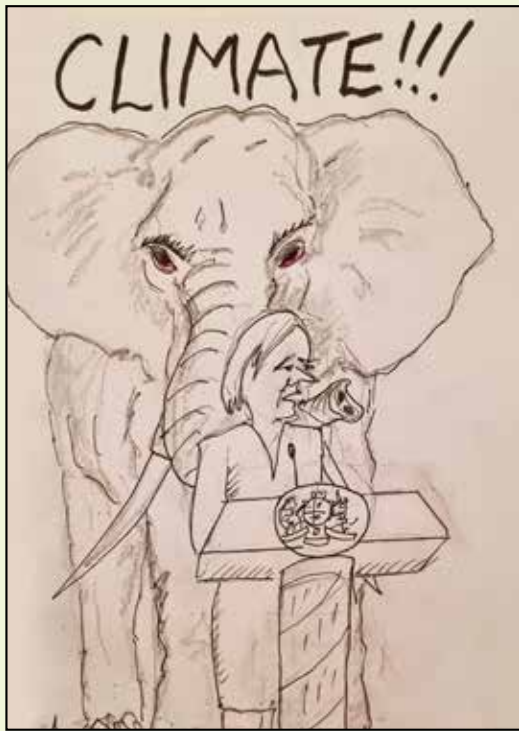
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## Quote of the Month

*No progressive vision of society can be built on the fossil economy because the fossil economy is death*

**Antonio Gutierrez,**  
UN Secretary General



It is now **9 times more expensive** to produce energy from gas than it is from renewables. But energy prices are set by the gas price. The EU is planning to cut that link so the cheaper energy from renewables can be reflected in prices. The **IMF reports** that UK energy prices are already higher than in the rest of Europe, so there are rumours that the incoming Chancellor will follow the EU's lead.

Reports in the FT have indicated that new “*agile*” companies hoping to exploit North Seas fossil fuel reserves will bring them into production faster than has been the case hitherto. Which, presumably, is where the proposed **scrapping of health, safety and environment regulations** comes in; so we can have a regime of deep sea oil drilling rigs as lightly regulated as the banks were before 2008.

What could possibly go wrong?

The solution to the cost of living crisis is linked to the solution to the climate crisis and it's our job to make that link explicit in every struggle our movement wages this Winter.

*Paul Atkin*

[Click here to read our full TUC Climate Motions Round Up TUC Special Edition](#)

## Trades Union Congress fringe meeting

**Urgent action, long term solutions:**

**climate, cost of living and industrial action**

This summer has seen deadly heatwaves, growing industrial action and huge increases in prices. With a hard winter coming, and government failing our urgent needs and attacking our rights to organise, we have to confront these multiple crises by campaigning for social, economic and environmental justice.

At this meeting, trade union and climate activists will make the case that solutions to the cost of living and climate crises are inextricably linked, and for our whole movement to mobilise now around a clear set of demands to secure a just future for all.

**Sunday 11 September 6.30pm**  
**The Brighton Centre.**

### Speakers:

John Leach *RMT Assistant General Secretary*  
Katie de Kauwe, *Friends of the Earth*  
Lead Lawyer on Net Zero court win  
Linda Clarke *GJA*  
Tahir Latif *GJA and CACCTU*

Chair Suzanne Jeffery *CACCTU*  
Co-hosted by Greener Jobs Alliance  
and Campaign Against Climate Change.



Photo: Mika Baumeister/unsplash

## Don't wait to be asked! - An appeal to local authorities and trade unions

The Greener Jobs Alliance is calling for comprehensive plans in every local authority to address the climate and cost of living crises in the UK. Households and businesses are facing massive increases in their energy bills.

Even though most authorities have declared climate emergencies very few have consulted their recognised unions or local community-based unions. This view has been confirmed by surveys in different regions and countries in the UK. In London and Yorkshire these were carried out by the regional TUCs. In Scotland the survey was circulated by Unite.

The GJA recognises the constraints on local and regional authorities imposed by the failure of national government policy and financing. Despite this the main conclusion from this research is that both local authorities and unions should be proactive on an issue that has major implications for jobs and skills in the UK. That's why we are saying *'Don't wait to be asked.'*

The link to the report can be found [here](#).

## Energy Professionals Survey shows no confidence in government

The **Annual Energy Barometer survey** held in April argues that energy efficiency should be the priority response to energy crisis,

- 70% of respondents say energy efficiency policy is not delivering;
- 90% that fuel poverty policy is failing
- Confidence in the UK achieving or even getting close to net zero by 2050 has fallen to just 30%.

They argue for

1. Help now for the most vulnerable - Ahead of this winter, subsidies for the lowest income homes.
2. A nationwide retrofit programme – to get all homes to energy performance rating C or above, with subsidies provided where necessary.
3. Tailored advice and information – Government-backed behaviour change campaigns to help householders manage energy use.
4. Skills investment – Prioritise green jobs in the homes and buildings sector.

## If they can do it, why can't we?

- Austria introduced a 'Klimaticket' or 'climate ticket' costing €3 a day in October 2021, valid on all trams, buses and trains. Take up has been huge.
- In May this year Ireland's government cut public transport fares by 20% until the end of the year. Young adults in possession of a Leap card get reductions of 50%. The scheme has led to a reduction in car usage.
- From 1 September to the end of the year, short and medium distance train journeys in Spain will be free. This is for multi-trip tickets, not singles, so people make a longer-term commitment to switching from cars to public transport.
- Luxembourg made public transport free throughout the country in March 2020, covering all modes of transport, and applying to all users, whether permanent residents, tourists or cross-border commuters.



## National Audit Office critique of UK skills policy

The **NAO Report on the effectiveness of the government's skills policy** is hampered by a mindset that we are still in the Holocene and can act as such. Its criteria for government intervention,

- *an enduring role in supporting workforce skills development, understanding that the market does not supply all the skills the country needs to provide goods and services and enhance productivity and competitive advantage*

misses the overriding need to equip everyone with the skills needed to make a transition to sustainability. That should be written into its default checklist so it doesn't get ignored.

But, their critique of the limited impact of government intervention is centred clearly on the failure of the private sector to rise to the challenge. They write:

*'the skills challenge that government is facing has grown significantly, with key indicators going in the wrong direction. Employers' investment in workforce training has declined, as have participation in government-funded skills programmes and the programmes' impact on productivity... Government therefore needs to be much more effective than it has been in the past at helping to provide the skills the country needs. DfE is staking its success on a more employer-led system but, from the evidence we have seen, it is unclear whether the conditions are in place for this to be implemented successfully, in particular whether employers are ready to engage to the extent that will be needed to achieve a step-change in performance.'*

Put more simply, the employers won't lead. The state, nationally and locally, has to.

## Feeling the heat - why this summer's heatwave should remain a hot topic

The July 2022 heatwave was shocking in its intensity, and the disruption it caused. We know that this is the shape of things to come – the climate crisis will lead to more frequent and longer episodes of extreme heat - and schools and colleges need to be ready to respond to these events.

So how did the NEU rate the DfE's response and the support it provided to schools during this latest heat crisis? Unfortunately, it was extremely poor. Communication to schools was at best ambiguous and failed to highlight the potential level of risk to pupils and staff. Using the carefully chosen words *"We aren't advising schools to close during high temperatures..."*

inevitably caused confusion. Schools do not need DfE permission to make day-to-day operational decisions, but many leaders clearly felt under pressure to remain fully open, even if their risk assessment suggested this was not the right response. As far as the NEU is concerned the correct response would have been to say to school leaders that it was their decision, following a thorough risk assessment, in consultation with health and safety reps, whether full opening, partial opening or full closure was appropriate.

We will be writing to the DfE, along with other education unions, requesting an urgent review of its response and suggesting the establishment of a 'task and finish' group, bringing together union and DfE officials, to produce comprehensive guidance to help schools and other settings deal with future extreme heat events.

But in the meantime, there is welcome recognition between all education unions that we need to work together to produce clear practical advice to support schools. It's no use waiting until the next orange or red alert is issued by the Met Office. So, at the time of writing, the NEU is leading work on a joint union protocol that will help leaders, staff and reps plan for, and respond to, the next extreme heat event.

School buildings need to be retrofitted to adapt to the climate crisis – to be more resilient to heat and cold – and more energy efficient. But apart from this our key message will be that planning is essential and having an agreed plan in place, which has been subject to union consultation, and with which parents are familiar, will make it easier to respond in a crisis.

Reviewing arrangements for ventilation, shade, catering, outdoor activities, timetabling and consideration of the needs of more vulnerable staff and pupils is essential, but there is no 'one size fits all' approach. Decisions need to be made based on risk assessments and this isn't easy. During the July 2022 heatwave some schools in the worst affected areas stayed fully open, even without air conditioning, and with union support, on the grounds that vulnerable pupils would otherwise be at home in high rise flats, whereas others thought that staff and children would be better off at home. The joint union guide will help schools make the right decision for their circumstance.

*Sarah Lyons NEU*



Photo: flickr.com/photos/alisdare/

# CLIMATE WEEK NYC

## CLIMATE GROUP

**19 – 25 September:  
UN Climate Week**

We must see a push for action at the COP27 climate conference in Egypt this November. Climate negotiations must change gear and start delivering.

This means just transition policies and measures, focused on the creation of quality jobs in all sectors and in all countries. This requires investment, industry policy, skills and income. As the climate emergency accelerates, working people demand an increased rate of this just transition to a low-carbon economy.

You can see how working people participated in #CEPOW22 [here](#).



**GLOBAL  
CLEAN ENERGY  
ACTION FORUM**  
CEM13/MI-7 USA 2022

**21–23 September:  
Global Clean Energy Action Forum**

This event brings together energy ministers from around the world with union leaders, CEOs and civil society groups to discuss the transition to clean energy. Just transition and organised labour are key themes this year and I will be moderating a high-level roundtable on just transition with other labour leaders.

*Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary*

## Autumn Conferences and actions



**International Climate Jobs Conference,  
17 and 18 September**

The **Global Climate Jobs Network** is organising an online conference on **Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September**.

We have speakers from Portugal, South Africa, Kenya, Tunisia, Norway, Turkey, India, Philippines, Britain and the United States.

We know that the points of convergence between the labour and the climate movements are immense, but that several challenges lie ahead of us. It is nevertheless of extreme importance and urgency to cut emissions. We need to build a movement that not only is capable of setting its own program, but that has the power to implement it.

So, we are bringing together people from all around the world, and bringing together the labour and climate movements to discuss how we can win a program that can allow us to stop climate collapse.

We will have meetings on how to build a climate jobs movement, food and farming, racism and refugees, cutting emissions, fossil fuel workers, from resistance to a just transition, climate politics and more. For details of speakers, meeting, and timing, and to register, check [here](#).

*Jonathan Neale*

## CACCTU Activists workshops

**Sat 17 September 10-11.30am:**

**Part 1 - Joining the dots:**

a session to discuss how our struggles link together, and what we need right now and for the longer term.

**Sun 18 September 10-11.30am:**

**Part 2 - Strategising to win:**

discussing practical actions connecting different issues to build broader, deeper and more effective movements.

**Sat 8 October Part 3:**

**Solidarity in the face of crisis:**

a full day event to explore in more depth some key issues facing climate, trade union and social justice activists, including making the case for radical action to solve multiple crises, and overcoming barriers to effective organising.

Register [here](#):

More information [here](#).

*Claire James*



## Labour for a Green New Deal Worker-Climate Conference

**October 22-23 in Sheffield**, will bring together trade unionists taking action on the climate to share experiences and tactics. As hot strike summer turns to autumn, this is the time to build winning strategies with workers coordinating to take on bosses and the Tories to fight for a worker's transition in workplaces and industries.

At the conference participants will discuss:

- reflections from trade union climate work from 2020-22,
- practical methods being undertaken towards transition in industries,
- organising at a local level,
- using their trade union structures for effective climate work, and more. Extended details can be found [here](#).

If you'd like to join, please fill in the application form [here](#), or email [tradeunions@labourgnd.uk](mailto:tradeunions@labourgnd.uk) to share your worker-climate organising experience to help us build conference resources.

Find our model funding motion [here](#) to help make this essential event possible.

## TUC Courses

### Introduction to the role of the Green/ Environmental Rep in the South West

3 day virtual course 22, 23 and 29 November 2022

There has never been a better time to get involved in the environmental agenda in the workplace. Recent weather conditions have impacted on workers in many industries and highlighted the need for trade unions to do more in the workplace around this issue.

This 3 day course will help you:

- Understand why the environment is a trade union issue
- Explore the role of the Environmental Rep
- Understand the language around environmental issues
- Discover how work processes impact the environment
- Understand mapping environmental issues
- Greening the supply chain
- How to engage with management and green agreements
- How to get the Branch on board
- How to communicate and promote environmental issues

### A 3 day virtual course 22, 23 and 29 November

Apply at,

[www.tuc.org.uk/TUCcourses#southwest](http://www.tuc.org.uk/TUCcourses#southwest)

Or email Alison for more information

[Alison.foster@cityofbristol.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.foster@cityofbristol.ac.uk)

TUC Wales is also organising courses on Negotiating for a Just Transition and Greening our workplaces - 'green skills' for trade unionists throughout the year. [Details here](#).



[Register here](#).

## New on the GJA Blog

- [Mick Lynch on the Rail Strikes and Climate Crisis](#) from Double Down News
- [Climate Motions for debate at Labour Party Conference](#)
- [Farnborough air show; for the industry, not the workers](#)
- [TSSA calls for public transport fares to be slashed – let's all do the same!](#)
- [All Climate Politics is Global](#)

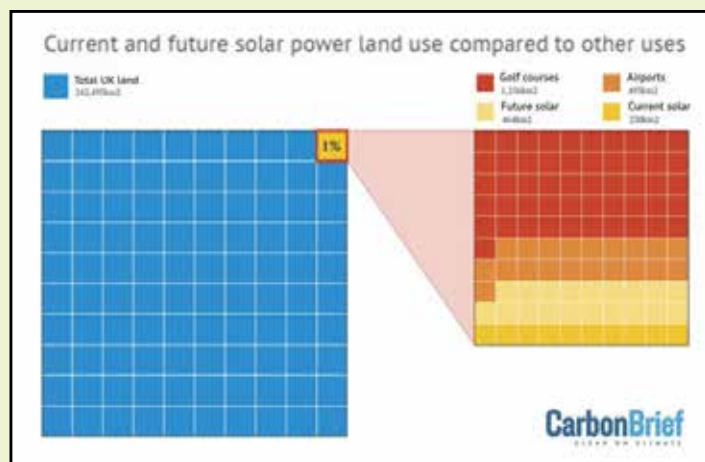


## Green Bites

### Graphics of the Month

1. In the light of the current fake panic being generated - not least by Liz Truss - that building solar farms in the countryside is a threat to food supplies.

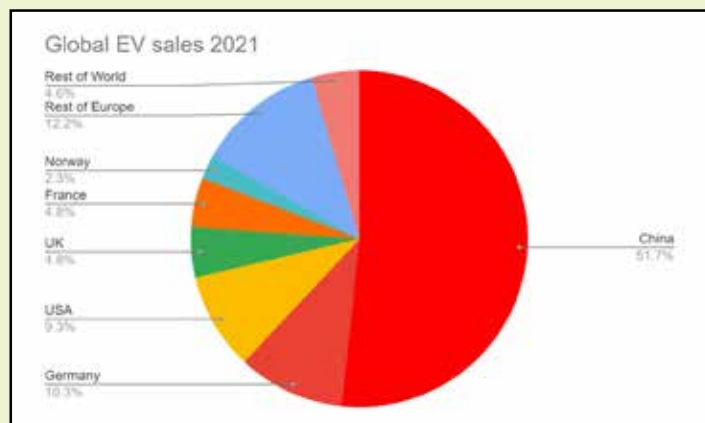
Golf courses take up more space than solar power in the UK



Proportions of total UK land (blue) taken up by golf courses (red), airports (orange), ground-mounted solar panels in 2022 (dark yellow) and estimated additional land taken up by ground-mounted solar panels in the future under government plans (light yellow). The right-hand square represents 1% of the left-hand square.

Source: Carbon Brief analysis using [Corine Land Cover data](#) and estimates from [Solar Energy UK](#), using [Solar Media](#) data. Chart by Tom Prater for Carbon Brief.

2. Where in the world the EVs are.



### Statistics of the month

**£2.8 billion a day**

Average Fossil Fuel Company Profits in last 30 years. Set to double this year.

**£0**

How much Shell paid in UK tax on their oil and gas production in 2021

**33 million**

People displaced by floods in Pakistan this month. Pakistan's per capita carbon emissions are one sixth that of the UK.

**£9 : £1**

Cost of energy generated by gas : cost of energy generated by renewables. As the price of gas rises, this can only get more so. The ratio was just **4:1 as recently as July**.

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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.