



Photo: flickr.com/photos/stefan-mueller-climate/

Editorial: Three existential threats

When the world's wealthiest countries are simultaneously accelerating fossil fuel investment and military expenditure, and fossil fuel interests fund the far right, they are pushing the hands of the doomsday clock towards midnight with both hands.

The spurt of **825 new oil and gas licences** issued by wealthy countries in 2023, with the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and Norway responsible for 67% of them, sticks two fingers up to the rest of the world.

The same five countries are responsible for 51% of planned oil and gas expansion up to 2050, even though there is more than enough of both in existing reserves to meet any projected demand up to 2050; and the IPCC is completely clear that we have no chance of keeping safe if we increase them.

The move by the new government here to block new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea is therefore a vital move that should be replicated across the Atlantic.

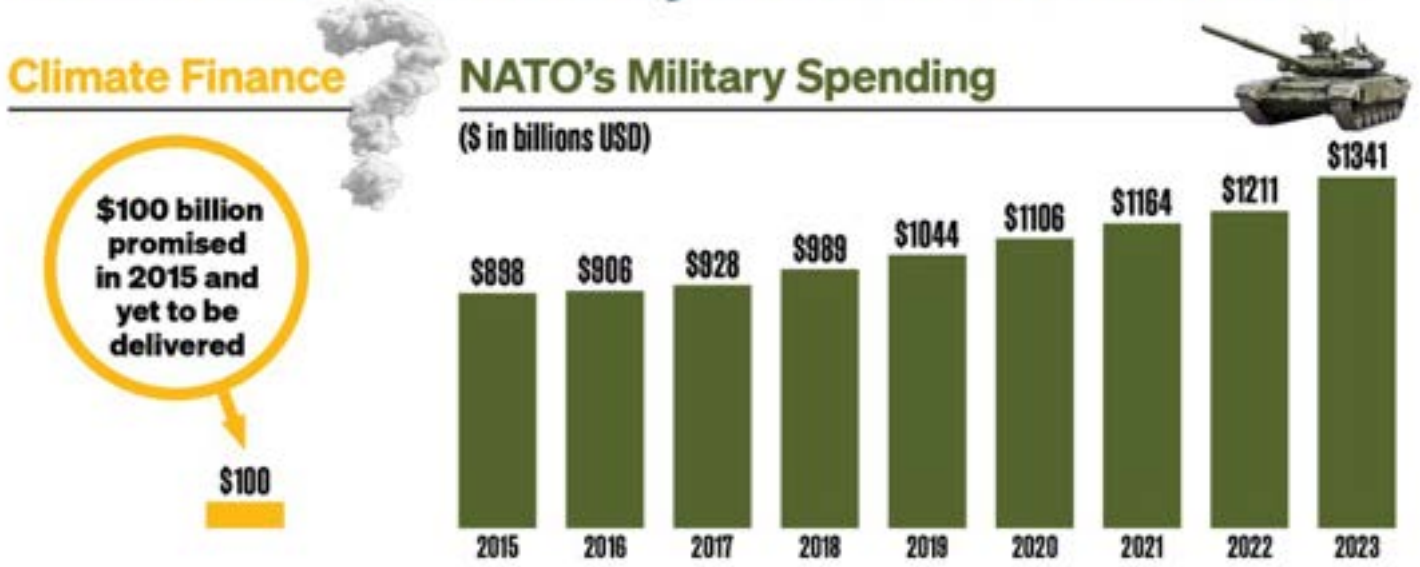
But, for all the threat of Trump's promise to roll back the steps Biden took to funnel global investment into US green capital, Biden has authorised 1,453 new oil and gas licences during his presidency, accounting for half of the total globally and 83% of all licences handed out by wealthy nations. This is 20% more than Trump did. So, even business as usual for the US keeps us on a suicidal course.

Continued ...

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Where is the money for climate finance?



CLIMATE IN THE CROSSHAIRS

The planetary impact of NATO's spending increases

tni.org/climatecrosshairs

From *tni climate crosshairs*

At the same time, this graph shows the scale of the priority now given to expanding military expenditure by these countries over climate investment in the Global South.

That means that they are prioritising a drive to enforce their continuing global dominance over genuine leadership out of this crisis. This will, of course, also lead them to disaster; because you can no more “*build a wall*” to keep the climate crisis out than you can stop a hurricane by dropping a bomb on it.

And when dark money from fossil fuel billionaires like the Koch brothers flows to far right figures like Tommy Robinson to get us fighting each other instead of them, we are paying the price for their wealth in fascist pogroms on our streets.

To push the hands of the doomsday clock away from midnight means we have to campaign to cut military spending, push for ceasefires and peace negotiations instead of escalating war preparation, isolate and drive back the far right and qualitatively increase climate investment at home and abroad. Time is short. This is urgent.

Paul Atkin Ed

Just Transition and the North Sea

We deal this issue in [our blog here](#) and will be looked at in depth in our forthcoming TUC special edition, due out at the end of August.

Solar eclipsing fossils

The world's biggest solar manufacturers, all based in China, are now delivering more usable energy each year than the top seven oil and gas companies. From [the Energy Mix](#)

ITUC Demands for COP29

Governments are preparing their mandates for COP29 in the following months. We need to see Just Transition language in the mandates from governments on the climate finance negotiations (NCQG, or New Collective Quantified Goal) and the implementation of the Just Transition Work Program (JTWP). The full demands can be read [here](#).

Bert De Wel ITUC

Now the Tories have gone...

In this section we look at

1. How Labour's initial actions are matching its manifesto commitments,
2. What the Climate Change Committee has advised that they need to do
3. Questions about their plans for house building.



Photo: Tim Dennell www.flickr.com/photos/shefftim/

How's Labour doing?

Here we take a first look at the steps Labour has taken to achieve its ambition to **'Make Britain a clean energy superpower.'**

The overall approach is a Green Prosperity Plan in partnership with business through a National Wealth Fund and other measures to invest in the industries of the future. The aim is to *'create 650,000 jobs across the country by 2030.'*

Labour's inheritance? According to the Committee on Climate Change, it inherited policies not capable of reaching 2030 carbon cutting targets, with no new offshore wind projects agreed in 2023. Labour has to triple offshore wind, double onshore and 5 x solar to reach 2030 targets. Labour also states it won't support the Cumbria Coal mine planning appeal.

Labour's Manifesto commitments are in bold. *Current state of play is in italics.*

North Sea: **'Phased and responsible transition'**

- **Not revoke existing licences.** *Government may block remaining unlet licences*
- **Not issue new licences.** *Confirmed. Unite demanding 'North Sea jobs transition plan' before new licences banned*
- **Windfall tax on oil & gas companies Profits levy increased.** *Investment tax allowances to be abolished*



Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/190916320@N06/

General Election campaigning, West Midlands, United Kingdom - 03 July 2024

Great British Energy

- **Set up publicly-owned GBE with £8.3 bn public investment over 5 years** · Announced July '24. Now the UK has a similar organisation as France, Denmark & Norway. Aimed at levering in 3 to 5 times the investment from the private investment. · Offshore wind Partnership with Crown Estate with a £1.5bn record funding announced for bids for new solar, and wind projects. · Approved 3 massive E. Anglia solar farms (held up by Tories). · 'Rooftop solar revolution' promised in housing programme.
- **To partner with industry and trade unions co-investing in leading tech.** TUC is being invited into far more civil servant meetings and processes including a new quarterly meeting with Ministers Ed Miliband & Sarah Jones, with General Secretaries from Unite, UNISON, GMB, Prospect, RMT, on the Office for Clean Energy Jobs and broader · The **Onshore Renewable Energy Taskforce** includes Prospect, GMB and Unite. Rethinking membership of the Tory's 15-member Industrial Strategy Council which just had Roy Rickhuss, the General Secretary of Community.
- **To deploy local energy production, inviting communities to suggest onshore wind, solar, & hydropower projects.** · Lifted ban on onshore wind. · Community project details tbc
- **To create jobs and build supply chains** · 650,000 new jobs promised. · Skills England Bill in Kings speech: Partners inc unions, business & Ind Strategy Council. · Reforms promised to apprenticeship levy

Grid

- **Upgrade our national transmission infrastructure** (New grid capacity vital to carrying new renewable energy roundUK).
- **Planning Reform Bill** to facilitate new solar farms, onshore wind, transmission grid, sustainable housing
- **Working with business & to manage the transition with new high quality jobs**

See above: New Industrial Strategy

Home insulation

- **£6.6 billion over next parliament**, 'to upgrade 5m homes to cut bills for families' Labour says its scheme, led by local councils, would invest up to £6bn a year for 10 years, 4m jobs potential.

Nuclear

- **Complete Hinkley Point C Still delayed!**
- **New nuclear power station - Sizewell C, Suffolk** Planning stage: Planned 3.2GW plant with EDF Energy. Site licence approved May 2024.
- **Support small Modular Reactors** Rolls-Royce bid for gov't tender, led by Great British Nuclear (GBN), to develop 'Small Modular Reactors'

National Wealth Fund

- **Directly invest in ports, hydrogen and industrial clusters;**
- **Secure the future of Britain's automotive and steel industries.**

Announced: £7.3bn public capital for public-private partnerships in net zero sectors

Water

- **Put failing water companies under special measures**
- **Give regulators new powers to block the payment of bonuses**

Water (Special Measures) Bill announced in King's Speech July '24

Philip Pearson

What else do they need to do?

13 targets from the Climate Change Committee

Within a year – or sooner if possible – the CCC would like the UK Government to...

1. Rebalance policy and social levies on electricity and gas, making electricity cheaper to incentivise businesses and homes to explore electric heating, cooking, cooling and transport.
2. Ramp up woodland creation and peatland restoration. The ability of trees and peatlands to draw down carbon in the decades to come depends on action taken in the near term. The 30,000 hectares of tree planting targeted per year by 2025 and 32,000 hectares of peatland restoration per year by 2026 will require clarity on funding plus support for resource and capacity-building at local authorities and nature charities.
3. Reinstate the 2030 ban on new petrol and diesel car sales. Labour promised to reinstate the 2030 date in its pre-election manifesto. This may require tweaks to the Zero-Emission Vehicle mandate, which requires manufacturers to ensure that zero-emission models account for an ever-increasing proportion of their output.
4. Reinstate the 2035 fossil fuel boiler installation phase-out. As oil and gas boilers have a 15+-year working life, installations of new ones after 2035 would be incompatible with net-zero.
5. Ensure that electric heating is the default in all new buildings. This will be the case for homes from 2025 under the Future Homes Standard. Non-domestic property developers are increasingly choosing electric heating where possible, especially in cities, but “clearer signals” can be sent to investors and businesses.
6. Get clear on home energy efficiency. Maintaining reductions in a socially just manner will require a concerted effort. Labour has promised to double spending on home energy efficiency to £12bn+ this Parliament. The CCC wants Ministers to reinstate energy efficiency targets for the private rented sector from 2028 and get clear on how the extra £6.6bn will be spent, following the failure of schemes like the Green Homes Grant. Ministers may evolve the Tory-led GB Insulation Scheme.
7. Remove planning barriers for heat pumps and electric vehicle (EV) charging points. With the same swiftness as the removal of planning blockers to onshore wind farms.
8. Plan strategically for the decarbonisation of public sector buildings. A strategic approach is needed to ensure that all public sector buildings benefit from a long-term, multi-phase programme which should not impact the delivery of vital public services like schooling or healthcare. “substantial emissions reduction” can be delivered “relatively quickly”, as schools could be retrofitted over holidays and staff at military barracks temporarily moved, for example; and some larger public buildings could act as hubs for heat networks and renewable microgrids.



9. Modernise the Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction scheme for renewables. There is a need to support more capacity now through the Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction rounds to host at least 50GW of offshore wind by 2030, as projects generally come online four to five years after their CfD.

10. Plan strategically to decarbonise industrial heat. To replace the allocation of limited funds on a competitive basis a “comprehensive set of policies to enable industrial electrification at scale” is needed, even before a strategic decision is taken on hydrogen and other options. Policy changes recommended include

- reducing electricity prices;
- strengthening the UK’s Emissions Trading Scheme by aligning carbon pricing and caps with the net-zero transition;
- and implementing a Carbon Border Tax (CBAM) to stop British industry from being undercut on price by high-carbon imports.

The ten-year industrial strategy promised by the government needs to be in place within a year. A CBAM is already tabled for 2027.

11. **Publish a comprehensive strategy to close looming green skills gaps.** The national skills strategy must be updated to match the 2050 Net Zero target.

- assess the skills needs and gaps for the transition,
- identify barriers to skills development plus potential solutions..

Specific place-based strategies will be needed for communities highly dependent on industries likely to experience job losses. Reskilling packages and other tailored support is needed to ensure the transition is just. The prior Government had targeted two million green economy workers by 2030, up from 274,000 in 2022.

12. **Finalise business models for man-made carbon removal technologies.** This needs a strategic look at carbon capture and removal at a larger network of industrial clusters, and at smaller dispersed sites.

13. **Strengthen the National Adaptation Programme to bolster climate resilience.** Even with accelerated decarbonisation this decade, the UK is in for hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters.

Of the 45 adaptation outcomes examined by the CCC, only five have the required policy milestones in place for delivery. Regardless of the outcome of the impending High Court challenge to the existing overarching plan to adapt to climate change, this will need to be overhauled, strengthened and embedded into other national policy priorities with stronger links to nature, agriculture, infrastructure development, public health and economic growth.

These recommendations were delivered to the cabinet on 18th July. We would add the need to

- *restore the £28 billion annual investment level, without which we will continue to stagnate on an unsustainable basis,*
- *work with unions and communities to set up Just Transition Commissions at every level to mobilise communities and workplaces around a positive vision and work plan for the future with legal rights for Green Reps- which can also help counter the poisonous, divisive, backward looking influence of the Far Right,*
- *and set up a National Climate Service to make sure that the whole government is joined up and coherent in its actions and messaging.*

These demands are included in motions going to the TUC this year, so watch out for our TUC special edition later this month. Ed



Questions on Labour's housing plans

In 1946 Aneurin Bevan warned: “When the honourable member says that the number of completed houses is not so great as he had hoped it would be, he must enquire for the reason into the organisation of the building industry, and not in the government's plan for housing.”

The new Labour government would do well to take note of these words. Judging from all the cranes in evidence around London, Labour's plea to ‘*get Britain building again*’ seems rather misplaced, as does the proposal to build 1.5 million new homes over the next Parliament, including a ‘*new generation of new towns*’. Is this really possible, necessary, a solution to the housing crisis, and in tune with the need to address climate change, especially given that the built environment is responsible for 40% of end-use emissions? Surely the housing shortage is attributable to a lack of ‘*genuinely affordable*’, energy efficient housing, the poor quality of the existing stock, the thousands of unoccupied properties, estimated by the Local Government Association to account for 4% of all dwellings in England, the lack of council housing and the tendency instead to regard housing as a commodity and not a right, the nature of the construction industry, and the lack of a good quality vocational education and training (VET) system necessary to develop tomorrow's construction workforce?

Just in terms of housing policy, the proposal is questionable, largely representing more of the same, that is dependent on public-private partnerships with housebuilders, private developers, and housing associations, on opening the Green Belt to development, and on new build rather than first addressing the problem of the existing stock and infrastructure. And this at a time when housing starts have been falling significantly, when housing associations claim that building new affordable housing is becoming financially impossible, and when there is an acute shortage of qualified construction workers.

Though the proposal is for 50% of the houses to be classed as ‘*affordable*’, officially this means 20% below the level of ‘*market*’ rents or market value, which is hardly ‘*affordable*’, especially as ‘*social rents*’ are 50% below. The continued tying together of private housing for sale and social housing for rent is anyway proving unworkable as, directly there is a slowdown in private

housing sales, the social housing requirement is in jeopardy.

But one of the main problems is, as Bevan warned, that of the construction industry, including the housebuilding sector, where much of the workforce is so-called ‘*self-employed*’ and almost entirely non-unionised, where employment is fragmented through reliance on a myriad of subcontractors, and most firms are small or micro. As a result, there is a weak or non-existent training infrastructure because firms simply do not have the capacity or time to train or provide work experience. However, the desperate need for a comprehensive VET system - combining well-equipped Further Education (FE) College workshops and classrooms and monitored work experience - so that new entrants into the sector as well as the existing workforce have the knowledge, skills and competences increasingly needed, appears to be a blind spot in Labour's programme; indeed, FE College tutors have even been excluded from the recent 5.5% schoolteacher pay award. The sorry state of disrepair of the existing housing stock, especially social, council, and privately rented housing, owes much to the failure to put in place an inclusive VET system equipped to educate young people in the occupations required to build, retrofit, refurbish and repair housing and provide them with good quality, long term employment.

Finally, the Labour proposals simply sidestep, or rather ignore, the urgency to address climate change. This means reducing carbon emissions and the use of new resources that go together with new build, and instead considering the reuse of existing buildings via retrofit or refurbishment and requiring planning permission for any demolition. These considerations apply not just to housing but to the infrastructure required for any housing development, including the roads and education, community and health facilities needed for greenfield - though not usually brownfield - housing schemes.

All in all, a much more radical and far-reaching set of priorities is necessary to address the housing crisis. Wouldn't it make much more sense simply to compulsory purchase empty properties and to propose large-scale retrofit and council housing developments carried out as far as possible by local authorities' own building departments or direct labour organisations?

Linda Clarke

Response to the final report of

The London Climate Resilience Review

The final report was published in July 2024. The recommendations have gone to the London Mayor, the Government and others for consideration and potential implementation. The GJA made submissions at each of the stages that started in August 2023. Trade unions are referenced as responders to the consultation.

Funding climate resilience

Only 1 of the recommendations made by the GJA during the consultation has been covered.

Recommendation 8 - Introduce a statutory duty for local authorities, other public organisations, and major landowners to adapt to climate change, based on a clear framework of local roles and responsibilities. Funding should be provided in local authority and public sector settlements to meet the duty.

This is an important recommendation if it is backed by significant funding. It is likely to be problematic given the Government's commitment to the fiscal restraints adopted by its predecessor.

Extreme Heat

The GJA commented on the lack of reference to the occupational hazard of extreme heat. We are pleased that this has now been included in the commentary on Page 51. This includes the TUC call for a legally binding maximum temperature, yet it does not form part of the recommendations to Government.

No commitments to trade union engagement

The 2 references to unions above are the only ones in the whole report. There are no recommendations to the Government or the Mayor calling for consultation on climate risks. The first recommendation in the review states *'The Mayor leads collaborative work with local authorities, the private sector and others to set out a clear strategic vision for what it means for London to be adapting well to climate impacts by 2030 and beyond.'* The 'owners' of this are Local authorities; London Councils; London's public sector organisations; private sector organisations. Trade unions are not given a mention.

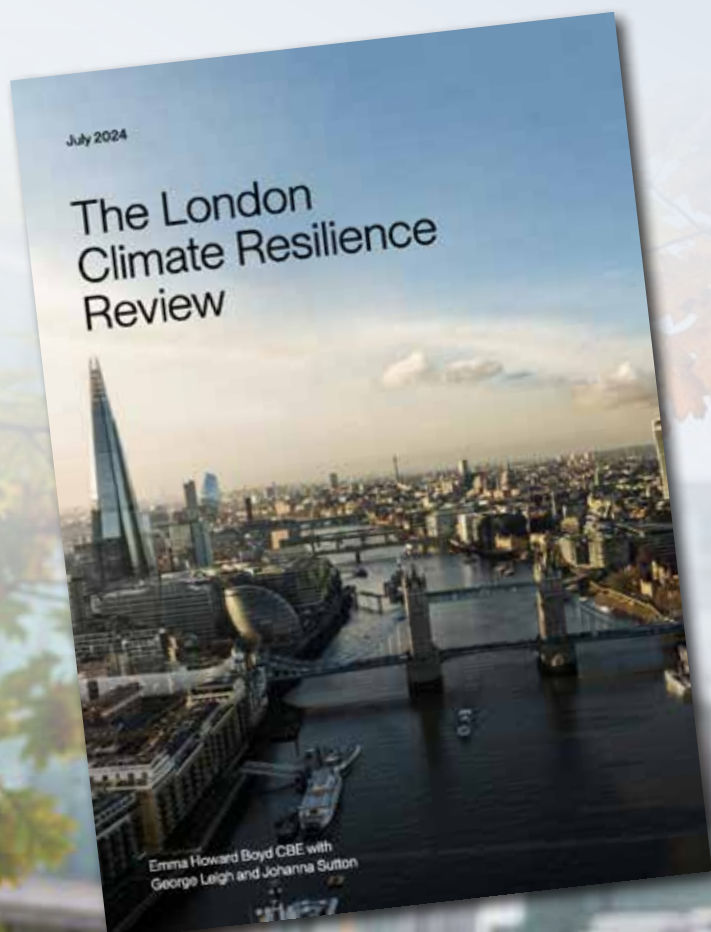
No reference to air pollution

GJA recognises that this is covered by separate GLA policies. However, there are good reasons for cross referencing the policies. Not least because air pollution is impacted by other climate risks like extreme heat. The recommendations on extreme heat need to acknowledge this. The Review does correctly cross reference Skills even though this is also covered by separate GLA policies.

A work in progress

The GJA welcomes the review but will need to work with trade unions and others to ensure that the gaps around climate justice and a worker voice are addressed.

Graham Petersen



Working in the heat in India



In India extreme heat has significantly impacted various sectors, particularly Agriculture Workers, Rural Workers, Construction Workers and Gig economy Workers.

High temperatures have reduced crop yields, and exacerbated water scarcity, leading to lower crop productivity and financial instability for our agriculture workers and small farmers. This leads to hunger and poverty. Heatwaves have also caused heat stress in livestock, affecting their health and milk production. Prolonged exposure to extreme heat among Rural and Construction Workers has led to thousands of deaths and severe health issues including heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and dehydration. These conditions have led to extreme poverty among their families. Gig workers who work outdoors in extreme heat and unsafe environments face similar health risks.

As all these sectoral workers are typically dependent on daily work, they have been adversely affected by extreme heat induced illnesses forcing reduced working hours and loss of income, leading to hunger and poverty

In that way in 2024 extreme heat not only threatened health and safety but also disrupted earnings and livelihoods making it a pressing concern for these informal workers.

Despite these challenges, the Indian government's response has been inadequate; leaving these informal and vulnerable workers without sufficient social security.

INTUC and its Affiliated Unions work to organise and unionise the Agriculture Workers, Rural and Construction Workers and Gig economy Workers to

- defend their rights,
- advocate, campaign for decent wages and working conditions
- access to decent social security benefits and healthcare,
- financial assistance during heatwaves
- and we also pushed for policies and awareness campaigns on climate change and its impact on these informal vulnerable workers, striving to secure protective measures and fair compensation for those affected by extreme heat.

Overall extreme heat posed significant risks and the efforts of INTUC and its Affiliated Unions have been crucial in mitigating these impacts and advocating for the well-being and rights of our Union Members and their Families.

Chandra Shekar INTUC

ILO: Global Heat stress



International Labour Organization ILO <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ilopictures/>

Climate change is creating a “cocktail” of serious health hazards for an estimated 2.4 billion workers who are exposed to excessive heat. The ILO reports that excessive heat alone causes 22.85 million occupational injuries and the loss of 18,970 lives each year.

By region this breaks down as follows.

Africa

- Workplace exposures to excessive heat in Africa were above the global average, affecting 92.9 per cent of the workforce.
- The Africa region has the greatest proportion of occupational injuries attributable to excessive heat, accounting for 7.2 per cent of all occupational injuries.

Americas

- The Americas region has seen the most rapidly increasing proportion of heat-related occupational injuries since the year 2000, with an increase of 33.3 per cent.
- The Americas also have a significant proportion of occupational injuries due to excessive heat, at 6.7 per cent.

Arab States

- Workplace exposures to excessive heat in the Arab States were above the global average, affecting 83.6 percent of the workforce.

Asia and the Pacific

- Workplace exposures to excessive heat in Asia and the Pacific were above the global average, affecting 74.7 percent of the workforce.

Europe and Central Asia

- Europe and Central Asia had the greatest increase in excessive heat exposure, with a 17.3 percent increase between 2000 and 2020. This is almost double the global average increase of 8.8 per cent.
- The region has seen a rapid increase in the proportion of heat-related occupational injuries since 2000, with a 16.4 percent increase.

[Full report from ILO here.](#)

Events



Winning free public transport: public event, 29 September

Fare Free London invites everyone to a public meeting to discuss campaigning for free public transport,

Sunday 29 September 2024, 11.0am-4.0pm,

Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, SE1 7AA.

It will feature speakers from successful international campaigns for free public transport, and opportunities to strategise with people in your local area / trade union. [Register here.](#)

Please RSVP so we can keep track of numbers. Online-only attendees are welcome too, if you cannot attend in person.

Speakers include:

- Lisa Hopkinson, Transport for Quality of Life
- Daniel Randall, RMT London Transport Region activist (personal capacity)
- Daniel Santini, transport researcher at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil (on zoom)
- Jerome Serodio, National Coordination of Collectives for Free Public Transport, France
- Drew Pearce, researcher of sustainable mobility and transport decarbonisation and activists from Fare Free London, community and environmentalist groups and trade unions.

Lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

You do not have to be involved in a campaign already to attend.

Please get in touch with us at info@farefreelondon.org if you have any questions and forward this email and invite others to attend. This information is also [on our web site here.](#)

North East, Yorkshire & Humber

Just Transition Network

NEXT MEETING: ONLINE 12PM WED 25 SEP

Join our expanding TUC-convened network for green trade unionists across the North East, Yorkshire & the Humber today

- > Connect with other green reps
- > Discover new campaigns & resources
- > Share successes and setbacks
- > Join key campaigns & working groups
- > Learn from other workplaces & experts
- > Access the latest green activism news

Sign up at:

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/campaigns/just-transition-network>

TUC North East, Yorkshire & the Humber

Workers For Energy For All Inaugural Meeting

Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 6:30 pm

From flash flooding to wildfires, the last 2 years of unpredictable weather caused by climate change has wreaked havoc among communities across the world. Simultaneously the fossil fuel giants have reported record profits and increased our energy bills.

In Britain the working class has experienced the fastest decline in living standards in decades. Bills, rent and the cost of food keep going up while wages have flatlined. Alongside extortionate rents, housing in Britain is the dampest and leakiest in Europe, with thousands of children falling sick from damp homes and mould.

Public ownership is a first step but it doesn't fix the problem. It is up to us in the Trade Union movement to stand up to greedy energy companies.

Energy For All will give every household the **essential energy allowance** they need to stay safe and well, for free. Higher amounts will be given to those in greater need due to age, health, disability, children or leaky housing. No unfair standing charges or prepayments. Not cut off when money is tight. Leaky homes upgraded.

Come and hear from a number of TU speakers about how you can use your power to advocate for change. Unions are powerful organisations together we can really make a difference.

[Click here to sign up for zoom link.](#)

New Rules

No New Coal-based Steel Projects

China permitted **no new coal-based steel projects** in the first half of 2024 as policies drive decarbonisation.

- There were no new permits for coal-based steelmaking projects in the first half of 2024 for the first time since China announced its *'dual carbon goals'* in September 2020.
- In the first six months of 2024, provincial governments permitted 7.1 million tonnes per annum of steelmaking capacity, all of which are electric arc furnace projects, which could signify a turning point for the Chinese steel industry in terms of halting new investments in coal-based steelmaking capacity.

With the largest steel industry in the world, accounting for more than half of global production, decarbonisation of the steel sector is crucial to both achieving China's climate targets and mitigating global climate risks. [Full Report from CREA.](#)



Photo: Zhangzj_cet https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Main_Plant_Area_of_Panzhuhua_Iron_and_Steel_Company.jpg

The EU Right to Repair Directive

This aims to reduce waste and bolster the repair sector by making it easier and more cost-effective to repair goods, requiring manufacturers to repair a product for a reasonable price and within a reasonable timeframe after the legal guarantee period, access to spare parts, tools and repair information for consumers. Incentives to opt for repair, such as repair vouchers and funds, online platforms to help people find local repair services and shops selling refurbished goods. This was passed by the European Parliament with 584 votes for, just 3 against and 14 abstentions. Member states now have two years to put this into national law. Will the UK match this? [Full report here.](#)

Historic Homes

Heritage England is encouraging local councils to support the owners and occupiers of historic homes and buildings in improving energy efficiency, fitting low-carbon heating systems and adding onsite renewable energy generation. [More Info here.](#)



Mums for Lungs

Mums for Lungs volunteers have been hanging baby grows spelling out **Clean Air Now** to highlight the scale of respiratory problems amongst the youngest children in London.

Freedom of Information requests revealed that across 22 London hospitals, more than 15,000 children under five were admitted with serious breathing difficulties in 2023. The campaign was featured on the **BBC News.**



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**

Green Bites

Stats of the Month

65%+

of the Conservative Party's denialist Net Zero Scrutiny Group lost their seats in the General Election (24 out of 37). [From Desmog.](#)

30%

of the rise in global temperatures since the Industrial Revolution has been caused by methane. The energy sector – including oil, natural gas, coal and bioenergy – accounts for over a third of methane emissions from human activity. See [IEA Global Methane Report](#)

2 Billion

Passengers have now used a scheme introduced last year to provide free bus travel for women in the Indian state of Karnataka (where Bangalore is). [From Fare Free London](#) which also reports on the international trend towards free public transport [here](#).

9%

of UK freight is carried by rail. This compares with 17% for Europe. Each tonne of rail freight produces 76% less in carbon emissions than that carried by HGVs. Sign the Campaign for Better Transport's postcard to save Royal Mail Rail Freight [here](#).

£250 billion

The amount that could be raised by the 2% Global Tax on billionaires proposed at the G20 by Brazil this month. This was agreed in principle, despite resistance from the United States, the question now is how to implement it. Brazil has put climate change and poverty at the top of the agenda for its presidency of the G20 meetings this year ahead of hosting COP30 next year. Just to cap the wealth of the top 0.0004% at its current level would require a tax of 12.8%, which could raise \$1.6 Trillion every year. That could pay for the energy transition in the Global South and save human civilisation. What better use could they have for it?

Quote of the Month

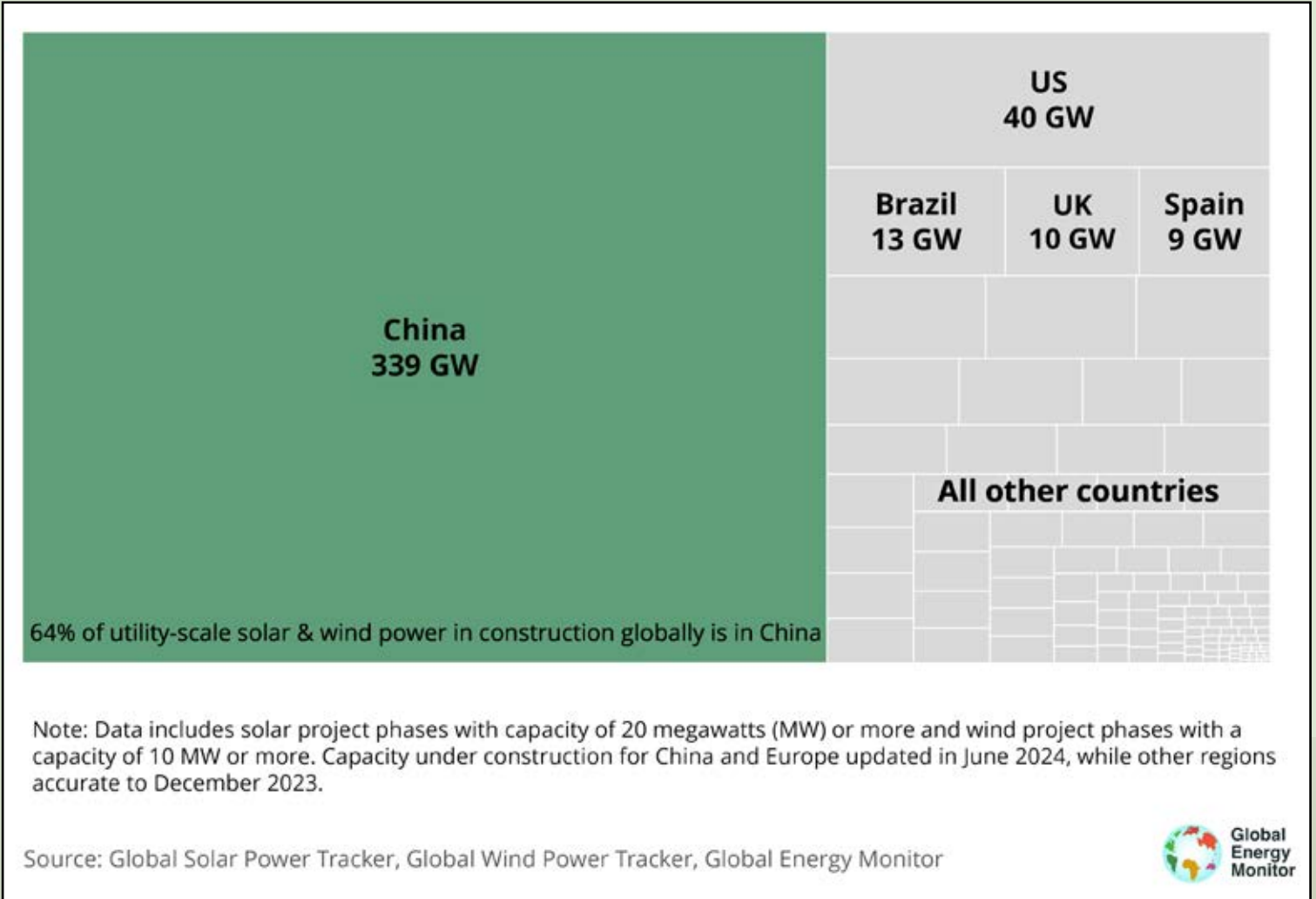
"Climate change is the mother of all stealth taxes paid by everyday people and vulnerable countries and communities. Meanwhile, the godfathers of climate chaos—the fossil fuel industry—rake in record profits and feast off trillions in taxpayer-funded subsidies."

[UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres World Environment Day address.](#)

Green Bites

Graph of the Month

China has more than twice as much wind and solar power in construction as the rest of the world combined.



Wind and solar now account for 37% of the total power capacity in the country, an 8% increase from 2022, and widely expected to surpass coal capacity, which is 39% of the total right now, in 2024. [From Global Energy Monitor](#)

