



Editorial: COP that!

- This year's COP has already thrown up a number of bizarre statements, from **Rishi Sunak** showing what a small figure he is by admitting that *"we're not moving quickly or effectively enough"* and *"the costs of inaction are intolerable"*, while claiming that *"the UK is leading the charge"* by the uniquely effective strategy of scrapping its most ambitious targets and going slower;
- to COP Chair Sultan Al Jabar claiming that *"there is no science"* requiring a phase out of fossil fuels; which shows that he hadn't read his **brief from the IPCC** that that's exactly what's needed. Although he now concedes that meeting the 1.5C target by 2050 requires the elimination of coal, reductions in oil demand by 60% and gas by 45%, with no new fields explored or exploited, this is still significantly lower than the **75% cut in both set by the IEA**. How many deals get done to expand oil and gas at this COP remains to be seen; as alignment with Paris Agreement targets would cost oil and gas exporting countries **\$8 Trillion** in lost revenues from falling demand by 2040 if the world gets on track and Al Jaber's own Adnoc company plans to **increase oil drilling 42%** by 2030.

The world is not safe in these people's hands.

When George Monbiot wrote *"the fight against climate breakdown is not and never has been just a fight against environmental breakdown. It is also a fight against the great maldistribution of wealth and power that blights every aspect of life on planet Earth. Billionaires - even the more enlightened ones - are bad for us. We cannot afford to keep them"* he put his finger on why the struggle to save ourselves from environmental collapse is a class struggle.

In this Newsletter we aim to develop the debate about how the labour movement can lead this struggle; from workplace organising to programmes for national government, to fighting for just transition at the COP; and include a draft motion for you to take up in your union to develop this debate and action further in this year's conference cycle.

Paul Atkin Ed

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Demonstrations on Saturday 9 December

Saturday 9 December is the Global Day of Action for COP28

London plans are set out below.

Please sign up to the [event page](#) or the [Telegram channel](#) to make sure you receive the latest information in case of any further changes.

If you're not in London you can [check whether there's an action near you](#).

At 12pm we'll assemble for a rally outside BP headquarters ([St James's Square, London, SW1Y 4LE](#)). This company represents key forces driving climate breakdown. At the beginning of 2023, BP announced that rising energy prices had doubled its annual profits to £23 billion off the back of the cost of living crisis - and that to keep these profits flowing it would cut back on (already inadequate) climate pledges. BP's impact on climate change could cost countries in the global south **\$1.56 trillion**. BP's interests have also shaped UK foreign policy for **decades**, at a high cost.

BP has recently signed new exploration licences with Israel off the Gaza coast. In March, BP also made a \$2 billion joint bid with ADNOC - Abu Dhabi's state-owned oil company, run by COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber - for a 50% stake in the Israeli firm NewMed, which has a 45% stake in the 'carbon bomb' Leviathan offshore gas field.

The next stop will be the headquarters of BAE Systems – another company profiting from conflict and war.

Those who wish to join the Palestine solidarity march coming up to Whitehall from Bank after this will be invited to move together to join it as a climate justice bloc.



In the bleak midwinter, light in the darkness ...

Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletter No:55 December 2023

Photo: European Greens from Brussels, Belgium, [creativecommons.org](#)

Why workers and their unions must lead climate action



Photo Wikicommons

Until now, the trade union movement has failed to make climate change a core concern of their bargaining agendas. This means that a powerful bulwark against climate change is not being put into action. It also means that this crucial source of social power and influence is not being mobilised to shake the foundations of our carbon economy.

Two weeks ago, when British Steel announced that it would be switching from high carbon coal power to low carbon electric arc furnaces at its plant in Scunthorpe, critics noted that this would enable the owners of the company to axe up to 2,000 jobs. The reason those jobs will be axed is only partly because of the enhanced capacity for automation in the use of electric arc technology. This is opportunism on the part of a profit hungry corporate group that is owned by a multinational based in China. In this sense, 'transition' is not the most important motivating factor here: the most important factor is the capacity for new technology to cut costs and to demobilise the workforce. To add insult to injury, British Steel has asked for a £500 million handout from the government to cut those jobs.

Rhetoric around the idea of a 'just transition' for workers and communities affected by decarbonization is now decades old. This narrative has driven expectations that decarbonization will provide quality, secure and well paid 'green jobs'. Yet, as the British Steel example shows, low carbon energy and industry is developing according to an old and familiar model. Union responses to the steel proposals show a different path is possible. Unite's campaign argues for job protection within the process of decarbonization and calls for social ownership of the energy grid as part of a shift to socially capture the cost benefits of the shift to renewables.



Photo Wikicommons

This joining up of workplace, social and environmental interests through a worker led transition is in stark contrast to a process driven by the interests of multinational corporations. At the same time, as recent events have demonstrated, we cannot trust the political class any more than the owners of capital to deliver on meaningful climate action. The same Conservative politicians that will no doubt approve the British Steel subsidy to establish electric arc furnaces are falling over themselves to attack other areas of climate policy.

British trade unions are increasingly waking up to the imperatives of climate action and the need for worker led approaches. Our pamphlet [Working for climate justice: trade unions on the front line against climate change](#) explores this trend as part of a deeper history of worker environmentalism going back to the industrial revolution and anti-colonial struggles against the commodification of labour and nature. Coordinated union responses are needed, to ensure that the skills

and organisational capacity of workers in the workplace is mobilised, and to challenge the capitalist exploitation of labour and nature.

Even in a world in which workers' interests are always posed in opposition to the rest of nature, we can find a hidden or 'secret' solidarity between workers and the protection of the environment. It is in the general interests of both to slow down the speed of production processes which generate social and environmental harms.



Conditions of precarity in the workplace and the labour market are incompatible with the transition to sustainable production models. An externalised, vulnerable, and transitory workforce enjoying few rights is unlikely to be able to develop and apply their skills towards the transition to genuinely sustainable production models. When workers have strong bargaining power, they can push back against unsustainable working practices.

We cannot develop new ways of working, organising energy, food, water, clothing and essential services in ways that protect the natural world if they remain based on a system of labour that forces costs and working conditions down, moves to where people can be exploited the most, and encourages the deployment of both labour and capital in ways that accelerate climate change. Workers and trade unions need to identify and articulate the links between precarity and unsustainable production as part of climate industrial action.

Current policy responses to climate change are failing to deliver on emissions targets and social and environmental sustainability. Securing a meaningful transition that locks in worker and community benefits requires mobilising workers capabilities and skills. Innovative models are emerging within trade unions in the UK and internationally. Trade unionists must adopt these models to build power for a worker-led transition.

Ben Crawford is a Research Officer at LSE and **David Whyte** is Director of the CCCCJ. They are authors of *Working for Climate Justice*.

Motion for Unions on Climate Change

This is for adoption by branches, regions, trades councils and national union annual conferences, with an ultimate aim for it to be heard at the 2024 TUC.

It sets out

- the fundamental elements that should underpin the climate policies of every union to establish a common understanding of the crisis, and how to respond to it in the interests of climate justice for workers, public service and the planet, aiming.
- to replace the fragmented and inconsistent responses of different trade unions with a coherent cross movement framework to enable
- us to lead on progressive and radical solutions; to make genuine progress towards countering the climate emergency, while securing thousands of jobs, and restoring a public service ethos.

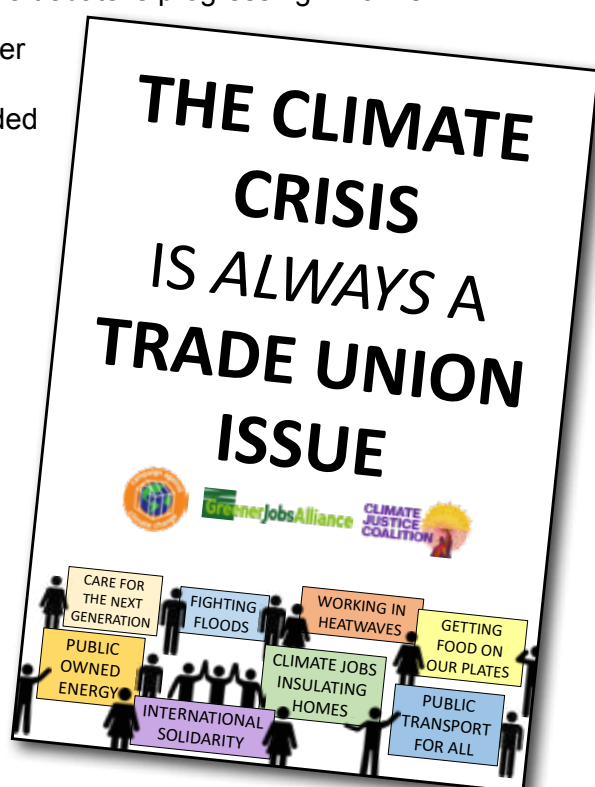
The motion can be adapted to incorporate specific local, sectoral or international factors, to be relevant to each constituency while ensuring that the fundamental elements are retained.

It is not the property of any one union, climate organisation or political current, having emerged from a shared analysis among activists in different unions, and campaigns like the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union group (CACCTU), Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) and other climate networks.

[The text is here.](#)

Please pass it in your union at whatever level you can and fill in [this form](#) when you do, so we can keep tabs on how the debate is progressing. Thanks.

This poster can be downloaded [here](#).



New jobs must be good and green

To win public support for green jobs, and counter Sunak's cynical attack on net zero,

'politicians need to stop talking green jobs and start talking good jobs.'

So argues Prospect in its new report, Delivering good clean energy jobs.

While everyone knows a good job when they see one, people aren't clear on what a green job is. That's the clear finding of focus groups Prospect recently ran in Great Yarmouth and West Cumbria. Sue Ferns, the union's senior deputy general secretary, says that for all the talk of net zero, clean energy and a just transition,

'outside of those of us who live and breathe this topic, there's confusion about what a green job is and – crucially – whether it's going to be a good one.'

Prospect shares four insights from its focus groups:

- Participants had clear views about what made a 'good job' – good pay, stability, decent working hours, enjoyment, a sense of purpose, and employers that 'look out for you'.
- They were unfamiliar with the concept of 'green jobs' and few associated green jobs with the energy sector.
- Many worried that 'green jobs' would not be for people like them, due to a belief they would require retraining and be poorly paid. Good jobs were a bigger priority than green jobs, but there was no opposition to green jobs.
- They were sceptical about claims the UK could win the 'race for green jobs' or become a 'green superpower.'

A lack of new jobs in the renewable industry and its poor record on diversity help explain things - just one in five offshore wind workers are women and fewer than one in 10 (7%) are people of colour.



Moreover, a lot of industrial 'green jobs' – electric vehicle manufacture, waste and recycling, a lot of offshore work – lack union organisation and are health and safety nightmares.

The argument for good and green jobs would make a great public education campaign. If only government took its responsibilities under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement seriously: *'to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness.'*

Meanwhile, Labour is proposing to require companies bidding for renewables work in the UK to offer good work, decent pay and union recognition – reflecting President Joe Biden's successful Inflation Reduction Act approach in the US.

Their statement is here

The Prospect statement is here

Philip Pearson



COP28 UAE

COP Briefing

ITUC Demands at COP 28

The ITUC demands that a comprehensive Just Transition Work Programme, with labour issues at its core, is agreed at the COP28 climate negotiations.

Beginning 30 November until 12 December, **the COP28** will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The key ITUC priority for working people at the conference, available [here](#), is the adoption of a Just Transition Work Programme that ensures labour issues are central to climate policy discussions by:

- Upholding human and labour rights while fostering inclusive participation in climate policy formulation.
- Enhancing mitigation ambitions to create quality jobs, backed by just transition measures.
- Delivering on adaptation needs through robust social protection plans and funding mechanisms.
- Providing the finance for the Loss and Damage facility and for investment in just transition.

ITUC General Secretary Luc Triangle emphasised the urgency of the situation:

“This year’s extreme weather events have caused widespread disruption, impacting workers globally. It is imperative that COP28 delivers on its promises. We need climate policies that put people and labour rights at the forefront to ensure a transition that is both equitable and effective.”

“It is global economic failures that have amplified the disproportionate effects of climate change on working people, including extreme working conditions, threats to livelihoods and forced migration due to environmental disruption.”

*“That is why we demand a **New Social Contract** to create a fairer global economy, that focuses on the interests of working people to begin to tackle fundamental inequalities.”*

[Read this article online](#)

Just Transition Work Programme Meeting at COP

Diana Junquera, IndustriALL Global Union, offered multiple examples of unions achieving gains that benefit just transition efforts. In the US, she noted, auto workers went on strike to extend collective bargaining to workers from technology companies who are now integral to the automotive sector.

In Sweden, she continued, where 90% of the workforce is unionised, workers striking at Tesla to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement have been supported by actions in other sectors, such as transportation, postal, and electrical industries. Battery supply chains worldwide are also being organised to fight for their rights, while in Colombia unions are working with mining companies and the government to achieve a just transition for coal miners, she added. *“We keep fighting,”* Junquera emphasised.

[Full report here.](#)



UNISON

the public service union

UNISON at the COP



Tony Wright Photo: UNISON

UNISON is taking the call for a just transition to this year's UN climate change conference – better known as COP28, which opens on Thursday in Dubai, and continues until 12 December.

Tony Wright, NEC member and chair of the policy development and campaign committee, will be attending the first week of the conference. He will be acting as one of the two designated UK observers, as part of the International Trades Union Congress (ITUC) delegation.

As an official observer, his duties will include daily morning meetings to liaise with fellow trade union delegates from around the world and lobby the UK representatives – including MPs from all parties and government civil servants.

The role aims *“to ensure the aims put forward by the ITUC and supported by UNISON are considered and adopted,”* explains Mr Wright.

“I will also be providing regular updates to the TUC and UNISON back home so they can advise of any further action needed and lobby for change via domestic routes.”

For several years, UNISON has been building a focus on green issues and the climate. This has been done via the development of the green reps role, regular communications with the wider membership and focused activities across all four nations.

“In UNISON, we have a job to do – building on the work we have already done around greening public services. And, to do the best job we can, we need to be fully aware of the discussions which will shape future global policy,” says Mr Wright.

“I’m fully aware of what an honour it is to be attending COP28 on behalf of my union, UNISON, as part of the ITUC delegation. The ITUC represents over 200 million workers in 167 countries, so to be part of its delegation is a fantastic opportunity to learn and, hopefully, influence.”

“The issues we will be discussing at COP28 are critical and if the people with the power to act don’t start doing something soon, it really will be too late to avoid major catastrophes. We could face even worse extreme weather than we have already experienced as well as mass migration,” he adds.

“As the largest union in the UK, it is vital that UNISON has a voice and a set of ears at the COP28 table.”

“UNISON fights to protect our members’ terms and conditions but, while it doesn’t bear thinking about, there is no getting away from the fact that there are no jobs on a dead planet. That means we also need to fight for the future of everyone.”

At COP28, the trade unions will be demanding a labour-inclusive, just transition work programme. The priorities include guarantees on human and labour rights, inclusive participation, and providing the urgently needed climate finance to invest in a just transition.

Wider themes for the first week of COP28 include: health, recovery and peace, finance, trade, gender equality, urbanisation, transport, youth, children, education, nature, land use, oceans, food agriculture, and water.

[Find out more about Green UNISON](#)

UNISON has also condemned the “disgraceful decision” to grant new oil and gas licences in the North Sea. Ed



NEU COP action plans

The following has been sent round in the NEU's weekly mailing to members for the last two weeks.

Greening your school:

As part of the DfE's Climate Change and Sustainability [Strategy](#), all education settings will need to have nominated a 'sustainability lead' and put in place a 'climate action plan' by 2025. If this hasn't been discussed in your setting yet, please do raise with management via your NEU group. It is important that the voice of members is heard and it's a great opportunity to inspire staff and pupils.

A sustainability lead doesn't have to be one person, ideally it should be a team working together and engaging with NEU reps/green reps/health and safety reps and reps from other unions.

A climate action plan is a detailed plan to enable your setting to become more sustainable and would include things like: greening the curriculum; developing systems and practices which support sustainability, eg by reducing energy consumption; making your school more resilient to the effects of climate change, eg extreme heat, storms and flooding; and enabling children to develop a close connection with nature.

To help put nature at the heart of education, please suggest that your school signs up to the [National Education Nature Park](#) which aims to provide opportunities for young people to take part in community science, and in biodiversity monitoring and data analysis - learning important/key skills for the future, and it's free of charge.

The charity Ashden which runs the Let's go Zero campaign can help your school cut its carbon emissions to zero by 2030. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Whether you are a rep, a green rep or a health and safety rep, you can use our newly published [environmental checklist](#) to get the ball rolling and help identify ways for school or college can become more sustainable.

You don't need to be an expert and there are plenty of resources available from the NEU website on areas such as preparing for and tackling extreme [heat](#), and [winter storms and flooding](#) and helping your school become [more energy efficient and a healthier place to work](#).



Photo Kois Miah Educate

Jenny Cooper, the NEU delegate to the COP is writing a blog on the daily developments which [you can read here](#).



IEA Slams Fossil Fuel Industry

Oil and gas producers face pivotal choices about their role in the global energy system amid a worsening climate crisis fuelled in large part by their core products, according to the International Energy Agency's major new special report.

This finds that the oil and gas sector – which provides more than half of global energy supply and employs nearly 12 million workers worldwide – has been a marginal force at best in transitioning to an energy system with net zero emissions, accounting for just 1% of clean energy investment globally. It also shows how the industry could take a more responsible approach and contribute positively to the new energy economy, highlighting that the UN's COP28 climate summit in Dubai is “a moment of truth” for the oil and gas sector.

- All oil and gas companies should commit to tackling emissions from their own operations. These emissions need to decline by 60% by 2030 to align with the Paris Agreement.
- Companies need to dramatically change how they allocate their financial resources. In 2022, clean energy investments accounted for just 2.5% of the industry's total capital spending. To align with the aims of the Paris Agreement, producers would need to put 50% of capital expenditures towards clean energy projects by 2030.
- Companies must abandon the notion that they can continue with business as usual simply by ramping up the deployment of carbon capture technologies, as the report finds that if oil and gas consumption were to evolve as projected under today's policy settings, limiting warming to 1.5 °C would require an entirely inconceivable 32 billion tonnes of carbon capture by 2050, with annual investment in this technology alone rising from \$4 billion last year to \$3.5 trillion.

*This is a slightly edited version of the IEAs own mailing about this report. What it does not address is what governments and the sector's workers should do when the CEOs of these companies press on regardless with business as usual. The leak of the **plans by the UAE Presidency at COP to use the event to do oil deals** looks like a fight back by the UN against the grip that fossil fuel interests are trying to get on the process. Ed*

Full report here.

Launch event here.

In the second edition of the IEAs annual **World Energy Employment report – which provides data to understand the labour-related impacts of clean energy transitions – finds that energy employment rose to 67 million people in 2022, an increase of 3.5 million from pre-pandemic levels. More than half of employment growth over this period was in solar, wind, electric vehicles and batteries, heat pumps, and critical minerals mining. As a result, clean energy employment represents over half of total energy sector jobs, having overtaken fossil fuels in 2021.**

UK failure to implement Article 12 of the Paris Agreement

In previous COPs UK governments have liked to pose as climate leaders. Something that will be harder for them to do given Rishi Sunak's bone headed policy retreats this year. Their record on education speaks for itself.

- Over 90% of teachers believe that more should be taught in schools about climate change, but only 25% feel they've had adequate training to do so.
- Nearly 70% of young people feel 'eco-anxiety' about the climate, but only 4% feel they know 'a lot' about climate change.

Article 12 of the Paris Agreement states that Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.

That translates to a commitment to a massive public education campaign on the scale of the challenge and the measures needed to meet it; beginning to reorganise society around its understanding to make the changes needed. The stats above show that they are not even doing this for schools.



PARIS2015

Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletter No:55 December 2023

A just transition urgently needed in the military industry

New weapons are rising in cost. A National Audit Office report this week found that Ministry of Defence (MOD) plans to buy new equipment are now at least £54.6 billion more expensive than last year.

In the near term, the UK government has a defence sector beset by delayed and expensive projects, but a longer-term crisis awaits: the hidden reality of ecological damage produced by the military and military industry.

Militaries, and the industrial sectors that supply them, account for 5.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, as a result of lobbying by the US government, official data on the full scale of military emissions is limited and they are not addressed in UN climate negotiations.

In 2020, the military and military industry in the UK were responsible for 6.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. This makes the UK's military industrial sector a bigger polluter than 60 countries.

In an attempt to position itself as part of the solution to the climate crisis rather than part of the problem, the MOD's 2021 Climate Change and Sustainability review presented global heating as a "geostrategic challenge" and attempted to set out a pathway towards a "green" military. Decarbonising military operations and associated industries as they currently exist is not viable.

- Military emissions are concentrated in energy use – aviation alone accounted for nearly a third of reported MOD emissions in 2022-23. This data does not even capture the full climate impact of operating military aircraft due to the additional effects of high-altitude emissions.
- Zero carbon fuel options do not exist for fighter jets and they are produced by carbon-intensive industries.
- Procuring new military aircraft is also a high-cost and long-term project – the F35 fighter jet programme for the US and allied nations is set to cost \$1.7 trillion to the US government alone over its lifetime.
- New hardware is locked in for decades and hard to replace even if zero carbon alternatives were feasible.

Only a managed transition – that reduces military operations and closes the UK's 142 military bases around the world – can decarbonise the sector. A concurrent reduction in the size of the military industry would require essential public investment and coordination to deliver security for workers.

A just transition for the arms industry would build on a long history of workers' organising for industrial conversion. In 1976, workers facing job losses at Lucas Aerospace published an alternative plan to convert production to new goods like heat pumps, while in the early 1980s the largest union in the military industrial sector in the US supported arms conversion bills at Congress.

These plans were not pipe dreams. Arms companies hold the technological capacity to produce different goods.

Following the reduction in military spending in the US after the Cold War, Lockheed Martin and later BAE Systems developed hybrid buses and battery technology that is now being used for all-electric buses, trams and boats.

Public ownership would, however, be essential to ensure that conversion plans follow the interests of job security rather than providing a new income stream to defence companies in periods of fallow military spending.

Over the past two months, workers and activists across the world have taken a connected but distinct form of action – in response to a call from thirty Palestinian trade unions for an arms embargo to Israel. From Edinburgh to Kent to St Charles, Missouri, trade unionists and activists have picketed sites that export arms used by the Israeli military. Workers in the logistics sector in Italy, Spain and Belgium have also declared their support for an arms embargo and that they will not handle military goods destined for Israel.

Alongside support for an arms embargo and ceasefire, there is the potential for longer term trade union campaigns for arms conversion. The United Auto Workers in the US have made this clear, setting up a working group for a just transition in the military industry as part of their call for “an immediate permanent ceasefire”.

In an overheating world, arms conversion is essential to manage the transition away from the high carbon military industrial sector, ensuring sustained global security as well as a secure future for workers and the development of green industries..

***Khem Rogaly** is a Senior Researcher at Common Wealth, a think tank that works on democratic ownership*

Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletter No:55 December 2023

FOE calls for a ceasefire in Gaza

We've written to **Rishi Sunak** and **Keir Starmer** urging them to immediately support a ceasefire and work to end the horror we're seeing in Gaza.

Friends of the Earth opposes all acts of violence, condemns the killing of civilians and taking of hostages, calls for all parties to respect international human rights and humanitarian law, and demands that the root causes of this conflict finally be addressed.

We're just one part of **Friends of the Earth International**, a global network of grassroots environmental justice organisations. One of our sister organisations is **PENGON @foepalestine** (Palestinian Environmental NGO Network). They've been working in the Occupied Palestinian Territories for decades, speaking out against the destruction of Palestinian farmland, theft of water resources and pollution dumping under Israeli occupation. Now, as Palestinians face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and indiscriminate bombing, they need our support more than ever, by backing calls for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation.

Just three weeks into the current bombardment, the Israeli government announced plans to expand its offshore oil and gas industry. It issued 12 licences to six companies, including British company BP, to explore new offshore natural gas fields. The Israeli Energy Minister, Israel Katz, stated that 'the winning companies have committed to unprecedented investments'.

*From Environmental devastation and the war on Palestine in **Red Pepper***

Beyond Climate Fixes

On 11 October, Dr Les Levidow (Open University) was joined by Sam Mason (PCS) and Helena Paul (EcoNexus) to discuss issues raised by his new book: *Beyond Climate Fixes: From Public Controversy to System Change*. **You can watch this meeting here.**

Comments started from this question: In the Global North, governments have made strong commitments to reduce GHG emissions. Yet such reductions have been deceptive, slow or patchy. Why? Political elites have been evading the causes of climate change through deceptive fixes. Their market-type instruments such as carbon trading aim to incentivise technological innovation which will supposedly decarbonize or replace dominant high-carbon systems. In practice this techno-market framework has perpetuated climate change and social injustices, thus provoking public controversy. Using this opportunity, social movements have counterposed low-carbon, resource-light, socially just alternatives. Such transformative mobilisations can fulfil the popular slogan, 'System Change Not Climate Change'.

This article: **“Technofixes or solidaristic commoning? Our climate strategy must combat the ‘technofixes-plus-markets’ fraud”, *The Ecologist*, March 2023**, summaries the book which can be **ordered here.**

Clean air posters from Mums for Lungs

It is wood burning season and our new poster campaign is live. The government is doing nothing to raise awareness of the polluting effects of wood smoke, so we must.

Help spread the word about the health impacts of wood burning - we would love to see these posters going up all over the country, on community noticeboards, in supermarkets, train stations, parks, cafes and anywhere else you can think of!

[Order your free posters.](#)



New Rules

In Berlin rooftop PV panels are now compulsory for new-build properties and existing buildings undergoing rooftop renovations.

The city aims to meet a quarter of its electricity demand through solar. The new regulations apply to both domestic and commercial buildings, where almost a third of roof space on new developments must have solar.

New laws approved by the French senate in November mean it is now mandatory for new and existing car parks with space for at least 80 vehicles to be covered by solar panels. Car parks with up to 400 spaces have five years to comply with the new measures, reducing to three years for sites with more than 400 spaces.

Deploying solar in car parks comes with the twin benefits of harnessing energy while also shielding vehicles from the rigours of the weather.

Invite a GJA Speaker



Photo Richard Morgan

If you'd like to invite us to speak at your meeting, conference, training session, demonstration or rally, please contact us here, [gjacomsg@gmail.com](mailto:gjacoms@gmail.com)

Photo: Tahir Latif speaking at the Somerset Solidarity Day event.

Green Bites

70%

Increase in solar panel installations in the UK in 2021 over 2020. The first six months of 2022 saw that rate doubling.

2024

The year that China's carbon emissions will begin to fall thanks to record renewable energy investment. [Ref Carbon Brief.](#)

40%

Projected drop in EV battery prices by 2025 [according to Goldman Sachs.](#)

33%

Number of UK flights that would have to be cut by 2030 to hit net zero targets, and could easily be with a frequent flyer levy. [From Possible.](#)

0

Measures to increase energy efficiency announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

70%

Chance of 2024 being the year Global emissions begin to fall, making 2023 the peak. [From Climate Analytics.](#) Their [new report](#) finds that global greenhouse gas emissions could start falling in 2024, *if current clean technology trends continue.* If maintained, the boom in wind and solar would outstrip energy demand growth, forcing fossil fuels out of the energy system. This leads to peak coal in 2023 and gas in 2024. Peak oil would follow in 2025, if current growth rates in electric vehicles are sustained.

\$17
million

The initial US contribution to the Loss and Damage Fund for the entire Global South at this year's COP. To put this in perspective, it is one 63rd of the New York Police Department Budget.

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Quote of the Month

"Most of the climate victims, whose number will increase in billions, will be in countries that do not emit at all or emit very little CO2. Without transfers of wealth from the North to the South, climate victims will have less water in their habitats and will move towards the North, where melting ice will allow fresh water."

The exodus will involve billions. This immense exodus will have a response in the North. We are already seeing it in the anti-immigration policies of rich countries and the rise of the extreme right within them. Hitler is knocking on the European and American middle-class homes' doors and many are letting him in. The exodus will be responded to with a lot of violence and barbarism. What we are seeing in Gaza is a rehearsal of the future.

Gustavo Petro President of Columbia: [speech at COP 28](#)

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.