



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Editorial: Long hot Summer, Autumn and Winter

The hottest June ever, daily temperature records broken three times in the first week of July, the Southern US under a heat dome, Beijing breaking 40C three days in a row, Montevideo down to **two weeks worth of drinkable water** and an extraordinarily mild Antarctic Winter 10 - 20C above average temperatures from 1979-2000, should be injecting an increased urgency into climate action. 350.org and others are calling for mass actions this November and we should make sure there is a huge trade union component to those. The ice is cracking under our feet.

Because the Financial Times is right on the money when it states the following.



Jason Hickel @jasonhickel · 30 Jun

Some welcome clarity from the FT's energy editor:

Capitalism won't deliver the energy transition fast enough ...

There's too much to do, and given the urgency and the need to get the solution right, this isn't a task for your favourite ESG-focused portfolio manager or the tech bros. The sheer scale of the physical infrastructure that must be revamped, demolished or replaced is almost beyond comprehension. Governments, not BlackRock, will have to lead this new Marshall Plan. And keep doing it. The western nations that did so much of the damage will have to finance the transition in the developing world — it is astonishing that this idea is still debated. Massive deficit spending will be necessary, not a new ETF. For all the cleantech advances and renewable deployment in recent decades, fossil fuels' share of total global energy use was 86 per cent in 2000 and 82 per cent last year.

70

1,548

3,468

301.5K



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Quote of the Month

For me, the clue is in the name 'green prosperity plan'. If you really believe that this is the only way to sustainably grow our economy, then it cannot make any sense to say that you will wait until the economy grows before you start the plan.

Barry Gardiner MP

This is a role that Western Governments, and the private sector they support, are resisting. The UK government is proving peculiarly cloth eared (see CCC report article below). Hence the perverse decisions they keep making, from trying to row back on aid to the Global South, to investing in new (expensive) oil and gas while continuing to block (cheap) onshore wind; resulting in FOE and Client Earth once more deciding to take them to court to force them to make a plan that would match their own targets.

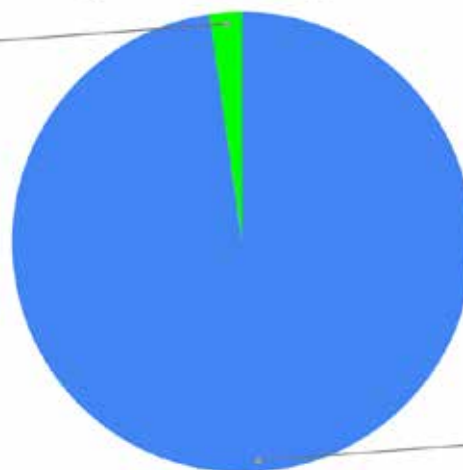
The challenge for the Labour movement is to recognise that our struggle is to lead the transition.

That means boldness in government in making the investments needed at the scale and pace that will make a difference; and for that to work concrete plans have to be made now on how, where and when those investments will be made; and how the skilling up of the necessary workers will be put in place.

It also means a recognition in the unions that we have to take initiatives to force the pace.

Green Prosperity Investment won't break the bank as a Proportion of Total government expenditure

Green Prosperi...
2.3%



Total Governm...
97.7%

As Labour's proposed investment has a return, it should pay for itself; and therefore pose no problems for "fiscal rules".

- The JT plan for the North Sea (see below) is an example that the appropriate unions can be taken to the government and through Labour's structures too.
- The GJA **draft motion for Labour Conference** can also be used in union branches to focus the debate we need on setting up structures to allow a determining voice to the workers and communities affected; whether that's the rail unions on transport, education unions on curriculum and training, health unions on a net zero NHS and the rest of us in every sector.

It is a cloud cuckoo land fantasy to imagine that dropping off the pace on this won't have horrific consequences, and costs.

Paul Atkin (Editor)

What a Just Transition in the North Sea looks like

We reported in a previous edition of the Newsletter on the Our Power report on a just transition for North Sea Oil workers, produced jointly by Platform London and Friends of the Earth Scotland. Platform has also produced a short (20-minute) film, Offshore: North Sea oil workers on the future of our energy system.

The film, through footage shot on the oil rigs and extensive interviews with the workers themselves, brings the urgency of a just transition to vivid life. The film can now be accessed for [viewing at home here](#).

Tahir Latif



Climate mitigation and climate adaptation – a study in UK Government failure

Adapting to the impacts of climate change at the same time as reducing emissions are 2 sides of the same coin. Unfortunately, the evidence shows the Government is failing badly on both counts.

Mitigation In June, 2023, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) issued its [annual report](#). It didn't pull any punches on government performance, stating:

"The overarching message makes for grim reading; with the Committee's confidence that the UK will meet its climate goals "diminishing" year on year. Indeed, projections for the UK to meet its 2030 goals under the Sixth Carbon Budget and to reduce emissions by 68% as part of the nation's commitment to the Paris Agreement have worsened since last year".

Every sector will need to decarbonise if the UK is to realise the 68% reduction in seven years' time. However, the CCC report suggests that the UK's largest sectors have not been supported with enabling policy frameworks to deliver this transition. It concluded that the UK has lost global leadership.

This is also the view within its own ranks with the resignation of Zac Goldsmith, the Minister for the International Environment, claiming *"this government's apathy in the face of the greatest challenge we have faced makes continuing in my current role untenable."*

Adaptation The picture is no better following [another CCC report](#) in March, 2023. The findings show that *'for no outcome have we been able to conclude that there is sufficient evidence that reductions in climate exposure and vulnerability are happening at rates needed to appropriately manage risk.'*

Breaking international commitments

The Global South and developing countries were also in line to be hit by government policy changes. A proposal in early July [to drop the pledge of £11.6 billion](#) in environment aid was dropped after intense pressure from the climate movement and a furious diplomatic reaction from the Global South, which was something of a model for the alliances we need

Sustainable Development Goals – To cap off all this bad news for the government it was announced that the UK is not on target to meet a single one of its 17 SDGs by the 2030 deadline.

Labour Party performance – Despite the government's woeful record there is no cause for complacency in the Labour Party. Interviewed on Radio 4 Lord Deben made it clear that the opposition is also failing to adequately address the scale of the crisis. The rolling back of the commitments on the Green Prosperity Plan £28 billion pledge is one of a series of policy shifts under the guise of 'securonomics'.

Graham Petersen



Photo: Allisdare Hickson is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

The CCC's report shows that it's not only JSO that's slow marching! So is the government. ["Just Stop Oil Activists Walking Up Whitehall"](#)



Climate Change Committee

Key messages

The Parliamentary Climate Change Committee is an all Party body that holds the government accountable to its legal responsibilities under the Climate Change Act. Its report on how far the government is falling short of this can be read [here](#). These are its key messages (slightly reworded for brevity). Ed

- A lack of urgency. The policy framework has not developed at the required pace for future targets.
- The Government must restate existing commitments and deliver them as swiftly as possible.
- The UK should take a clear leadership role internationally.
- Immediate action is needed to deliver on the Government's emissions pathway and the Committee publishes 300 specific recommendations for them to get on with in **part 4 of their report**.
- The Government's current strategy is over-reliant on specific technological solutions, some of which have not yet been deployed at scale.
- Households and communities must be empowered and informed to make low-carbon choices. A coherent public engagement strategy on climate action is long overdue.
- Planning policy needs radical reform to support Net Zero. The planning system must have an overarching requirement that all planning decisions must be taken giving full regard to the imperative of Net Zero.
- Expansion of fossil fuel production is not in line with Net Zero. As well as pushing forward strongly with new low-carbon industries, Net Zero also makes it necessary to move away from high-carbon developments.
- The need for a framework to manage airport capacity. There should be no net airport expansion across the UK.

Carbon emissions up, up and away! We can't go on like this. Photo:dsleeter_2000/

News from ITUC

The ITUC will be represented at the UN **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** in New York, 10 – 19 July, where we will be pushing the workers' agenda on the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed this year, supported by our **#timefor8 campaign**.



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Unions Unite for Steel transition



GJA, Greenpeace & other environmental groups supported the rally. Actions like this are important for solidifying links between unions & climate activists. Photo TUC.

United in a common cause Unions Community, Unite and GMB came out in force to highlight the national emergency that currently exists in the steel industry. Steel workers came from Scunthorpe, Port Talbot, Shotton and Trostre to demonstrate in Parliament Square before Prime Minister's Questions to ensure their voices were heard. Support was also given by Greenpeace and the Greener Jobs Alliance who turned out at the rally to meet the workers.

It is vital that the Steel industry gets the investment it needs if the UK is to meet its net zero target by 2050. The production of steel itself, especially the high-grade steel required to make wind turbines is critical to adapt and resource the UK with the steel it needs to meet the targets.

The TUC is supporting the steel workers' campaign for the future of their jobs, to ensure that a transition to more sustainable methods of steel production creates opportunities for workers where they themselves can shape the plans for decarbonisation and their future roles within their workplace.

As the project officer for worker-led transition on steel for the TUC, my role is to support union reps within the steel industry and their unions to win decarbonisation plans for their workplaces.

This will be done by building capacity in the unions and growing supportive coalitions for worker-led transition plans. The project aims to protect jobs against offshoring and cut carbon emissions. This project forms part of the TUC's work promoting a rapid and just transition to a safe climate future that protects quality jobs.

The shift towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly economy must be underpinned by a worker-led transition if we want to tackle climate change, promote the efficient use of resources and build good union jobs for our current and future workers.

It involves transitioning away from high carbon emitting technologies towards clean energy sources and

sustainable practices. This transition could safeguard existing jobs and create new job opportunities across the Steel sector, but the Government needs to support this and the companies to make it happen. For more information on worker led transition in the steel sector please contact ahearne@tuc.org.uk

Andrew Hearne; Project Officer Worker Led Transition Trades Union Congress

Unions demand 'just transition' for shipping

After holding out for years, the International Maritime Organisation has just agreed that shipping emissions will reach net-zero by 2050. Maritime unions the RMT and Nautilus have both welcomed the deal. But it signals huge changes to ship design and working practices - shipping currently emits over a billion tonnes of CO2 a year.

Nautilus general secretary, **Mark Dickinson**, called for a '**just transition**' for maritime professionals: future proofing skills and training; securing safety of those onboard; and protecting and enhancing jobs, pay and conditions.

Meanwhile, for the RMT, **Mick Lynch welcomed the government's commitment to spend a further £34 million for 'greener ships'**, but said, '*failure to link this public funding to training and employment for maritime workers is a defect that will sink this Government's Maritime 2050 strategy.*'

Philip Pearson





Union Conference Round Up

UNISON: Regional Green UNISON networks are getting established in most regions with the aim of them all being up and running by the end of the year. The Union has published research to show that the government needs to step up support for transition so it's not just the wealthy who can afford to make the necessary changes.

[This can be read here.](#)

Key findings were

- In the survey of public sector workers who own their own homes, almost four fifths (79%) said they were concerned about climate change.
- More than seven in ten (74%) were keen to switch to cleaner energy, but felt they were not being offered enough government support to do so.
- More than three quarters (77%) said that even with up to £5,000 available from government grants to upgrade to a modern air-source heat pump, they would be unable to afford the extra £3-5,000 they'd need to finance themselves.
- More than half (53%) said if their current boiler were to break down, they would not be able to replace it if it was beyond repair.
- The overwhelming majority (87%) still use gas to heat their homes, and four in ten (41%) said their properties were difficult to heat and often felt cold and draughty.
- Just 4% thought government schemes aimed at encouraging the switch to clean energy systems were affordable and aimed at them.

UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said:

"The UK is in the last-chance saloon. Ministers must get to grips with this problem now, not in years to come when it's too late. Those households who can least afford to switch to cleaner energy are the ones needing help the most with their bills. What's needed is a fair system that works for everyone, not just those with the most money."

UNISON is also looking into commissioning research to look at what support the care workforce needs to switch to greener transport options and we will be looking to have a UNISON Year of the Green Rep to give a greater organising emphasis to this agenda.

For Further information or to get involved email m.singleton@unison.co.uk

The next Newsletter will include reports from PCS, UNITE and GMB conferences. Ed



Photo: Peter Sagar

Mining Heritage, Green Future

As the mercury relentlessly rises along with the sea levels and forest fires consume ever more woodland and homes, we need to decarbonise the economy – and quickly. We also need a just transition, whereby those with skills in the old fossil fuel industries will be retrained to use them in the new carbon free economy; and to consider regions like the North East, where jobs were lost in old industries in the 80's and 90's and never replaced. There was no just transition then, and people are still waiting 40 years on.

With this in mind, I have presented a two-day workshop in four schools in South Tyneside: to talk to pupils about how there is much to be proud of in the North East mining heritage, but also how we need to move on with a green economy, with good, well-paid jobs for them: like building the turbines for the Dogger Bank wind farms in the North Sea - the biggest in the world - at Port of Tyne in South Shields.

- The first day starts with an overview to frame the workshop and then learning two of our wonderful old Northumbrian songs; to give it a local flavour, and work towards a performance for the rest of the school.
 - Then we talk through a long powerpoint about the mining heritage of the region, how much there is to be proud of and the need to keep our community and innovative spirit alive; but now leave the coal and other fossil fuels in the ground because of the way that the use of them has heated the atmosphere too much, causing floods and fires etc.
 - Then we look at the new green industries and the jobs that can be created for young people in the future, with particular reference to the Dogger Bank project. We note that the man running the project, Mark Halliday, is quite local and his dad used to be a miner. The transition from coal to green energy, in one family in one generation.
 - We end up thinking about what our schools can do. The pupils showed a wonderful interest and curiosity. In one school, there were so many questions we had to ask the pupils to write them down on post-it notes to answer later.
 - In the afternoon, we have a short quiz about Northumbrian or Geordie words to see if the pupils could write down the English translation; to emphasise positive local identity.
 - Then the classes split into three groups; one to write a song with me, another to write a play with the class teacher, a third producing a powerpoint slide; all retelling the story of our mining heritage and why and how we are moving on to energy from green sources, and the job opportunities that go with it.
 - We then rehearse our new song, our new play, the two old songs and present the slides in a 19th century style Tyneside Music Hall show, performed for the whole school.
- The project is also aimed at giving the pupils a positive sense of identity, one that can help raise their self-esteem and their aspirations and help them to see through those who in years to come might wish to sell a very different and negative, racist and destructive version of identity when they are older. It was great to see the pride they were taking in their heritage of solidarity, fairness and tolerance, especially those who came from a mining background. Hopefully they will also see their identity as being part of a progressive, green North East, with the jobs we all desperately need. Let's hope Northumbria gets the investment we have been waiting for, for so long.
- From here on the four schools and others will keep in touch, producing a newsletter, containing:
- a. Heritage news
 - b. Information about green jobs and initiatives
 - c. Sharing news and ideas about what are doing to combat Climate Change
- Reflecting this project's respect to the work that the miners did and the culture of the Northumberland and Durham coalfield we will have a stall at the Durham Miners Gala on 8th July in the Durham Miners Association tent.
- Looking to the future, the Further Education sector needs to be geared up for training for green industries; and we should follow the Finnish model in pursuing the potential of forest schools. *CONTINUED*

I had thought that it would be interesting to put what seemed like opposites together, the mining history and the green future we all need. But using energy and jobs as themes, it was clear from the first school onwards that the idea would work; that history and the future go together well. We have always needed energy. And since the onset of the Industrial Revolution the North East had a lot of jobs mining for coal to keep people warm and make the wheels of industry turn. In future we will still need a lot of energy, but it will be from new

green sources, and I hope that the North East is at the forefront of this new industrial revolution, just as we were for the first. After 40 years of neglect and injustice, we are due the just transition we deserve and the pupils I taught deserve their fair share of the 500 000 new green jobs which will be needed across the country, as we move into a zero carbon future and the same goes for young people everywhere else too.

Peter Sagar June 2023

Putting Workers First - Sheffield Conference



CLIMATE JOBS
Building a workforce for the climate emergency

PUTTING WORKERS FIRST IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

SATURDAY 15th JULY
10am - 4pm

HOSTED BY: TRADES UNION COUNCILS SHEFFIELD TUC Est. 1858
EMAIL: tucsheffield@gmail.com

VENUE: QUAKERS MTG HOUSE
10 ST JAMES ST, SHEFFIELD, S1 2EW

REGISTRATION FROM 9.30am

PLENARY:
'Building a workforce for the climate emergency: putting workers first in the fight against climate change.'

WORKSHOP 1:
• 'Creating jobs in green energy and home insulation.'

WORKSHOP 2:
• 'Skilling up a workforce for the climate emergency - our future jobs.'

WORKSHOP 3:
• 'Creating Clean, Green Jobs in Public Transport.'

SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS HOW WE GET CLIMATE JOBS IN:

- RENEWABLE ENERGY
- TRANSPORT
- EDUCATION & TRAINING - SKILLING UP A WORKFORCE FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

WE ARE INVITING ALL TRADE UNION REPS, UNION LAY MEMBERS - ALL WORKERS FROM AS MANY KEY SECTORS ACROSS THE REGION TO JOIN US FOR THE DAY TO DISCUSS WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE REALLY MEANS FOR WORKERS AND HOW RISING ENERGY PRICES, INFLATION, FALLING WAGES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS ARE NOT ONLY CONNECTED BUT BEING DRIVEN BY THE SAME SYSTEMS.

IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRADE UNION MEMBERS/WORKERS TO ENGAGE IN THE DEBATE ABOUT THE CLIMATE AND FIND OUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR WORKPLACE AND BEYOND.

Book online at:
<https://shorturl.at/bmJRX>



Building a Workforce for the Climate Emergency

Saturday, 15 July 10.00am - 4.00pm

Join us for a day of workshops to discuss how we get climate jobs in:

- renewable energy
- transport
- education and training - skilling up a workforce for the climate emergency.

[Sign up here.](#)

Not Coal! Not Dole! - Whitehaven



STOP THE WEST CUMBRIA COAL MINE

**NOT COAL
NOT DOLE**

**JUST TRANSITION
& CLIMATE JOBS**

Speakers' Corner
SATURDAY
22 JULY
NOON

WHITEHAVEN
SATNAV: 54°31'25.6"N
3°35'35.6"W

Is it possible to campaign against the proposed West Cumbria coal mine while supporting jobs for local people and boost Cumbria's economy? Yes! Thousands of jobs could be created in Cumbria in renewable energy, transport, housing retrofitting, and other sustainable activities. We can not have our communities left behind but coal jobs are not the jobs for the future or the present.

South Lakes Action on Climate Change are inviting Trade Unions and supporters to the third Speakers' Corner event which will explore the themes of Climate Jobs and Just Transition. **Bring your Trade Union banners!**

- Anyone going should [register on the Action Network](#) event as this enable accommodation and travel to be coordinated
- [facebook event](#)
- [model Trade Union](#) for branches, groups or Trades Councils
- [graphics and model social media posts available here](#)

Note that there is a train strike on the day and asking people to coordinate their own transport but they will try help arrange for accommodations and coordinate transport as much as possible so [please use the registration](#) link to help us do so.

Migration and the Climate Crisis

INDIVISIBLE JUSTICE MIGRATION & THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Thursday 27 July, 18:00 - 19:30 (UK)

ONLINE EVENT

With: **Mitzi Jonelle Tan** // **Asad Rehman**
// **Tandrima Mazumdar** & more TBC.



Online Webinar. Thursday 27 July 18:00 - 19:30 (BST)

Join us to hear from climate and migrant justice activists and movement leaders – and find out what you can do to build power from the ground up in your own community.

The climate crisis and the struggle for migrant justice are deeply connected. Indigenous groups, small-scale farmers, and communities all over the world are being forcibly displaced by devastating floods, severe droughts and rising sea levels. While most are displaced within their own countries, a small number cross borders in search of safety.

These communities are often met with militarised, violent borders and hostile immigration systems. Rich, industrialised Global North countries the biggest historic polluters and contributors to the climate crisis are spending, on average, 2.3 times as much on arming their borders as they are on providing financial support to the poorer Global South countries most impacted by the climate crisis.

People have always migrated for safety and to build a better life, but as more people are forced from their communities by the climate crisis, we must ensure that safe pathways are opened. Migrant and climate justice means fighting for the right to stay – to defend communities from the impacts of the climate crisis through global action, and the right to move for communities to migrate safely and with dignity, when staying is not possible. This means connecting climate and migrant groups in our communities to fight the hostile environment and build power together from the ground up.

Join War on Want, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Migrants Organise, and the Climate Justice Coalition on Thursday 27 July at 18:00, as we speak with activists and movement leaders around the world. Find out how you can be part of the movement for climate justice and migrant justice.

Speakers include:

- **Mitzi Jonelle Tan** (Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines - speaking via recorded video)
- **Asad Rehman** (War on Want)
- **Tandrima Mazumdar** (City of Sanctuary Manchester and Solidarity Knows No Borders)

& more speakers announced soon!

[More information and resources here.](#)

How can workers assess the environmental impact of their workplaces and create alternatives?

Free Residential Course at Wortley Hall

14-15 and 21-22 September 2023

Join union reps and activists from different workplaces for a new, free course on how **you can lead the green revolution in your workplace**

Changing the world
of work for good

TUC Yorkshire &
the Humber

This free four-day course shows you how!

What is it?

TUC Yorkshire and the Humber are working with qualified tutors from a Swedish research project to bring you this free residential course. Bringing your own knowledge about your workplace, you'll learn how to measure your employer's climate impact and how to find more climate-friendly alternatives to go green! Already successfully run in Spain with the Comisiones Obreras union, your contributions on this learner-lead course will feed into a new, freely accessible online course for comrades the world over.

Is it for me?

Workers, union reps, and activists from any sector are welcome, regardless of prior experience

The course, accommodation at Wortley Hall 13-15 and 20-22 Sept, your meals, and your travel are free!

You must be free to attend both Wednesday evening to Friday afternoon blocks

Email sdennis@tuc.org.uk and sperry@tuc.org.uk for more information and to apply.

GJA at Glasto June 2023

A big thanks to the 14 members of the GJA server team who staffed the Workers Beer Company bars at the UK's biggest festival.

This is our main source of income and without the work of these volunteers we wouldn't be able to fund this newsletter and our other activities.



Green Bites

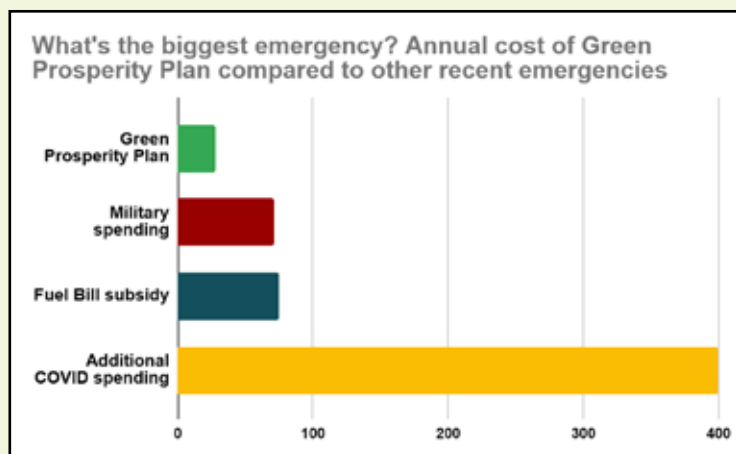
Definition of the Month

A “Grey Rhino” event: A slowly emerging, obvious threat that is ignored or minimised by decision makers.



Photo; William Warby CC

Graphic of the Month



Investment in Labour's proposed Green Prosperity Plan would be less than half the annual military spending bill or fuel subsidy, and a fourteenth of the costs of getting through COVID.

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.

Stats of the Month

£9
billion

The additional cost of imported gas to cover the UK's limited ambition for the installation of heat pumps. From the [Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit \(ECIU\)](#).

\$75
billion

The amount needed to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas industry by 75% by 2030. From the [IEA](#).

New on the Blog

- [Model Motions for Labour Party conference](#)
- [Raw power: considering the pros and cons of Labour's "clean energy" plans](#)
- [That £28 billion. We need a bang, not a whimper](#)
- [Averting Catastrophe. Crisis, Class and Climate Change](#)
- [People need and deserve more than gesture politics](#)
- [Support the Heathrow security strikers](#)
- [What a Just Transition in the North Sea looks like](#)

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