



Photo: Mick Holder

Editorial: The People's Priorities?

Rishi Sunak is wrong. His five priorities are not the same as those of the public - which, according to the [Office for National Statistics](#), are the cost of living (92%) and the state of the economy (77%), the health service (80%), Climate Change and the Environment (63%) and housing (50%). So, climate change is now permanently a major concern, while, despite strenuous attempts by government and media to play dog whistles on trombones, immigration is right down at number 8.

What Sunak completely fails to grasp is that the concerns about the cost of living, economy, health, housing and climate are *linked*.

According to [Edie](#), UK homes are paying, on average, £1,750 more for energy and fuel annually than they would have if the Government had brought forward effective national campaigns on insulation, low-carbon heating and transport and domestic renewables.

The beneficial impact of insulation for health was noted by the [BMJ](#) as long ago as 2007. *"Insulating existing houses led to a significantly warmer, drier indoor environment and ... improved self rated health, self reported wheezing, days off school and work, and visits to general practitioners as well as a trend for fewer hospital admissions for respiratory conditions."*

And, as [Sir Michael Marmot](#) noted in a report for FOE in 2011, *"Living in a cold home can make you sick. ... older people are particularly vulnerable, with cold houses putting them more at risk of heart and lung disease as well as worsening conditions like arthritis and rheumatism. But... children and young people also suffer. Cold, poorly heated homes affect babies' weight gain and increase the frequency and severity of asthmatic symptoms in children. Teenagers who live in cold houses are five times more likely to risk developing multiple mental health problems than adolescents who have always lived in warm homes."*

Sunak is still trying to govern as if he were in the Holocaust and lives in the same cloud of denial as all those Conservative MPs who firmly believe that their voters oppose the development of onshore wind, when [they actually support it](#).

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Quote of the Month

Our goal is to achieve zero deforestation in the Amazon and zero greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity matrix, in addition to encouraging the revitalisation of degraded pastures

*New Brazilian President
Lula Da Silva*

Investing in green transition generates revenue as well as being imperative for survival. Debt can be cut through investment that benefits the population. Inflation can be cut by reducing the price of travel on public transport and putting a 100% windfall tax on fossil fuel producers excess profits to keep energy bills low for people and workplaces and pay for the insulation that will keep them that way.

With the prospect of a change of government by 2024 we need to nail down the policies we need in the plans and campaigning of opposition parties, so action happens from day 1.

Paul Atkin Ed

Retrofitting. Model Motion for Opposition Parties

This motion is under discussion in the Labour Party in Tooting, but could be used elsewhere by changing local detail and the name of the Party concerned.

Resolution: Insulation/retrofit of homes

London's housing stock is responsible for around a third of all carbon emissions in the capital, while 80% of all London homes expected to exist in 2050 have already been built. Home retrofitting is therefore an imperative for addressing climate change.

London, along with the rest of the UK, faces multiple crises – energy prices, cost of living, poverty, climate, and health. A retrofit programme would help with these by making homes more energy efficient, lowering bills and keeping people warm. Around 15% of the UK's carbon emissions – 68 million tonnes – comes directly from homes. The UK housing stock is also the least energy efficient in Europe and in many areas of London over 20% of households live in fuel poverty. Retrofitting would help tackle inequality and climate change plus boosting training and employment.

We call on the London Labour Party to:

- *Support a retrofit campaign based on coordinated action led by local authorities and engaging with employers, unions, education providers – particularly Further Education Colleges - and community organisations.*
- *Support every London local authority in establishing a retrofit task force to develop a housing and building strategy consistent with their climate emergency and net zero plans.*
- *Develop a programme that invests in Local Authority Repairs teams or Direct Labour Organisations and ensures good quality employment, training/apprenticeships in retrofitting its council housing stock, beginning with the fuel poverty council estates.*
- *Work with groups such as Greener Jobs Alliance, Fuel Poverty Action Group and Trades Unions to develop a London-wide programme for insulating and retrofitting homes.*

We also call on Tooting Labour Party to:

- *Support the adoption of the above by Wandsworth Council.*



Bold Solutions

In December, the TUC held a conference -

Bold Solutions: The economic, climate and energy crises and how we fix them.

In the next few issues of the Newsletter we will carry follow up articles dealing with some of the issues raised. This month we have a contribution from the Manufacturing Employers Association *Make UK*, whose view of the shortfall in skills training for the green transition has a lot of common ground with the trade union movement, and from Community, the steel workers' union, on what needs to be done to make steel manufacture in the UK sustainable, for the climate, jobs and communities. *Ed*

Skills Crisis: The Manufacturing Employer's View

Manufacturers are committed to meeting their net-zero targets by investing in green skills. With the right policy agenda, the government can enable manufacturers to properly transition to net-zero and help them meet the demand for green skills. While 29% of manufacturers view the investment in green skills as a long-term priority for their business, over 40% say it is an immediate priority over the next one to three years.

Research by Make UK found that almost 40% of manufacturers believe net-zero is a key factor driving changes to how they operate and developing the skills and jobs their businesses need. As manufacturers decarbonise and adopt digital technologies, there is an unprecedented and growing demand for green skills and roles. Key green skills targeted by manufacturers for investment include sustainable design and production, lean manufacturing, carbon emission minimisation and nuclear and renewable energy generation.

While manufacturers are committed to building a resilient workforce for the future, barriers remain in underlying skills shortages; which the sector has now faced for decades.

There are currently 84,000 vacancies in the manufacturing sector, due to shortages of both traditional and digital skills. The increasing need to recruit to fill green roles, and the competition with other industries for such skills, is proving to be an additional challenge. Only 17% of manufacturers believe that acquiring the skills their business needs for 2030 will be easy.

The annual number of engineering and manufacturing apprenticeship starts has lost momentum; and decreased since the apprenticeship levy was introduced in April 2017. While it is crucial to attract the next generation of workers into green roles over the longer term via apprenticeships and T Level courses, manufacturers are increasingly focusing on upskilling and retraining existing employees to solve short-term skills shortages.

As the voice of UK manufacturing, Make UK have been calling on the government to introduce a range of measures to support the transition to green skills and help manufacturers upskill their workforce for the future.

- The apprenticeship levy in its current form is restrictive and does not suit the flexible training needs of manufacturers. With £3.3 billion of unspent levy funds returned to the Treasury in the past three years, this money could be better spent to suit the sector. The Government's target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 means that it is not just young people who need access to the right training, but existing workers too. The government should therefore introduce an Employer Training Fund, using unspent levy funds, which would allow manufacturers to better invest in the upskilling and retraining of existing employees in crucial areas including green skills.
- Tax-based measures would also encourage investment in workplace training – over one third of manufacturers say so. The government should expand tax exemptions for work-related training into a Training Investment Allowance, providing a tax rebate on investment in training for existing employees. This could include a dedicated green skills tax credit to incentivise employers to invest in skills training to reach net-zero targets.
- The government's Lifelong Loan Entitlement, providing workers access to the value of a higher education student loan to spend on training between levels 4 and 6 throughout the duration of their careers, is welcome. The loan should however be shaped by the need for digital and green skills to be kept up to date throughout an employee's career and should be expanded to include technical skills below level 4.

Skilled leaders and managers are key to aid the adoption of digital and greener technologies and are crucial to oversee the uptake of green skills training across British factories.

However, 66% of manufacturers believe there is a shortage of leadership and management skills across the sector. While some SMEs have benefited from the government led programme 'Help to Grow: Management' which is aimed to support business leaders, uptake has been generally low due to restrictive eligibility criteria. The scheme should be expanded to support managers who will be key to closing the green skills gap in the journey to net zero.

Ensuring the current workforce is equipped with the right technical skills to keep pace with changing technologies is a priority for manufacturers and is key to closing both the green and overall skills gap – it needs to be for the Government too.

Louise Brady, Policy Adviser Intern - Make UK

What the government needs to do to secure a future for sustainable UK steel making



Greening the steel industry is probably the biggest challenge we've ever faced but it's one we have to get right because the stakes are extremely high - for UK steelmaking, for jobs and for steel communities.

However at present, it is still unclear what steelworks will look like in the future. We know the steel industry will face a deep transformation in the coming years, but there remains high uncertainty regarding the technologies and routes that will provide the best opportunities for companies, as well as uncertainties at the policy level.

As the trade union for steelworkers, we continue to be as proactive as possible in anticipation of such changes and in demanding a just transition for the industry. Our union and the other steel unions know the sector must decarbonise, as steel makes up roughly 15% of the UK's industrial emissions. That's why we need to get on with decarbonisation, and why the government needs to commit to a long-term strategy for the sake of the industry and because that's what our European competitors have been doing.

Long-term sustainability for the industry requires new industrial strategies as well as strong government support. Any government that wants to tackle the climate crisis needs a green industrial strategy with steel at its core, but many steelworkers have expressed

doubts about the capacity of government to support the industry through the transition.

The clock is ticking. The UK's two blast-furnace based producers are coming to a key point in their long investment cycle, so now is the time for a transformative surge in investment to secure the sector's future as a world-leader in green steel, based on an ambitious, credible industrial pathway toward decarbonisation.

This is vital, as loss of primary steel is not a green steel plan. The UK will continue to require primary steel for automotive and packaging steels, and currently it's not possible to make all the necessary grades from recycled steel using electric arc furnaces.

Importing carbon intensive steel in place of low-carbon UK steel cannot be an alternative option. It would not reduce overall emissions, just will simply offshore them. That wouldn't be green, wouldn't be a solution and wouldn't be sustainable in the long-term.

Decarbonisation options for the industry include Hydrogen Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) combined with Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), or Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) but the government's Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, although they intend to take a technology-neutral approach, does not rule out the use of coking coal in an integrated steel-making process together with CCUS as a net-zero compliant option.

In addition to the overdue commitments on decarbonisation of the industry, the government pledged £250 million as part of the Clean Steel Fund ahead of the 2019 general election. Funding has yet to be distributed years later, which is vital to safeguarding a long-term future for the industry.

Finally, steel producers in the UK have consistently suffered the competitive disadvantage of having the highest industrial electricity prices in Europe. UK Steel figures reveal how sky-rocketing electricity costs faced by the industry has worsened this situation with steel companies estimated to pay 30% and 70% more than their German and French counterparts respectively. This disparity is not sustainable and is creating a further barrier to decarbonisation, as all low carbon steel technologies are electricity intensive. Steel companies are also still waiting on the details on support for energy intensive industries beyond the six-month price freeze which ends in March 2023.

Progress is sorely needed to secure a long-term future for UK steel, most immediately by tackling excessive energy costs, but with an overarching goal of providing the investment and policies required to transition the sector to a green future. The UK is lagging behind whilst other European countries are championing the necessary transition.

With the right strategy there are big opportunities ahead for the steel industry in the UK to showcase how a 21st century steel sector is a pivotal strategic sector. Government now must act to grasp this opportunity so the industry can play a key role in the world in providing low-carbon, high quality steel for green infrastructure and manufacturing, and continue to support thousands of well-paid, highly skilled jobs in the UK.

Kate Dearden Head of Research, Policy and External Relations Community trade union

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.

Role of Green Bargaining Officer: GJA hosts event to bring initiatives together

On 13 December, the Greener Jobs Alliance was pleased to host an online meeting based around the theme 'the role of the Green Bargaining Officer'.

The meeting heard excellent contributions on the establishment of a dedicated Green Bargaining Officer from a wide geographical spread : Ryan Morrison (Friends of the Earth Scotland), Jenny Patient (Yorks & Humber TUC) and Ceri Williams (Wales TUC) with contributions from GJA contacts and supporters.

All three speakers have provided written summaries of developments in their regions in this newsletter. We will also hope to feature in subsequent editions contributions from New York and from Spain, as the concept of Green-specific jobs in both the union movement and in local, regional and national government takes hold in response to the crisis we face.

It's extremely encouraging that (a) climate issues are beginning to be treated as something more urgent than an add-on at the end of an agenda, as a source of much needed action and transformation, and (b) that trade unions are leading the way in this development, putting the organisation, demand for, and supply of, green skills where it should be, in the hands of the workers themselves.

Tahir Latif, Secretary, Greener Jobs Alliance

TUC job vacancy:

Project Officer - Green Bargaining

12 months fixed term contract – secondments welcome

Salary: Grade 6 - £38,892 (pro rata)

Closing date: Tue, 17 Jan 2023 - 12:00

Job location: Regional office Leeds LS11 5PS

Interview date: 26 Jan 2023

Hours: 28 hours per week – flexible working possible

Working with TUC affiliated unions and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, to achieve YHCC Climate Pledge sign-up by employers in sectors related to Buildings Energy and Retrofit. The initial focus will be on metro-mayors and local authorities, and on brokering new agreements with major employers on future employment, skills, and investment.

The successful candidate will have climate change knowledge and experience of trade union bargaining. We are particularly keen to receive applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic applicants, who are underrepresented at this grade in the TUC, but also welcome applications from any candidate.

Apply here.

For written project brief contact jpatient@tuc.org.uk

What is a Green Bargaining Officer and how can we get them?

From high-carbon workplaces all the way through to those which are inherently low-carbon, there is a need to change the way we work to prevent pollution or adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. This is most apparent in our highest polluting industries like power generation, however across the UK nearly every workplace will be affected in some way.

If you work in a hospital or in the care sector, the impacts of increasingly regular periods of extreme heat and cold will add to the existing challenges of underfunding and staffing. Commuters will find their regular journey harder in the face of more regular flooding, while landslides on our railway lines have already led to a fatal accident in Stonehaven. A threefold increase in the number of wildfires in 2022 compared to the year before has stretched exhausted firefighters. Extreme heat can bring serious health consequences for indoor and outdoor workers if the right protections aren't in place, including maximum working temperatures.

When we look at the far-reaching impacts of climate change and how we prevent pollution, the consequences for workers across the country and across sectors are clear. A Green Bargaining Officer is a vital part of ensuring a working-class response that seeks to protect workers' livelihoods and keeps them safe at all times. The role can also politicise the issue of climate change, making sure that workers are aware of the disproportionate cause of pollution - the wealthiest few. Analysis of data from 2019 showed that those in the top 10% of incomes in the UK use more energy on flights alone than the poorest 20% use for everything - heating their homes, the food they eat, their use of a car or public transport and more.

A Green Bargaining Officer can play many crucial roles in a workplace or as a trade union officer. As a core part of health and safety, questions should be put to employers about how future-proofed our worksites are in terms of temperature regulation, flooding management affecting travel and other climate impacts. Sectors like transport, manufacturing and power generation will be impacted by efforts to reduce emissions, others may find themselves affected as changes elsewhere in their global value chain play out domestically. Employers should be engaging their workforce in planning for their industries role in a zero-carbon future, including considering how to create new green jobs, protect existing workers and ensure opportunities for reskilling where necessary.

In this cost of living crisis, workers are organising to fight back against worsening wages and attacks on terms and conditions. These are urgent and immediate issues facing hundreds of thousands of workers, often forced into poverty by inflation and astronomical energy bills. The Green Bargaining Officer may feel like a challenge in current conditions but the climate crisis is increasingly clear around us in our communities and workplaces yet workers are consistently overlooked in government policy. It's vital that workers and the trade union are tooled up to take on their employers and government as more crises unfold - the green bargaining officer can play a leading role.

Ryan Morrison Just Transition Campaigner FOE Scotland



Photo: Douglas Barnes / US Department of Energy

Yorkshire and Humber TUC – our work on climate change and Just Transition

Like other regional offices of TUC, the Yorkshire and Humber team in Leeds is a small outfit, with a remit determined by TUC national policy and steered by a Regional Executive Council.

Our work on Just Transition started with the region's involvement in an ETUC programme bringing together industrial zones from 7 European countries in 2015 to work on low carbon plans. Recognising the importance to our regional economy of energy-intensive industries, not just power generation but steel, cement and glass making, a cross-sectoral Just Transition Taskforce was created regionally, and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) was seen as a way forward within this project.

It became clear in discussions with Local Enterprise Partnerships and union sectoral committees that not only were many jobs with good conditions in jeopardy, but there were wider structural issues in the economy of the North of England, such as endemic low pay and poor investment in skills, which needed to be addressed alongside action for low carbon.

The Just Transition Taskforce catalysed relationships that might not have developed – with universities and with climate campaigners. TUC Y&H championed, with others, the idea of a regional Climate Commission that could build consensus around climate action that the region could get on with, even while waiting for Westminster.

Cut to 2021, and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission was launched, while TUC Y&H was

successful in winning funding from the European Climate Foundation for my post as Just Transition Officer.

My job is to research climate transition needs in the region and to involve unions in the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC). The TUC co-chairs the Future Economy Panel of the YHCC, which aims to deliver impact on jobs, skills and investment for the climate transition.

The climate transition offers opportunities as well as threats to jobs and skills, and the pandemic presented new challenges, so we have widened the picture from concerns around energy intensive industries, and it has become clear that unions in our region need support on green bargaining.

A survey of how Y&H Local Authorities are involving workers and unions in their climate plans indicated a large gap to the effective involvement of unions - even though Local Authorities are key to climate action such as insulating homes and developing great public transport facilities, and their procurement can be a force for positive change in the local economy.

Our new project, which is just recruiting a Green Bargaining Officer (see Ad below) aims to develop the capacity of unions in the region to put climate issues onto the bargaining agenda with local authorities, specifically through getting them to join the YHCC Climate Pledge, and pushing for climate-friendly plans, especially reducing buildings energy through retrofit, with high quality employment and skills.

Links will be made to the Health and Safety issues around climate change, and how supply chains, workforces and communities can become resilient. The focus will be with Unite, UNISON, and GMB organising in local authorities (plus UCU in FE colleges and NEU in schools). The role will also work with our TUC Skills Development Officer in each Mayoral Authority to get action on green skills.

Jenny Patient Just Transition Officer Yorkshire & Humber TUC



Green jobs future given boost by Welsh Labour government – but big challenges remain

Trade unions in Wales are pushing for a green jobs future. Like elsewhere, it's a challenging task, but they are helped by a supportive Labour government.

The Welsh Government has increased its ambition to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and stated its intention to make the Welsh public sector carbon neutral by 2030 and to do so in social partnership with trade unions. Further demonstrating their commitment the Welsh government has just published a call for evidence on a just transition. It asks some of the key questions that stand between workers and well paid unionised green jobs. These questions include:

- How can we finance a just transition?
- How can we help workers develop the right skills?
- How can we secure a voice for workers?

Anticipating such questions, last year Wales TUC produced a report on Negotiating the future of work: Net-zero in partnership with the Labour Research Department. The report found that the new Welsh targets mean decarbonisation is now an urgent issue across the public and private sectors. It stated that:

as well as further reductions in the power sector, there will have to be greater emissions reductions in other carbon intensive industries; where a small number of big emitters, such as Port Talbot steelworks, are responsible for a large proportion of Welsh emissions.

It is in these industries that there is a risk of a large-scale displacement of jobs, as some 'dirtier' ones will either disappear entirely or be radically transformed through the introduction of new technologies.

The report made the following key points on negotiating the future:

→ Successful intervention is possible → The time to act is now → Prepare the ground and engage members → Use industrial strength → Engage in dialogue at all levels.

In line with these findings, Wales TUC is calling for transition agreements with three key elements:

- Formalise consultation with unions
- Guarantees on redundancy and jobs
- Information sharing and workforce planning

There are already good examples of employers and unions working together to achieve a just transition. One such area relates to local authorities' electric vehicles. Under Welsh targets all councils are committed to switch their fleet of vehicles to electric by 2030. The question then arises who will maintain them. One option might be to outsource. However, one council in Wales has chosen to **upskill its staff** to deliver electric vehicle repairs in house. They did so with the help of the Unite trade union and the Wales union learning fund.

As a result, workers now have the green skills to reflect the changing profile of the fleet and the increase in house vehicle maintenance has also safeguarded their jobs in the shift to a green economy.

The trick will be to replicate this mix of central government stimulus with local trade union and employer co-operation to upskilling and keeping and creating good unionised green jobs.

Ceri Williams, Policy Officer, Wales TUC

30 by 30. Biodiversity COP15

This month COP15, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, took place in Montreal, Canada (in association with China, the host country which had to withdraw the city of Kunming as venue as a result of the Covid pandemic).

Speaking at the opening of COP15, UN secretary-general António Guterres once again issued a rousing call for environmental action, telling delegates that there must be “no excuses, no delays” for measures that will prevent the global population from “waging war on nature”. He said “humanity is a ‘weapon of mass extinction’”.

The outcome of COP15 was the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- Countries have pledged to protect 30% of the world’s lands, seas, coasts and inland waters by 2030 – an agreement known as “30-by-30”.
- Measures also include a pledge to increase the flow of finance to developing nations to care for nature to \$20bn (£16.5bn) by 2025 and at least \$30bn (£24.7bn) by 2030.
- In total, countries pledged to ensure \$200bn (£164bn) a year of biodiversity-related funding by 2030, both domestic and international, and from public and private sources.
- There are 2030 targets to halve global food waste, excess nutrients and risks posed by pesticides, reduce to ‘near zero’ the loss of areas of wildlife-rich habitat, and reduce by \$500bn (£411.7bn) a year government subsidies that harm nature.

But the devil is in the detail, which has still to be negotiated. Encouragingly Craig Bennett, chief executive of The Wildlife Trusts, and therefore someone who should know, has stated his optimism – but there is still plenty left to do. Having said that, it is undoubtedly a good start and reflects a realisation that biodiversity is as important as climate in ensuring the survival of humankind, not to mention all the many species in danger of extinction.

Simon Erskine



Photo: Avijit Ghosh / Climate Visuals

Replanting mangroves in the Sundarbans

COP 27: Education recognised but no new commitments

This is a slightly edited version of Education International’s Report on COP27. Full report can be read here. Ed

Education is not at the core of COP negotiations, and is largely unrecognised by countries’ nationally determined contributions. Of 140 new or updated NDCs submitted since 2021, only a third mention education, most from countries with high climate vulnerability. It is, however, a key pillar of the Action for Climate Empowerment agenda, with a four year action plan under the Glasgow work programme agreed at COP 27. This mandates the UNFCCC Secretariat to map and collate guidelines and good practices on climate education annually.

Climate education is quickly becoming more visible at the COP and in the unofficial programme. This year, for the first time, there was a Climate Education Hub – a pavilion devoted entirely to events and discussions on the climate-education nexus. Two weeks of events drew out multiple aspects of climate education. It was a space

- for indigenous youth to highlight the importance of climate education that respects indigenous knowledge and
- to launch the Coalition for Climate Education – a large consortium of young climate activists and organisations mobilising to achieve universal climate literacy.

EI hosted two events during COP,

- a panel exploring what **“quality” climate change education** means
- and one on how to ensure a **just transition** in education.

These in-depth discussions between representatives from the teaching profession, youth, and international organisations highlighted the importance of collaboration to transform, decolonise, reform and fund education systems to be climate resilient and guarantee a just transition for the education workforce.

Making outdated vulnerable education infrastructure resilient to climate change impacts was also a key issue; with 22,000 schools destroyed by floods in Pakistan in September, and school closures caused by storms and heat waves globally.

EI participated in the inaugural meeting of the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership aiming for countries to take concrete actions to green their education systems. EI’s vision for quality climate education for all is [here](#).

EI's Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, Antonia Wulff, argued "We need to invest in our public education systems to ensure quality climate education for all students, everywhere. Some countries spend more on fossil fuel subsidies than they do on education. We must demand real change."

EI demands professional development for teachers on climate education. Sifiso Ndlovu, CEO of the Zimbabwe Teachers' Association, said: "We must green the capacities of our teachers and support them to remain relevant so that they can in turn support their students with the knowledge they need to navigate the climate crisis."

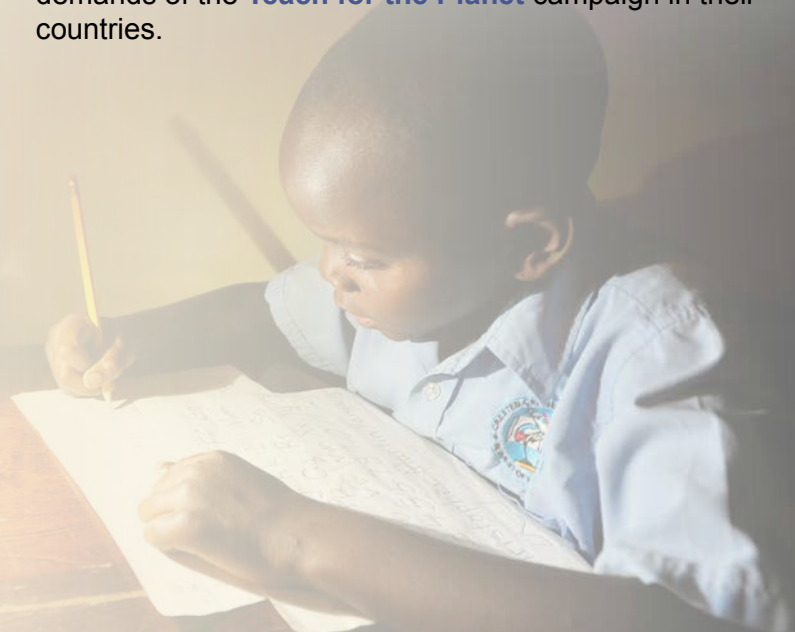
The COP programme included a ministerial event with ministers of education and environment in dialogue with youth, to build on commitments made at the first ever such Summit held at COP26. But this was disappointingly lower profile than at Glasgow (perhaps because the Egyptian presidency's nationally determined contribution does not mention education even once). At COP 26 only 22 commitments were made, but no new commitments were made at COP 27. This also showed that the education sector is not immune to greenwashing, with countries eager to portray themselves as climate education champions on the international stage, even when meaningful policy changes at the national level may not have occurred. Nonetheless, youth demands were clear. With 70% of youth surveyed saying they cannot explain climate change, systems urgently need to change so they can.

EI will continue to

- fight for climate justice alongside trade unionists of all sectors.
- Demand a just transition for all educators and quality climate change education for all students, everywhere.

- Support and promote the **UNESCO Greening Education Partnership**; so that by 2030, every country has sustainable education institutions, climate education in the curriculum, teachers that are trained and supported to teach for climate action, and climate education opportunities for adults.
- Press all governments to use education as a powerful tool to address the climate crisis; by including education in updated nationally determined contributions, and directing climate funds towards adapting education systems (currently only 0.03% of climate finance is allocated to education).

COP 28 in Dubai this November should include an entire day devoted to education. Whether this brings the international recognition we need of education's powerful role for mitigation and adaptation or not, education unions globally are campaigning relentlessly at local, national and regional levels pushing the demands of the **Teach for the Planet** campaign in their countries.



Homework by solar light

Photot: Patrick Bentley / Solar Aid

Climate Impacts on Schools and Colleges

This film from the University and College Union (UCU) working with colleagues in India shows the devastating impacts of extreme weather events on educators and students.

[Watch it here.](#)

Photo: Li-An Lim on Unsplash

Job Vacancy: Just Transition Campaigner FOE Scotland



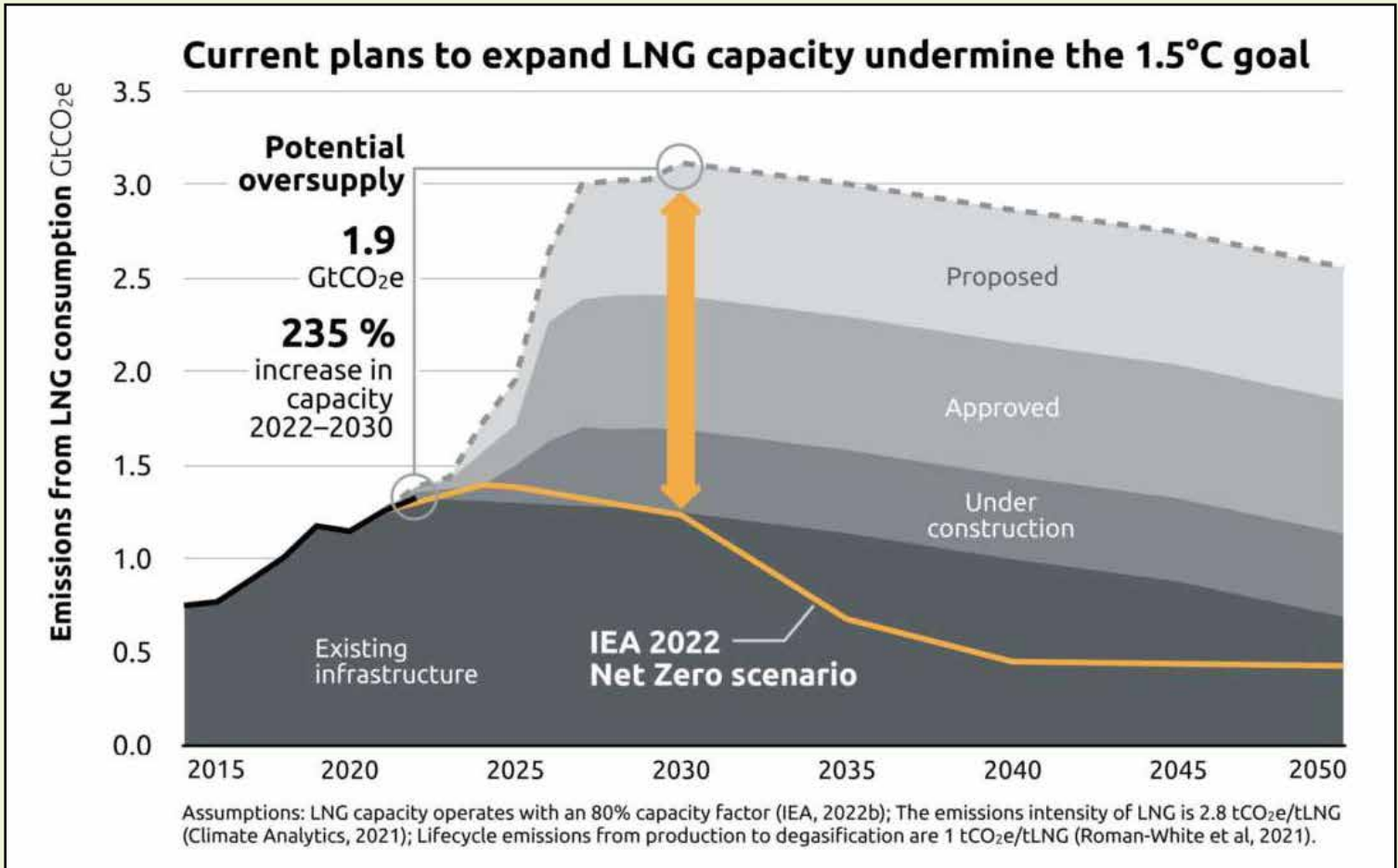
£27,686 – £34,569 pro rata
Edinburgh, Head office (potential for hybrid working)
4-4.5 days per week (0.8-0.9 FTE)

As a core member of our oil and gas transition team you will work closely with the Head of Campaigns and colleagues in campaigns, communications, activism and parliamentary roles to deliver our strategy for a just transition for affected workers and communities.

Full details [here.](#)

Green Bites

Graphics of the Month: Why Gas is not a “transition fuel”



If all the current planned projects go ahead, most of them in North America, the global LNG industry will overshoot the emissions limits in the International Energy Agency’s net zero pathway by the equivalent of 1.9 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions per year by 2030 – about the same as the annual emissions produced by Russia. [Carbon Action Tracker](#).

As can be seen from the [OECD data here](#), the “dash for gas” in Africa is a perverse backward step, as most sub Saharan African countries have a higher proportion of renewable energy generation than most countries in the Global North, e.g. USA 8%, Ethiopia 90%.

STATS of the Month

87% UK electricity generated by zero carbon sources on Dec 30th 2022 (new daily record).

81% Kenya’s electricity generated by geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar power throughout 2021.

44% Of crude oil production is dedicated to road transport. From [Energy Mix](#).

€1.3 billion How much the Polish economy will lose by 2030 if it doesn’t unblock onshore wind.

In Poland, power from onshore wind is now four to five times cheaper than coal. Recent polling revealed that voters from across the political spectrum, representing 80% of the population, support unblocking, just like in the UK.

From [Client Earth](#).

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