



Tories fall. A nation mourns.

Photo of MayDay Morris in Whitehall at the National Nature March in June: Paul Atkin

Editorial: Three challenges for the new government

1. Face up to an attack from the Conservative/Reform rump

In the last days of a strangely flat election campaign, in which the climate crisis had been mostly conspicuous by its absence, Ed Miliband made a speech urging voters *“to show that the Conservative Party and Rishi Sunak made a mistake by trying to break the climate consensus in this country”*.

And we did. The Tories even lost Uxbridge.

In a sane world in which there were no vested fossil fuel interests with immense media clout and financial resources to breathe life back into them, that would be *“job done”*.

But, because there are, a substantial wing of what’s left of the Conservative Party are likely to double down on climate denial to try to regroup with the fossil fools of Reform; and they will be well resourced to do so.

Even with the **CBI arguing** that *“net zero cannot just be an ambition: it is a strategic necessity”*, with a noisy Frost to Farage bloc arguing the opposite, there will be no consensus. We have a bare knuckle fight on our hands.

2 Prepare to face up to the US going rogue

As politics in the UK genuflects to the winds blowing from the White House, this sickly Mistral of denial will blow up to hurricane force if Trump wins reelection in November; pledged as he is to trash domestic transition plans and global cooperation through the Paris process.

This course will have to be stood up to, denounced and broken with and the deferential cringe built into the *“Special Relationship”* abandoned by any UK government with any self respect, let alone one hoping to *“lead internationally”* on climate, as Miliband says Labour does. Allies will have to be found where they can be.

3 Match investment to ambition and legal obligations

With current government plans ruled inadequate to meet Climate Change Act

Contents

- Editorial
- IEA: Rapid rollout of clean technologies makes energy cheaper, not more costly
- UN Survey shows strong global support for climate transition
- Landmark Horse Hill Victory - a watershed moment on Fossil Fuel extraction.
- TUC heatwave media campaign
- Adaptation Strategies: Labour Education, Climate Crisis and the UK Trade Union Movement.
- Stronger Australian TUC transition stance
- Teaching our way to climate justice: UCU’s work on a fair transition for workers
- Key demand from UCU
- NEU Launches Green Reps and Environment Officers Training Course
- Union conference round up. PCS. UNISON
- New Rules. UK Supreme Court. EU Nature Restoration. Canada Greenwash Rules
- Events. Communicating Climate Change. Fare Free London Meeting. Climate Militarism week of action.
- TUC Health & Safety resources
- Green Bites

obligations in Court, Labour's plans in office will have to be ramped back up to match Miliband's ambition to "seize the moment" because, as he rightly says, "there is not a minute to waste in the drive for 2030 clean power" and "the world is off track, Britain is off track and we intend to change that direction".

Such a change of direction is vital, with a need to rapidly unblock onshore wind, and close down new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, but the scale and speed of "the drive for climate targets" will need to be ramped up.

The Motions passed this year by UNISON, NEU, PCS and BFAWU calling for the £28 billion investment pledge to be restored, for union and community engagement through Just Transition Commissions and coordination through a National Climate Service are a solid basis for doing this.

Paul Atkin Ed

IEA: Rapid rollout of clean technologies makes energy cheaper, not more costly

Speeding up the move to clean energy technologies improves the affordability of energy and can relieve pressures on the cost of living more broadly, according to the [International Energy Agency's latest report](#).


This shows how putting the world on track for net zero emissions requires additional investment – but also *reduces the operating costs of the global energy system by more than half over the next decade* compared with a trajectory that is based on today's policy settings. The net result is a more affordable and fairer energy system for consumers.

In many cases, clean energy technologies are already more cost competitive over their lifespans than those reliant on conventional fuels like coal, natural gas and oil; but this hinges on unlocking higher levels of upfront investment. This is especially true in emerging and developing economies, where clean energy spending is lagging due to real or perceived risks that hinder new projects and access to finance.

The benefits of a faster energy transition and growing shares of renewables – such as solar and wind, which have lower operating costs than fossil fuel alternatives – would filter down to consumers. Retail electricity prices are typically less volatile than oil product prices, providing more predictable costs. In rapid transitions, electricity prices rather than oil prices become the main benchmark for consumers and households – with "cents per kilowatt hour" replacing "dollars per barrel".

[Read the full report here.](#)

The IEA also projects that total [oil demand will peak before the end of the decade, leaving current investment over producing by millions of barrels a day.](#) Ed



4 OUT OF 5
PEOPLE GLOBALLY
WANT STRONGER
CLIMATE ACTION
FROM THEIR
LEADERS

THE PEOPLE
HAVE SPOKEN
peoplesclimate.vote

UN Survey shows strong global support for transition

The biggest ever standalone public opinion survey on climate change, the **Peoples' Climate Vote 2024**, shows

- 80 percent of people globally want their governments to take stronger action to tackle the climate crisis.
- 86 percent - want to see their countries set aside geopolitical differences and work together on climate change.
- 72 percent in favour of a quick transition away from fossil fuels, and only 7 percent of people globally said their country should not transition at all.
- 53 percent said they were more worried than last year about climate change (59% in Least Developed countries).
- 69 percent of people globally said their big decisions like where to live or work were being impacted by climate change. This is higher in LDCs (74%) than Europe (52%) or North America (42%).

Full report here.

Landmark Horse Hill Victory - a watershed moment on Fossil Fuel extraction

Last Month the Supreme Court found that Surrey County Council acted unlawfully by giving planning permission for oil drilling at Horse Hill in the Surrey countryside without considering the climate impacts of when the oil is inevitably burned.

The judge said that planning permission for 4 new oil wells and 20 years of oil production at Horse Hill will now be quashed.

The landmark judgement follows a legal challenge brought by former Surrey resident Sarah Finch, on behalf of the Weald Action Group, and supported from the outset by Friends of the Earth as a legal intervener. It could have enormous impacts on all new UK fossil fuel developments – including proposals for a controversial new coal mine in Cumbria and North Sea oil and gas projects.

Ms Finch argued that the environmental impact assessment carried out by Surrey County Council – which declared a climate emergency in 2019 – should've considered the climate impacts that would inevitably arise from burning the oil, known as 'Scope 3' or 'downstream' emissions. This didn't happen, despite the reality that more than 10 million tonnes of carbon emissions would be produced when the oil is burnt. Scope 3 emissions are increasingly being left out of environmental impact assessments when planning applications are made for fossil fuel projects, including plans for a new coal mine in Cumbria and new North Sea oil developments.

The groundbreaking ruling is a heavy blow for the fossil fuel industry. When the developers for the Whitehaven coal mine and the Rosebank oil field in the North Sea sought consent for their projects, they provided no information on downstream emissions in their environmental statements. They're both subject to legal challenges, and this judgement clearly has implications for the cases against them.

The UK is already veering dangerously off track for meeting its legally binding carbon reduction targets and its international pledge to reduce emissions by two-thirds by 2030.

Friends of the Earth says that the Supreme Court ruling means that:

- The landscape around the granting of planning permission for fossil fuel extraction has been fundamentally changed.
- Going forwards, it will be harder for fossil fuel developers to get consent for their projects. The judgement is very clear that the inevitability of the end-use emissions of this oil project meant they were indirect effects of the development, and so needed to be factored into the environmental impact assessment. As is recorded in the Supreme Court's judgement: *"The whole purpose of extracting fossil fuels is to make hydrocarbons available for combustion"*.
- In giving the majority judgement, Lord Leggatt said: *"I do not accept the premise that it would be wrong for a local planning authority, in deciding whether to grant planning permission, to take into account the fact that the proposed use of the land is one that will contribute to global warming through fossil fuel extraction."*
- The government's controversial decision to give the go-ahead to a new coal mine in Cumbria in December 2022 could well be impacted. The carbon emissions from burning the extracted coal were not included in the developer's environmental statement. Friends of the Earth and local campaign group South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC) have brought legal challenges to the Secretary of State's decision in the High Court, which will take place on 16-18 July 2024.
- Uplift and Greenpeace are challenging the government's decision to allow development of Rosebank, the UK's largest untapped North Sea oilfield, which could also be impacted.



Heatwaves this summer! Boosting worker voices in the media

When it gets unbearably hot, TV & radio want to speak to workers about their experiences.

This year, the TUC wants union reps to dominate the airwaves during the next heatwave. Think paramedics, textile factory workers, teachers, transport workers - going on TV and radio to call for urgent action to make our jobs safe, our buildings cooler and deliver climate action.

Is your job difficult - or even dangerous - when it gets really hot?

Are you a union rep?

Do you want to do media interviews during the next heatwave about your workplace, why the heat is making your job difficult, and how our work should be safe, our buildings should be cooler, and climate action is urgent?

If so, we'll get you some expert spokesperson training and - come the heatwave - NEON can support you to access opportunities to speak on TV and radio, in coordination with your union's press office.

If you're interested, please fill out this short form.

We'll also produce a messaging guide to help you do interviews, with key messages on the dangers of working in a heat wave, the need for max working temperatures, and investment into climate action and climate adaptation.

The training will be a 3 hour online session. Current options for the training are:

July 8
6.00 - 9.00pm

July 11
6.00 - 9.00pm

July 13
1.00 - 4.00pm

Anna Markova TUC

What Cities can do about extreme heat

This useful guide from C40 cities provides trade unionists with a good set of points to raise with mayors and other local authorities.

Depending on jurisdiction over labour laws, cities should enact policies encouraging and/or requiring employers to protect workers affected by extreme heat. Cities can use incentives, procurement power and standards to enact a combination of policies that require access to hydration and heat protection as well as adjusted working patterns in response to instances of extreme heat.

Full guide here.



Photo: I Make America via Flickr (CC BY-ND 2.0)

We are very pleased to publish the two following articles from **Chandra Shekar**, who has been an ITUC delegate at COP from the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

His second article on the impact of shifting weather patterns of food production, harvesting and prices reflects what is happening to farms in the UK too, struggling with a structural increase in rainfall that, in the last year, has seen waterlogged fields and a decline in vegetable production of 4.9% and Fruit of 12%, with knock on increases in food prices.

There will come a point, possibly within ten years, by which the suggestion that food will have to be rationed to ensure fairness and sufficiency is posed quite starkly. NB A lakh is 100,000. India counts in large numbers and has special words for them. Ten million is a crore. Ed

Just Transition for an Equitable Future of Work in India



The Indian National Trade Union Congress's commitment to work towards Strengthening Unionisation - which includes

- Organising Agriculture Workers, Rural Workers, Informal Workers, Gig Workers and those who are not a part of the conventional form of Employer Employee relationship
- Advocate for the Ratification of Core ILO Conventions
- Engage with Just Transition in an informed manner
- Advocate for a fair and Green Transition through Social Dialogue
- Evolve a perspective of change through discussions and adopt digital technologies internally
- Engage with the Labour Law changes with enhanced capacities and understanding of the implication to engage in debates on development with the Indian Government and INTUC

is achieving major success in improving the decent working conditions and wages for agriculture workers. After conducting a study of the agricultural sector in the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State, we identified key areas of need and set out to resolve them and our union started focusing on providing basic amenities to the agricultural workers, such as providing equal opportunities for Women and Men with Equal Pay for Equal Work and clean drinking water, creche and sanitation facilities.

We also worked hard to provide the necessary safety tools to improve the working conditions and resources for efficient agricultural production and in addition, the union worked to uplift the agricultural workers by negotiating better wages and better working hours. We also provided training and skills development programs

so that the workers could increase their productivity and take advantage of new technologies.

The union also worked to create an environment for sustainable agriculture. We organised seminars and campaigns to create awareness among the farmers about the benefits of sustainable agriculture and helped them transition to more efficient and less harmful methods of production. The union also provided legal advice and support to the agricultural workers so that they could protect their rights and secure their interests. The result of all this hard work has been remarkable. In the interim three years of pandemic and the agricultural workers and now in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State we have seen a significant increase in their incomes and a marked improvement in their overall quality of life.



Trade Unionists in India campaigning for Sustainable Development Goal 8. Photo INTUC.

In Solidarity

Chandra Shekar: General Secretary Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana Agriculture Workers Trade Union Congress

Climate Change and its Impact for Delayed rains hit cultivation of pulses; prices on the rise



Photo INTUC

The ongoing spell of rains may have helped sowing/transplantation of kharif crops gain momentum in Telangana, but the delay in their intensification has already caused damage to the cultivation of pulses.

The decline in their extent not only in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh but also in neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra, from where the State gets most of its supplies, as also in other States appears to have adverse impact on the prices of processed pulses already as they have soared by 10% to 20% during the last three-four weeks.

“The price of processed redgram, a key part of people’s daily diet, has increased by 160 to 215 Rupees a kg even in street-corner shops where it costs 215 to 245 Rupees a kg,” Babulal, a retail vendor, said. It is priced in the range of 255 to 275 Rupees a kg at supermarkets too.

According to the Agriculture Department, cultivation of pulses has not reached even half the normal extent for the season even by the end of the third week of June. As on June 25, red-gram was sown on 3.52 lakh acres followed by greengram on 0.38 lakh acres and blackgram on 0.15 lakh acres.



Rains for the last two weeks have helped sowing/transplantation of kharif crops pick up speed as the extent has reached about 57.25 lakh acres against 53.67 lakh acres covered during the same time last year. It is the first time this season that the cultivation of kharif crops has overtaken the extent for the corresponding period last year.

“Although rains have benefited kharif cultivation, the suitable time of cultivation of redgram, green-gram and blackgram has elapsed as sowing of the short duration pulses greengram and blackgram from now on is expected to run into harvesting troubles during the heavy rain period in October/November,” a senior officer said.



Agriculture authorities said cotton, one of the two major crops in kharif, might not reach the planned extent of 50 lakh to 60 lakh acres as it is sown on 37.98 lakh acre: so far and there is hardly any time left for its recommended sowing now.

R D Chandrashekar INTUC Hyderabad

Adaptation Strategies: Labour Education, Climate Crisis and the UK Trade Union Movement



The GJA at the huge national Restore Nature march in June. Photo Mick Holder.

In January we published a blog to publicise the excellent research being carried out by Stuart Tannock at the UCL Institute of Education.

Stuart has now published the third instalment of his work, focusing specifically on adaptation strategies as a key element of labour education on the climate crisis, as this abstract explains. The full article can be read in the [Global Labour Journal here](#) and is highly recommended.

A growing number of climate activists and scholars argue that an effective climate movement needs the involvement of the trade union movement, to be able to push forward the radical social transformations required to address the global climate crisis. This article analyses the recent focus on climate adaptation in labour education and action by trade unions in the UK. Climate adaptation is inherently political, and this article analyses the agendas driving the turn to adaptation, the possibilities that adaptation strategies open up, and some of their risks and limitations. Climate adaptation strategies, the article argues, could represent an important step forward for developing effective labour education and action on the climate crisis, but only if these strategies enable unions to mobilise a focus on the root causes of the crisis, agitate for structural change, and attend to the global and not just local concerns of worker, social and climate justice.

Tahir Latif

Australian Council of Trade Unions takes stronger transition stance

At its triennial Congress the ACTU ratified a new movement wide policy on climate and energy on the following lines.

“To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, all unabated fossil fuels must be phased out by 2050, with accelerating action in this critical decade, and abatement used only as a backstop.”

ACTU
australian council of trade unions

Teaching our way to climate justice: UCU's work on a fair transition for workers

A just transition means considering the livelihoods and wellbeing of all people, including workers and their communities, in our responses to the climate crisis.

The University College Union (UCU) represents over 120,000 academic, research and professional staff across universities, colleges, prisons and adult education across the UK.

UCU works with its members on a number of initiatives and campaigns for sustainability and climate justice, recognising the importance of a just transition, and the education sector and its workers as both catalysts for, and beneficiaries of a just transition.

Why is a just transition important for the education sector? Firstly, post-16 institutions play a significant role as thought leaders in local communities and more widely. They can and should use this role, and their civic responsibility, to press for the knowledge, research and cultural changes needed for the transition, and education unions support workers to do this. UCU green reps are elected branch members who progress workplace solutions to addressing the climate and ecological crisis both within the institution and recognising its influence more widely. Green reps are trained and supported to use Green New Deal negotiating approach alongside other branch members to lobby their employer to agree to concrete time limited action plans for sustainability in a range of areas, including curriculum, energy and carbon management, ethical investment and banking and food and land use. The Green New Deal negotiating approach sits within a larger campaign to Decarbonise and Decolonise our institutions by 2030, pushing universities and colleges to be more ambitious and radical in their sustainability work - in order to change their own practices and culture, but to contribute to a much larger systems change through their influence.

Secondly, teaching staff are educating the next generation of workers and it is imperative to ensure learners are accessing education and developing skills that supports them to live, work and thrive in, and contribute to a sustainable and fair world. In order to do this, we need to ensure that staff feel equipped to embed sustainability within their discipline and subjects. The UCU Learning and Development team, in partnership with Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) deliver a number of professional development workshops in this area, filling a gap that is not currently provided by employers. Workshops cover topics

including embedding sustainability in learning, decolonising and decarbonising education and democratising education. Since 2020, 235 of these workshops have been delivered with 3,845 members

attending. We also need to ensure teaching staff are given the capacity, resources and fair contracts to deliver this learning, instead of staff doing it as an add-on to already busy schedules. To support members with capacity challenges, UCU is involved in advocating for the formal embedding of sustainability skills in learning outcomes and benchmark standards for university courses which will give staff more time and formalised support to deliver sustainability education. As part of a wider Further Education Pay Claim, UCU and other trade unions representing Further Education (FE), are involved in the development of a Just Transition Framework for the FE sector which would formalise sustainability in staff roles and provide facilities time for green representatives. We must ensure that no one is left behind as we move towards a fossil-free, and sustainable economy, and world, and the education sector and its trade unions can and should play a key role in this.

Sonya Peres SOSUK (seconded to UCU)



Key demand from UCU

In its manifesto for the next government, **Building a Fair and Sustainable post-school education system**, UCU puts the key demand that it should “*establish a Just Transition Commission for Post-16 Education to develop a national post-16 strategy to transition to net-zero*”.

To mobilise the movement, we need these everywhere and in every sector. Ed

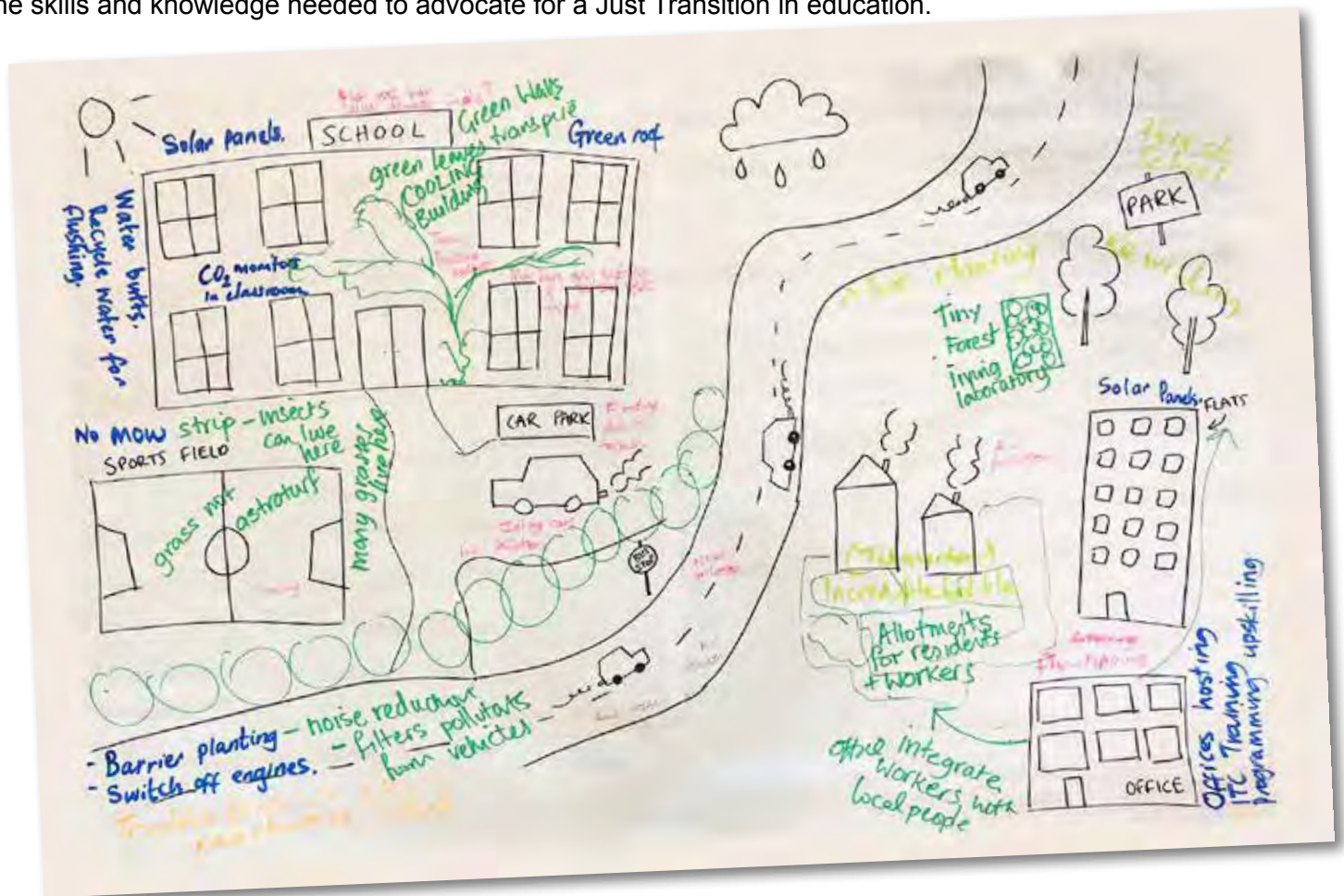
NEU Launches Green Reps and Environment Officers Training Course



NEU members at the course. Photo NEU

The National Education Union (NEU) recently launched a groundbreaking training course for its Green Reps and Environment Officers. Initially held in September 2023 and April 2024, and scheduled for another cohort in the 2024-2025 academic year, this residential two-day course aims to empower workplace activists to transform their schools and colleges through organising, bargaining, and campaigning.

This initiative stems from a successful motion passed at the 2022 national conference, which committed to expanding the Green Reps network within the union and decarbonizing the education sector. The course aligns with the NEU's strategic focus on local organising and developing workplace leaders, equipping participants with the skills and knowledge needed to advocate for a Just Transition in education.



Course Highlights and Success Stories

The training has already shown promising results. Green Reps and Environment Officers have effectively organised around environmental issues, particularly utilising the NEU's Environmental Audit tool. This tool, available on the NEU website, has become a valuable resource for Green Reps conducting workplace assessments and serves as a powerful tool for organising.

Rob, a NEU workplace representative, Equalities Officer, and lead rep in a Multi-Academy Trust in North Derbyshire, attended the course in April 2024. Inspired by the training, he has fostered connections with his school's Eco and Horticulture groups and collaborated with the Health and Safety Rep to conduct joint health and safety and environmental audits. Rob shared, *"I've presented my audits to my employer and Health and Safety Officers, who have been very supportive. We've engaged in positive dialogue about improving teaching areas to manage excessive heat and encouraging a car-sharing scheme among staff."*

James Hanna, Health and Safety Officer for East Kent District, attended the course in September 2023. He emphasised the importance of creating a sustainable working environment for staff and pupils, noting, *"A classroom that is not too hot in summer and not too cold in winter would improve both the mental and physical health of all and increase student engagement in all areas. The NEU should take a stance on green issues and consult with schools to incorporate a green agenda in their implementation strategies."* James also highlighted examples from the 'Greener, Safer, Workplaces' part of the course, showcasing how schools need to embrace green priorities by improving air quality, increasing green spaces, retrofitting school buildings, and involving workers and students in the process. Just a few days after attending, James reported that he had been successful in winning a commitment to solar panels on the roof at his own workplace from his school leadership.

The course also highlighted various funding sources currently available, such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and local and regional funding sources that have led to positive changes, particularly in London. Devolution has allowed for increased opportunities for funding through sources such as the Mayor of London, but this support is not consistent nationwide. With a new Labour government now in post, there is hope for further investment in school buildings to open up more opportunities for sustainability and climate resilience. However, it is recognized that this will still require active campaigning and organising from below.

Practical and Experiential Learning

The course is designed to be practical and experiential, guiding activists through the process of creating demands, mobilising and organising members around environmental issues. A significant focus of the course is on collectivising in the face of unsupportive school leadership. Reps are equipped to organise and escalate their members' demands, and the course includes a practice 'bargaining cycle' using scenarios that address issues such as poor air quality, climate curriculum, playgrounds, transport, and heatwaves, and how to respond to opposition from employers.

We foreground green organising as intrinsically connected to Health & Safety for our members and the communities they work with. Many reps attending the course work in highly polluted inner-city areas and have experienced health and safety concerns around air quality, as well as heatwaves and other extreme weather events in workplaces nationwide. The NEU, alongside other education unions and the TUC, has produced the 'Joint Heatwave Protocol'. While the NEU has yet to see a local dispute on climate issues, with rising temperatures and a deteriorating school estate, it seems only a matter of time before this occurs.

Building a Network for Change

By focusing on collective action, the NEU is fostering a robust network of Green Reps who can advocate for sustainable practices and policies in education. The skills and knowledge gained from this training are essential for achieving the union's goals of decarbonizing the education estate and promoting environmental justice.

We hope that the NEU's initiative can be a source of inspiration for other unions looking to integrate organising and bargaining around environmental issues into their broader strategy. The success of the Green Reps and Environment Officers training course demonstrates the potential for unions to lead on climate action and green bargaining.

As the Greener Jobs Alliance continues to emphasise the importance of increasing union capacity to address the climate crisis, we hope that sharing the NEU's approach and achievements can inspire and guide similar efforts across different sectors.

Rosie Huzzard: National Training Officer, National Education Union

For enquiries in relation to the course, please contact rosie.huzzard@neu.org.uk

Union Conference Round Up:



PCS National Conference saw a number of lively debates this year and also saw some critical motions get passed. This included several key motions on environmental issues.

Motion A46 asked PCS to prioritise environmental issues within core Union work, integrating it across all campaigns and negotiation. Practically, the motion instructed the National Executive Committee to work with relevant branches and groups to create a checklist of environmental issues to be used in bargaining, integrate environmental principles into member briefings, to set up an environmental committee within NEC, and for environmental training to be developed for representatives and members. The motion was overwhelmingly passed.

Motion A47 looked to build on PCS's critical work over the past year supporting civil servants who push back on policies which force them to break the law. For example, PCS provided legal advice to civil servants in the home office who refused to implement the Rwanda policy in contravention of both a Supreme Court ruling and international human rights law. The motion asked the NEC to now provide legal advice and support to civil servants who refuse to support policies that go against existing environmental legislation. It also asked the NEC to join members in publicly opposing anti-scientific narratives from the government about climate change (e.g. the argument

that approving new oil and gas licences is in line with meeting net zero targets). This motion was passed.

Motion A48 noted the critical connection between class issues and tackling the climate crisis. Given the fact that workers have been and will continue to be amongst those most vulnerable to climate change, a rapid transition away from fossil fuels is essential for safeguarding workers. In addition, PCS should resist attempts to use class issues to divide us and limit our response to the urgent climate emergency. Negotiated transition plans are needed to help workers transition away from high emitting sectors and to the green jobs of the future. The motion also called for public ownership of critical infrastructure, the creation of a National Climate Service, and the development of common industrial strategies to help formulate a 'whole economy' approach to decarbonisation. This motion passed successfully.

Unfortunately, two other motions within the environmental section of the agenda (A49 and A50) could not be heard because the guillotine fell.

Topics such as just transition, how to use legal advice to support civil servants challenging illegal and environmentally damaging policies, and what practically helps 'move the dial' on climate change and biodiversity loss -including the role of trade unions- were discussed further at the Green Fringe Event, which took place on the last evening of conference. Panel speakers included: John Moloney; Marianne Quick, who leads on just transition within University College Union; David Whyte, Professor of Climate Justice at the School of Law and author of a number of books on climate justice and ecocide; and Athene Dilke, head of the Environmental Action Group in DEFRA.

Athene Dilke



UNISON. The Manifesto length Motion 63 **The Climate Emergency - Why it Matters to UNISON** which includes demands for the restoration of the £28 billion investment pledge because *"there are no fiscal rules on a dead planet"* and calls for a year of trade union climate action no later than 2026. NEU has also passed such a call and we should all get behind it and start planning.

The full motion is worth reading in full and can be [accessed here on pp 83 - 88.](#)

New Rules

EU Nature Restoration Law

Law to **restore** at least 20 percent of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all degraded ecosystems by 2050 passed the Commission on June 17th.

It sets binding targets and obligations for member states to rehabilitate **natural habitats** - 80 per cent of which are currently in poor condition: restoring **wetlands, rivers**, forests, grasslands, urban and marine ecosystems - and the species they host to increase biodiversity, clean water and air, **pollinate** crops to improve food security, and prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters like floods.

As well as helping to plant at least three billion new **trees** by 2030, EU countries must make sure there is no net loss on urban green spaces and tree canopy cover and human-made **barriers** will be removed from **rivers** to improve water connectivity, with a goal of 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers by the end of the decade.

[Full Report here.](#)

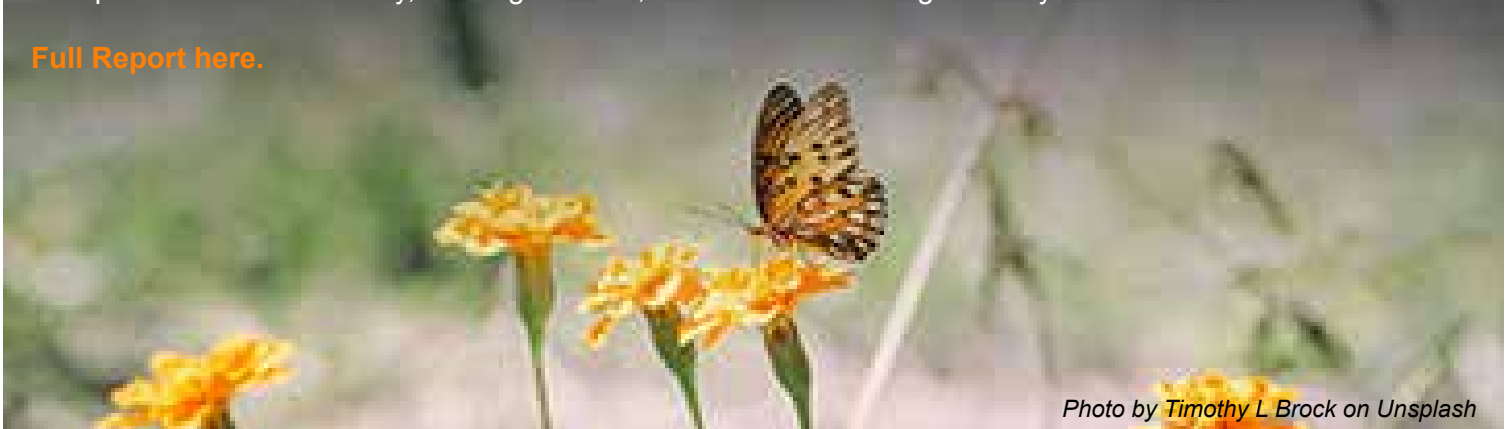


Photo by Timothy L Brock on Unsplash

Horse Hill Drilling Project

The UK Supreme Court has ruled in a judgement in the case against the oil drilling project at Horse Hill in Surrey that **emissions from burning oil & gas must be taken into account** when approving oil & gas projects.

Until now, oil & gas developers could get away with ignoring the emissions of actually burning the fossil fuels they extract. Not any more! The victorious case was brought on by local campaigner Sarah Finch on behalf of **Weald Action Group** and supported by Friends of the Earth.

This decision will have significant implications for any proposed new fossil fuel developments in the UK, like Rosebank in the North Sea, or the Whitehaven coal mine in Cumbria.



Canadian Greenwash Rules show bums on fire

An omnibus Bill C-59, which passed third reading in the Canadian Senate in June and will soon become law, contains a truth-in-advertising amendment that would require corporations across all industries to provide evidence to support their environmental claims.

Even before coming into force this has led The Pathways Alliance, whose six members account for about 95% of Canada's oil sands production, to scrub all messaging from its website and social media feeds and The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), long known as the country's **"apex oil and gas lobby"**, to scale back its website. [Full report here.](#)



flickr.com/photos/fotdmike/

Events

OPEN THE GATES!

Public meeting for
free public transport in London

Thursday 18 July, 7.00 pm
The Phoenix Millennium Centre
386 West Green Road
N15 3QH

[Details here.](#)

All welcome!

Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice

21 - 28 September 2024

The first annual Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice will address the links between war, militarism and climate injustice, promoting grassroots action and policy making for peace and climate justice. This year's theme is divest from war – invest in climate justice!

[More information here.](#)

Or contact weekofaction@climatemilitarism.org



COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE -
MESSAGES, MESSENGERS AND
MECHANISMS

WITH KAREN FLORINI



Karen Florini, Senior Advisor,
Climate Central

Wednesday 10 July, 3pm – 4.00pm BST

Despite the increasing frequency and severity of extreme-weather events and associated impacts, their connection to climate change is only occasionally articulated.

In this talk, Karen Florini will explore how climate change discussions – whether in the media, in public discourse, or in private communication – can be more effective. She will also describe free science-backed resources that provide locality-specific information to climate communicators in and beyond the media.

This is a joint event with INET Oxford and the Climate Econometrics project at Nuffield College.

[Register to watch live online and be able to ask a question here](#)

[Watch live or later here](#)

Climate Justice Coalition post election Trade Union Caucus

On July 18, let's come together to discuss how we organise for climate justice within the trade union movement under the new government.

Thursday 18 July 7:00 - 8:30 pm

[Register here](#) to get your Zoom link.

Under the new government, the trade union movement has the potential to play a key role in the fight for climate justice – so we need to come together to connect, educate and strategise.



Health & safety in a changing climate: Resources & links from the TUC

- Too hot, too cold - [interactive guide for union reps](#)
- SPF is PPE - [guidance for reps](#)
- Managing ventilation as a Covid safety measure - [TUC webinar](#)
- Protecting workers from cold temperatures - [TUC webinar](#)
- We need a maximum workplace temperature - [sign the petition](#)
- Joint union heatwave protocol - [guidance and tips from NEU and others](#)
- NEU green reps workplace checklist - [a helpful audit](#)
- Trade Union Clean Air Network - [guidance on indoor pollution](#)
- Presentation slides - [TUCAN, Graham Petersen](#)
- A bad climate - [Hazards magazine article](#)
- Boiling point - [Hazards magazine article](#)
- Hazards Conference 2024 - [register](#)



Green Bites

Stats of the Month

50%+

Of Europe's energy generated by renewables so far this year. [From Eurelectric](#)

49 km
a week

Reduced distance driven through an [e-bikes incentive scheme](#) in Victoria, British Columbia. This made the e-bike incentive more cost effective in terms of CO2 reduction per dollar invested than provincial car incentives.

\$4.6
Trillion

Cost of energy wasted every year through the structural inefficiencies of fossil fuels. That's 40% of global energy costs. Another reason that the writing is on the wall for fossil fuels. [Full report here.](#)

100%

The proportion of the increase in peak demand that U.S. power grids are projecting through 2035 that could be absorbed by distributed energy resources (DERs) like batteries and electric vehicles if utilities seize the opportunity and engage more closely with customers. [Report from Deloitte.](#)

£35.8
billion

[HMRC's estimate of underpaid tax](#) in 2023, up from £30.8 billion in 2022. Collecting this would pay for Labour's former pledge of £28 billion a year for the energy transition, with quite a bit left over (and not trouble any interpretation of "fiscal rules").

>1,301

The number of people who died from excessive heat during Hajj in Mecca this year, when temperatures rose above 50C.



Thanks to the GJA serving team at Glastonbury this year. Photo GJA

Green Bites

Graph of the Month

Global investment in clean energy is set to reach almost double the amount going to fossil fuels in 2024

Global investment in clean energy and fossil fuels, 2015-2024e



While the rise in renewable energy investment is very positive and rising fast, at \$2 Trillion a year it is about half the level needed and fossil fuel investment, at \$1 Trillion a year is still substantial and rising. See [IEA World Energy Investment Report](#) for more details Ed.

Quote of the Month

“The only question is, how much longer are we going to let sociopath executives destroy life on Earth and increasingly threaten billions of lives for their profit. Every increment of heating is worth fighting to stop, because every increment of heating will further damage habitability and kill more humans and other beings.”

Climate scientist Peter Kalmus.

New on the Debate Blog

- [NEU Highlights Climate Crisis in its General Election Manifesto](#)
- [Open letter: demand a Just Transition for North Sea oil and gas workers](#)

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.



Follow us on social media



Subscribe to the GJA Newsletter HERE