



Image: Mick Holder

A pivotal moment for the world, and the TUC

We are already in a year that has broken all temperature records in a way that has climate scientists, and anyone paying attention, severely alarmed. And this year, as Enver Hoxha famously remarked, will be better than next year. Not to mention the year after that, or 2030, or 2050.

The latest projections for where the Earth is heading on existing climate policies is to an average temperature rise of between 2.6 and 2.9 C by the end of the century. The climate impacts from that are **projected to hit the world economy** with an 18% loss (worth US\$38 trillion) by 2050. And that is a long way from the worst of it.

If we let this go, the human impacts will be catastrophic. **You can investigate that here.** The political impacts were outlined in **The Age of Consequences -The National Security implications of Climate Change** like this. *“Countries with resources will be forced to engage in nightmarish episodes of triage, deciding who, and what, can be rescued from a disordered environment. The choices will primarily have to be made among the poorest, not just abroad but at home”.*

We have been warned.

To avoid that, every moment from here on is pivotal. Every decision we take, and vote we cast, will determine how far we can limit the damage. We have almost already burnt through the remaining carbon budget to keep below a 1.5C increase. There is no wiggle room for any country, industry or sector. No slack left.

This is not something the trade union movement can be passive about. A just transition won't fall into our laps. We have to fight for it. That means recognising the climate dimension in every stand we take and voting and acting to be part of the solution not part of the problem.

The TUC supplement to this Newsletter complements our **Special Edition** on the initial motions and assesses them in that light. The next edition will have a balance sheet of the debate and votes, and project what comes next.

Paul Atkin Ed

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The Motions on the TUC agenda

Most of the motions dealing with climate are positive and forward looking and take our movement in the right direction, pushing the new government onwards. There is one composite and one amendment, however, that does not.

The good news first

Motions 17 from **UNISON** and **18** from **PCS** put the movement on the right side of history and science and should get the maximum possible support. The arguments in support are included in our **TUC Special Supplement**.

The **GMB** amendment to the PCS motion is a wrecking amendment that should be opposed. The arguments for this are also included in the **Special supplement**.

The **UCU** amendment to the UNISON motion recognising “*the dire environmental consequences of war*” and looking to a just transition for workers engaged in building weapons to sustain the current drive towards war and the **FDA** amendment calling for rights for Green Reps should also be supported

Motion 19 from **BFAWU** on working in excess heat should also be supported.

The proposal for Congress to campaign for the following:

- i. set a national maximum working temperature*
- ii. put in place a heat wave furlough scheme*
- iii. make a climate action plan*

has been ridiculed by people who work in air conditioned TV studios and offices and wouldn't last five minutes trying to work a ten hour shift in a bakery at 36C.

The **FBU** amendment recognising that climate change is “*an immediate industrial issue for many sectors, such as firefighters, health workers, forestry workers, water industry workers and others tackling floods, wildfire, heatwaves and drought*” is a key point that should also be supported; and underlines the point that climate breakdown directly affects all workers, not just those in

carbon heavy sectors; so we must all have a voice and be able to take a lead in the transition..

Motion 21 proposed by **Community** rightly calls for the decarbonisation of the domestic steel industry. A viable Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, in alignment with that of the EU, is, however, contingent on the decarbonisation of the energy sources used in that industry; a complex issue that needs a lot of exploration, and this motion is a good place to start.

Composite 7 proposed by the **NUJ** emphasises the importance of rail investment to meet decarbonisation targets, public ownership of rail and buses and should be supported.

Composite 8 proposed by **Nautilus** argues for the need for a national plan for food security, lifting people out of food poverty and for implementing the Dimbleby Report on promoting a more sustainable and healthy diet and should be supported.

Composite 9 proposed by the **TUC Disabled Workers Conference** argues for the importance of secure, affordable public sector housing and proper training for the new generation of skilled workers needed to build it. It is unfortunate that it does not mention how vital it is that the new homes we build are zero emission, built in sustainable communities with all needs and green space within walking distance, with good public transport links to larger centres. Perhaps this could be raised in the debate.

Composite 10 moved by the Society of **radiographers** rightly notes that part of the threat posed by the reactionary politics of Reform is its disregard for the reality of climate science and its campaigns to hold back progress towards Net Zero. We should ensure that this is built into our campaigns against them.



Now the bad news

What's wrong with **Composite 5**, moved by **Unite** and the **GMB**?

While this motion rightly calls for serious government investment at the core of a just transition and for that transition to be based on workers and communities, when it says that *Congress agrees that climate change poses a systemic risk to working class communities, but (our emphasis) at a time of rising geopolitical tension does not believe that we can abandon fossil fuels until we know how the jobs and communities from the North Sea fields will be protected* it is not consistent with climate science, counterposes workers in the North Sea to the rest of the working class and therefore puts all our futures at risk.

It also does not reflect that “*rising geopolitical tension*” is created, at least in part, by our own government and allies rearming at pace and rebuilding the military industrial complexes that have done such sterling work supporting war crimes in Gaza and the Saudi attack on Yemen, while explicitly preparing for a war with three to four nuclear armed powers - a truly suicidal course of action that our movement should be trying to restrain, not egg on.

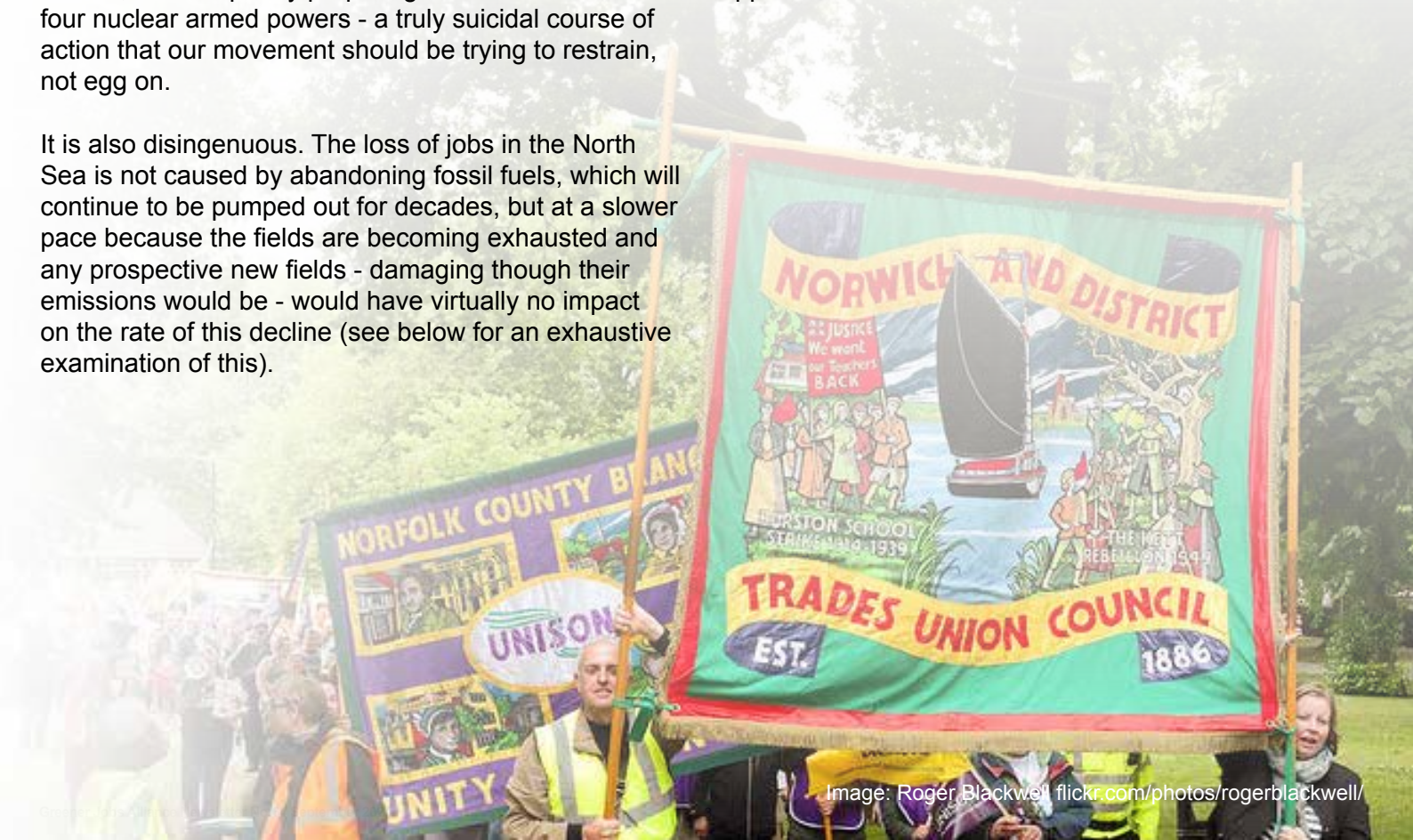
It is also disingenuous. The loss of jobs in the North Sea is not caused by abandoning fossil fuels, which will continue to be pumped out for decades, but at a slower pace because the fields are becoming exhausted and any prospective new fields - damaging though their emissions would be - would have virtually no impact on the rate of this decline (see below for an exhaustive examination of this).

It is precisely the expansion of offshore renewable energy that gives offshore workers the only prospect most of them have of continued work; and we should all be uniting to campaign for that.

Given that Ed Miliband will be meeting the unions in the sector every three months with exactly this agenda, putting that at the core of this motion would have been the best way to make sure of continued well unionised North Sea jobs and uniting the movement behind them.

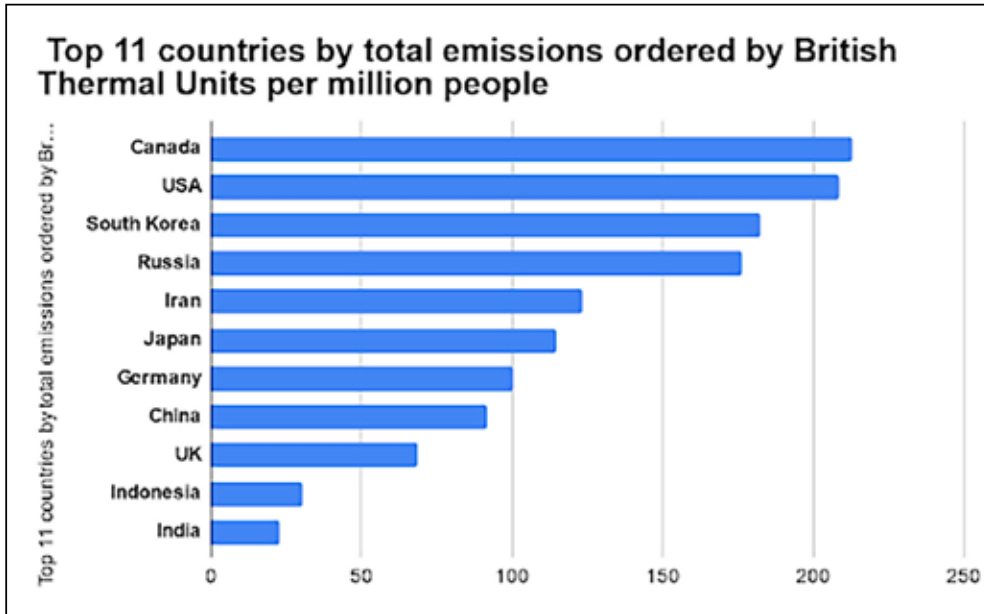
The ban on new oil and gas exploration is essential to reduce carbon emissions. It makes a marginal impact on a decline in jobs in this sector that is set to be very steep whatever happens.

So, the defence of jobs - that we all support in the climate movement- has to be about how quickly we can transfer workers from the dying sector to the growing one; as there are twice as many in prospect (70,000 by 2030 - see below) as there are threatened (30,000 according to this motion). We could all unite around that. We sadly cannot unite around the divisive and sectoral approach in this motion.



Hot Button Arguments

- “The UK is only responsible for 1% of global carbon emissions”. The implication of this is that anything done here is of marginal impact. In fact the UK is the 21st largest country by population but is the **12th biggest consumer of fossil fuels**. Of the top 12, the UK is the 9th largest emitter per capita, as can be seen here.



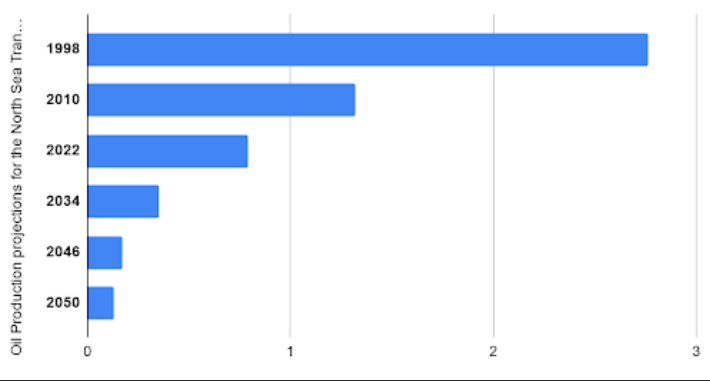
- “The UK has decarbonised faster than other countries”, the implication being that we can afford to have a break and slow down the pace of the transition. In fact, the current UK plan has been judged in Court to be too slow and unambitious to meet its targets twice in the last two years and the **Climate Change Committee has had to issue urgent guidance**, on how to upgrade them, which is being taken more seriously by this government than the last.
- “We need a domestic supply chain or we will be exporting jobs”. Just Transition is an international process, and workers abroad are not the enemy. We have to bear in mind that any successful domestic production of any component for any energy source also has export potential, and workers here could lose jobs if countries importing them also “prioritise domestic supply chains” - as the United States has done with the Inflation Reduction Act. Protectionism cuts both ways and, in the end, everyone loses. We should never forget that Protectionism in the 1930s was part of the build up to war.
- “We can’t let North Sea oil and gas workers be the miners of Net Zero”. Workers in the North Sea need, and can get, a just transition if we put one forward and fight for it. Jobs in the North Sea are not threatened by the energy transition but will be lost unless we get one (see What is happening in the North Sea below). In the 1980s, Thatcher’s aim was to cut costs and crush the unions. **Energy produced by coal in 1990 was no lower than it was in 1980**. After the strike coal was imported from Poland and Columbia to fill the hole in domestic production. The destruction of the Miner’s union and communities had NOTHING to do with energy transition. In the 1980’s hardly anyone outside of the fossil fuel companies had any inkling that climate change was happening. Coal’s proportion of energy generation only fell sharply when Heseltine made his “dash for gas” from 1991 - another fossil fuel.

What is happening in the North Sea?

“The North Sea’s shift away from oil and gas production is already underway, as the basin’s reserves decline. Over the past decade, the number of jobs supported by the oil and gas industry in the UK has halved, with some 227,000 jobs lost since 2013. This is despite the UK government issuing roughly 400 new drilling licenses over the same period and energy companies recording record breaking profits.”

From Platform

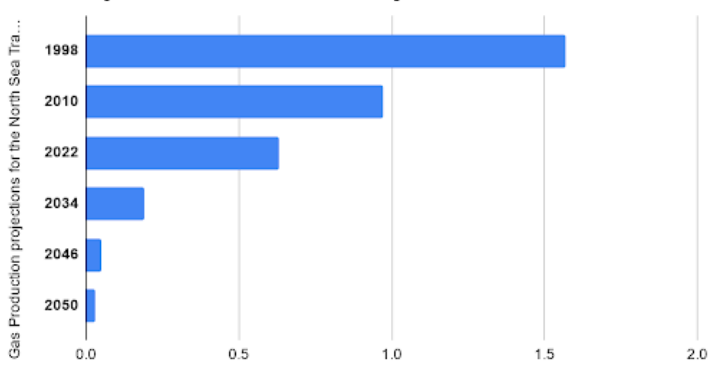
Oil Production projections for the North Sea Transition Authority 1998 -2050 in Mb/day



Current (2024) production is 0.65 million barrels a day. This is already less than a quarter of the 2.76 million barrels pumped in 1998. The projection for 2050 is that this will fall to 0.13 million barrels due to the exhaustion of the oil fields. Even with additional fields the projection is still down to 0.15 million barrels, a marginal difference.

It is the same story for gas.

Gas Production projections for the North Sea Transition Authority 1998 -2050 in MBOE/day



Current production is 0.52 million barrels of oil equivalent a day. This is already just under a third of the 1.57 MBoe a day pumped in 1998. This is projected to decline to 0.02 MBoe a day by 2050, or 0.04 MBoe a day if new fields were exploited.

This decline in production, and the loss of jobs that goes with it is not being driven by the development of the offshore renewables sector, and will happen regardless of whether there are any wind farms built or not. In fact, it is the offshore renewables sector that offers the only lifeline current oil and gas workers in the North Sea have any hope of.

So, overturning the ban would save virtually no jobs at enormous environmental cost, and is a diversion from the whole trade union and climate movement being able to campaign together with one voice for the Just Transition that North Sea workers so desperately need, and **so many of them say they want** (see box).

What do workers say?

Throughout our research, we've found that workers in "dirty" industries tend to support environmentally friendly policies once they're certain they can secure **alternative employment**. The findings of the survey support this, with 82% saying they would consider moving to a job outside of the oil and gas industry, and over half expressing an interest in renewables and offshore wind. One worker said that "moving into renewables is something to feel good about." **From The Conversation**

How many jobs are possible?

"A new report by the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) shows a significant increase in jobs in the offshore wind sector by 2030 – with forecast jobs exceeding 100,000 for the first time, and a dramatic surge of workers required over the next seven years. To manage the expected offshore wind project pipeline, the industry needs to be able to attract and retain an average of 10,000 people per year. The report features recommendations for achieving this and calls for an industry workforce strategy to be established, identifying that a new approach to recruitment and retention is vital to support the huge upcoming pipeline of work."

From Offshore Wind Industry Council

What is the government offering?

As we reported in our **last Newsletter**, Ed Miliband's team will be meeting the North Sea unions every three months. As we understand it, the first meeting took place at the end of July. This is the obvious forum to discuss how the transition in the North Sea, and elsewhere, can be made. The government has plans for an Office for Clean Energy Jobs, modelled on the Biden administration's Office of Jobs, in liaison with Skills England. Their commitment to an Industrial Strategy is, however, classic tripartism, aiming to bring together investors, businesses, and workers to secure investment and support jobs. In this process, it's up to us to put forward the demands we need to make the transition just, to take on the appalling employment practices of too many offshore renewable companies, building in union recognition, health and safety, secure terms and conditions - not the short term contracting now so common offshore in both renewable and fossil fuel sectors.

Mixed Picture on Electricity generation

In the **OECD**, total net electricity production in May was up by 3.7% compared to the same month last year.

This was led by strong generation from renewable sources (+6.6%), mainly driven by solar power, which surged by 19.7% and, to a lesser extent, by wind power (+5.8%). The share of renewable sources in the OECD electricity mix was 39.4%, one percent higher than in May 2023.

Electricity production from fossil sources marginally grew by 0.5% on a year-on-year level - with reduced electricity generation from fossils in OECD Europe (-11.4%) and Asia-Oceania (-5.5%) offset by a significant increase in the OECD Americas (+6.6%); mostly from increased reliance on natural gas-fired plants (+6.9%). Overall, fossil fuels provided 43.4% of total OECD electricity generation in May 2024, down by 1.4 percentage points compared to the same month last year. [From IEA](#)

Foul! Peaceful, disruptive climate protesters given harsher treatment by the courts than violent, racist and fascist thugs

In recent weeks we have seen a disparity between sentences on peaceful climate protesters as opposed to those on violent, racist and fascist thugs rioting around the UK.

Dale Vince, a green energy entrepreneur who has given millions of pounds to the Labour party, said in The Observer: *“There was a guy who got three years for punching a copper in the face. He was photographed throwing bricks. [Just Stop Oil co-founder] Roger Hallam took part in a zoom call to talk about blocking the M25 and he got five. I think that needs to be addressed really. The difference between the peaceful protests and the rioting is chalk and cheese. I think what we are seeing is two-tier sentencing.”*

The BBC has reported the average sentence handed down to rioters is currently between two and two and a half years, many for actual physical harm and violence against the authorities.

However, Daniel Shaw (38), Louise Lancaster (58), Lucia Whittaker De Abreu (35) and Cressida Gethin

(22) who were convicted over the same M25 disruption as Hallam were sentenced to four years jail each. The disruptive but peaceful protests saw 45 people climb up M25 gantries in 2022 and stopping traffic on one of the UKs busiest roads.

UN special rapporteur Michel Forst, who observed the trial on the five Just Stop Oil (JSO) activists, has described the four to five year sentences as *“not acceptable in a democracy”*.

The 2022 law being used against climate protesters is the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSCA) which was passed to limit the rising number of disruptive, peaceful climate protests. It allows for a sentence of up to 10 years for committing a public nuisance and under which Hallam and four other Just Stop Oil protesters were convicted last month.



Friends Of The Earth's lawyer Katie de Kauwe said: *"It's staggering that peaceful protesters driven by the need to protect us all from climate breakdown can be treated more harshly under criminal law than those engaged in racist, Islamophobic and anti-migrant violence, intimidation and destruction. What does this say about our democracy?"*

"The violence erupting across the country is not about protest, it is coordinated Islamophobic and racist attacks on some of our most marginalised communities. It's an utter travesty that people engaged in entirely peaceful protest are facing harsher penalties than those taking part in racially motivated violence."

"In terms of next steps we are looking at what support we can give to the JSO protestors and also continuing to monitor sentences."

Friends Of The Earth added: *"We will keep working to protect the freedom to protest, and continue monitoring this situation."*

And for climate protesters it's not just about jailing on conviction, in early August five Just Stop Oil supporters were remanded to prison. Noah Crane (19), Margaret Reid (53), Daniel Knorr (22), Ella Ward (21) and Indigo Rumbelow (30) are charged with conspiracy to intentionally or recklessly cause a public nuisance, in relation to airport actions that have taken place in recent weeks. The five supporters have all been remanded until at least their next appearance on September 10th. JSO reported the number of people imprisoned in the UK for demanding action to address the climate crisis was 26 when this story appeared.

JSO supporter Indigo Rumbelow said: *"The climate crisis threatens everything we know and love, yet our so-called leaders are continuing to make the problem worse, the courts are protecting fossil fuel profits and imprisoning those who stand-up to make change, whilst the media is still grappling to tell the truth. Many of my friends have been sent to prison, but we will not be deterred."*

And it's not just disruptive protests that are being pursued by the authorities. Climate campaigner Trudi Warner faced trial for holding a placard reminding jurors they have a right to come to a verdict according to their conscience outside a prosecution of Insulate Britain activists. The case against her was eventually dropped.

Whilst it is difficult to track all the riot/violence cases currently in progress, the harshest sentence found so far is that for David Wilkinson who was jailed for six years on conviction for violent disorder, racially aggravated criminal damage and attempted arson in Hull. His prison term stands out as much harsher than the average two years or so given to the majority convicted. Roger Hallam's five year sentence remains the highest climate protester sentence so far.

Mick Holder

Mindless Mantra of the Month

In response to the 10% hike in energy prices this winter, the media graced by a stunningly misleading statement by Claire Coutinho, showing that the Conservatives are still in a hole and still digging.

She said that *"cheap, non-renewable energy should be prioritised over carbon reduction targets to help struggling families this winter."* This is the truth turned upside down and inside out.

Perhaps Coutinho hasn't noticed that the increase in energy prices this winter is being caused by increases in the prices of oil and gas. These are *"non renewable"*, not cheap, and getting more expensive.

Certainly more expensive than renewable sources.

Renewable energy became cheaper than fossil fuels as long ago as 2020. Eco experts reports that *"the IEA reported that in 2023, an estimated 96% of newly installed, utility-scale solar PV and onshore wind capacity had lower generation costs than new coal and natural gas and three-quarters of these new wind and solar PV plants offered cheaper power than existing fossil fuel facilities."*

And renewables are becoming cheaper, while fossil fuels are becoming more expensive. Very profitable for that reason, however. Which is why Coutinho - formerly a senior fellow at fossil fuel funded right wing think tank **Policy Exchange** - wants to promote them.

So, doing what Countinho wants would *increase* bills, not reduce them and force *struggling families* to struggle even more. She either doesn't know this, and is just a fool, or she does, and is cynically carrying on the Great Conservative Johnsonian tradition of bare faced lying, in the hope that if she brasses it out with enough self confidence no one will point out that she is speaking gibberish. Ed

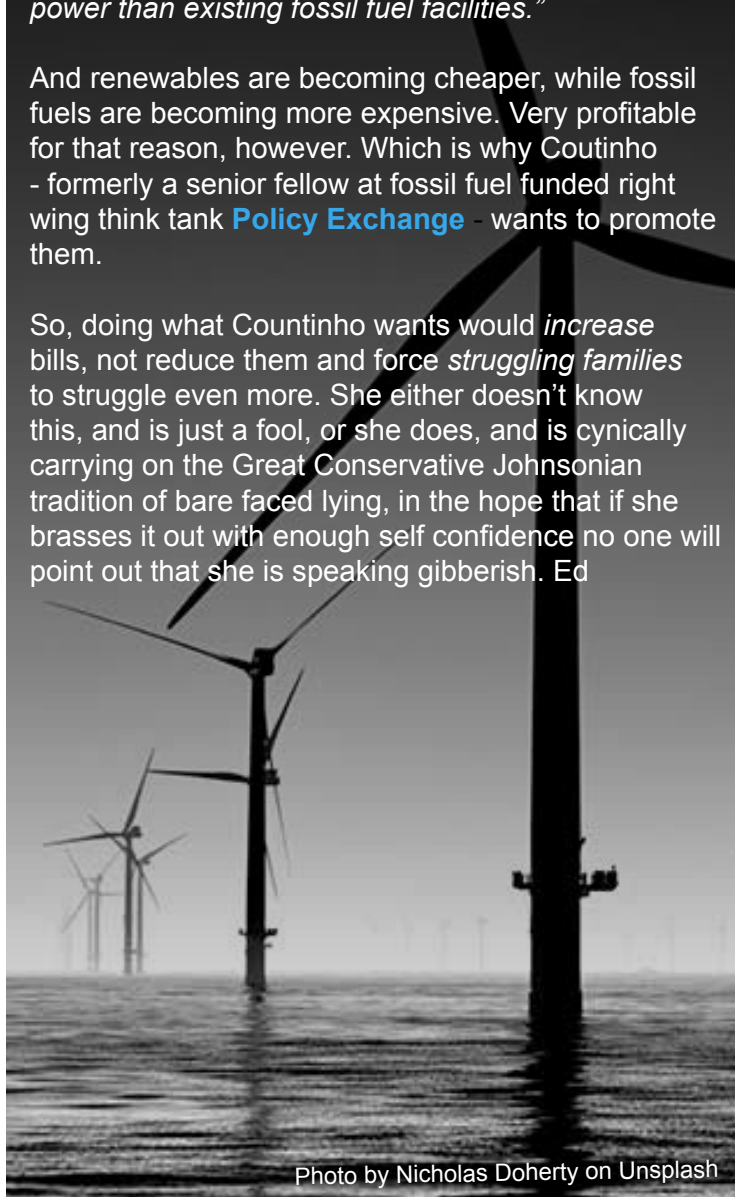


Photo by Nicholas Doherty on Unsplash

Indoor Air Pollution and Occupational Health

The Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) has published a Campaign Briefing Paper entitled ***We need to talk about Indoor Air Pollution and Occupational Health.***

The paper was launched on Friday 30 August at the Hazards Conference, Keele University.

Both the press release and flyer have a QR code to access the full briefing paper that contains 20 policy asks to ensure that the glaring gaps in legal protection and enforcement are addressed.

We call on the Government and other statutory authorities to act now to protect worker's health.

Visit the **TUCAN website** to access the full range of resources that include a **Worker's Guide to action on indoor workplace air pollution** and a Film **'All in a day's work'** (10 mins)

Contact email: mail@gmhazards.org.uk
Tel. Janet Newsham 077343 17158

We need to talk about air pollution

TUCAN

"The quality of food and water that people consume is highly regulated in many countries, and there is no need for individuals to check the quality, nor is it their responsibility. By contrast, the quality of indoor air, which most people breathe for more than 90% of their lives, is not subject to assessment" (Science Journal, July 2024)

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for ventilation & indoor air quality www.sciencemag.org/doi/10.1126/science.adp2241

The Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) is a coalition of trade unions, the Hazards Campaign and the Greener Jobs Alliance, set up to challenge this.

Air pollution has been in the news, but the focus has mainly been on outdoor air and public health.

To address this, we have:

1. Published a Worker's Guide to action on indoor workplace air pollution.
2. Distributed a film 'Air Pollution: All in a day's work' TUCAN.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/air-pollution/

This leaflet summarises our third project – a briefing paper aimed at politicians and others to campaign for change.

TUCAN has outlined 20 policy asks. Scan the QR code to access the paper.

Free Public Transport for London: Petition to the Mayor

Fare Free London has started a petition to Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, calling on him to consider the potential for free public transport in the city. Specifically, it asks him to set up a commission to *"outline opportunities that free public transport would provide"*, to *"investigate the barriers preventing free public transport"* and to *"design a pilot to test giving free public transport to people in London"*.

Please **sign the petition here**, and circulate it far and wide.

The plan is to deliver the petition to City Hall on Thursday 10 October, before the meeting of the Greater London Assembly that day.

FARE-FREE LONDON

Tell the Treasury: scrap damaging road schemes, invest in public transport – by 10 September

The **Transport Action Network** are asking us all to tell the government to scrap expensive new road schemes and put the money into public transport instead in a *"stakeholder consultation"*: just go to the **Treasury portal here**.

This closes on 10 September, so time is tight, but it only needs to take a few minutes.

TAN's suggestions of things to say include:

- Scrap damaging road schemes and invest in public transport instead.
- Investing in public transport will: improve productivity; safeguard jobs (e.g. rail and bus manufacturers); make our cities more competitive; increase opportunities for the many people without a car.
- The biggest road scheme under consideration right now is the £10 billion Lower Thames Crossing, which TAN calls *"the most expensive sticking plaster ever"* for traffic congestion.

There is more about the Lower Thames Crossing on the **TAN web site here** and in the **Ecologist here**.



Events

GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE FINANCE & A FOSSIL-FREE FUTURE

13-20 SEPTEMBER 2024

PAY UP & PHASE OUT!



13 SEPTEMBER
#EndFossilFuels Action

20 SEPTEMBER
#PayUp for Climate Finance Action

CALL TO ACTION: September 13 to 20

The coming months offer crucial opportunities for a radical transformation in our social, economic, and political systems. The Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels and the #PayUp Climate Finance Campaign are joining forces this September 13 to 20 to hold the Global Week of Action for Climate Finance and a Fossil-Free Future!

The Global Week of Action will include a series of on and offline mobilisations starting with the #EndFossilFuels Action on September 13 and concluding with the #PayUp for Climate Finance Action on September 20.

[Full details here.](#)

Clean Air Wins: Mobilising transport for the future on the 2 October

[More info and registration here](#)

Ashley Fairbanks, Creative Director of the **100% Minnesota** in the US, and Izzy Romilly Sustainable Transport Campaign Manager at **Possible** in the UK, will present their transport focused campaigns in Minnesota and London, both of which resulted in landmark policy wins for clean air in cities. They will exchange learnings around using Race and Class forward messaging to fight divisive culture war narratives in the battle for clean transport systems in Minnesota and for ULEZ expansion in London.

FARE FREE LONDON



Winning free public transport: public event, 29 September

Join us for a campaign meeting and find out how we can get free public transport in London!

Sunday 29 September 2024, 11.00am - 4.00pm,

Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, SE1 7AA.

Speakers from successful international campaigns for free public transport, including

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
- Ellie Harrison, Get Glasgow Moving, Scotland
- Drew Pearce, researcher of sustainable mobility and transport decarbonisation
- plus activists from Fare Free London, community and environmentalist groups and trade unions.

[Register here.](#)

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

Lunch and tea and coffee will be provided.

Get in touch with us at info@farefreelondon.org if you have any questions.

Courses

neon

Narrative Connections

A series of online aids for communicators and campaigners from the UK and beyond to talk about shared narrative challenges, wins and opportunities.



Building youth-led movements to demand reparations and climate justice on the 19 September (More info and registration here)

Anthony Torres Vidal from **Get Free** in the US - a movement mobilising young people for reparations - will be joined by **Green New Deal Rising's** Fatima Ibrahim to talk about similarities and differences in tactics to reach and move young people. They will discuss developing messaging for young people to use on digital platforms and on the doorstep to organise for reparations and climate justice.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: Bridging the gap between the climate movement and unions on the 25 September

[More info and registration here](#)

Lakshmi Thevasagayam from **Wir fahren zusammen** in Germany, a campaign that worked with unions and climate activists for better worker's rights for bus drivers, will speak to NEON's Head of Messaging, Dora Meade who is **leading the messaging work** with the TUC around a worker-led transition in the steel and automotive industry.

This conversation will cover developing messaging guides for workers and the climate movement, turning bus drivers and steel plant workers into effective spokespeople, mobilising climate activists to the picket line and the challenges and huge opportunities this collaboration brings.

FREE RESIDENTIAL COURSE

GREEN REPS AT WORK

How workers can shape the future

NORTHERN COLLEGE, BARNSELY

27-29 NOV IN PERSON, 9AM-1PM 6 DEC REMOTE

The transition to Net Zero will require fundamental shifts in our economy across every sector - UK Climate Change Committee

Join our new-look green rep training course to build the skills, knowledge, & confidence you need to secure your colleagues' futures in better, safer, fairer, & sustainable workplaces

Some unions have specific 'green' or 'environment' rep role, some don't. This course is for anyone in any sector, with whatever level of experience, who wants to help make net zero work for workers

Apply at forms.office.com/e/z9QVvy5fb9

TUC Yorkshire & the Humber

Please note that this course is available to everyone nationwide, but the organisers will need to favour Yorkshire, Humber, and North East applicants.

New Rules/possibilities



Photo: Hanjin/Wikimedia commons

Vertical Solar Building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV), the "newest frontier" in solar, are appearing on high rise buildings across the world. Although initially more expensive than plain glass balustrades on balconies, the power they supply over their 25 year lifespan will pay for this many times over. This turns what was previously a problem, the limited acreage for rooftop installation, into a massive opportunity in every town and city with high rise buildings. From **Energy Mix**.

Green Bites

Stats of the Month

2.7 billion tonnes	Of additional CO2 emissions if Trump is re-elected and implements "Project 2025", greenlights even more oil and gas drilling, scraps the Inflation Reduction Act, and dismantles the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US scientific agency and regulator. From Energy Innovation
3%	Of UK carbon emissions produced by the Drax Biomass plant in South Yorkshire. Drax made £500 million in profit in the first half of 2024, helped by £400 million in government subsidy and handed £300 million to shareholders.
17%	Decline in proportion of electricity in the EU generated by fossil fuels in the first half of this year; down to 27% of the total. Wind and Solar now generate 30% and Hydropower a further 24%. Nuclear is also slightly up. The downward trend is particularly marked in the use of coal (down by a quarter) with heavily dependent countries like Poland shifting sharply (down from 80% coal in 2019 to 57% so far this year). With 62 gigawatts of solar capacity and 16 gigawatts of wind capacity due to be installed in the EU this year, this trend should continue. From Canary Media
30 GW	Of wind power capacity is now installed in the UK, up from 5.4 GW in 2010. The target for 2030 is 50GW.
133	New renewables projects awarded in the latest CFD round announced on Sept 3rd, including 93 solar PV projects, the largest commercial-scale floating offshore wind farm project in the world (400MW) 4.9GW of Offshore wind, 28MW of tidal power projects, bringing the UK total for tidal stream power procured to over 100MW. In total this is 2.5 times the allocation in the last round in 2023. To meet the government's target of quadrupling offshore wind by 2030, this has to be doubled again and kept at that rate between now and then.
50,000	Excess deaths from heat in Europe in 2023. A rising trend. From Nature/medicine .
83%	Cut in the number of permits for coal plants in China in the first half of 2024. The only way is down.
150 million	journeys taken by people under 22 using the Scottish Free Bus Pass scheme since 2022. The Scottish government is now axing green transport schemes to fill holes in day to day expenditure in a classic piece of short term false economy.
\$5.5 billion	Of public money to be allocated to bail out the Sizewell nuclear power station, on top of the £2 billion already allocated, to fill the gap left by cutting out a Chinese nuclear power company. The question posed by this is how much this will cut into funding available for renewable investment that will be quicker, cleaner and faster to come on stream.

Quote of the Month

"The destruction of Palestine and the destruction of the Earth play out in broad daylight. There is a surfeit of documentation of both. Knowledge of the two processes and how they unfold in real time is superabundant: we know everything we need to know about the catastrophes, and yet the capitalist core keeps rushing fuel to the fireplaces and bombs to Gaza."

From a devastating Verso Blog Post by Andreas Malm, [The Destruction of Palestine Is the Destruction of the Earth](#) that can be read in full [here](#). Ed.

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.

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