

**STOP TOMMY  
ROBINSON  
STOP THE  
FAR RIGHT**  
UNITE AGAINST RACISM,  
ISLAMOPHOBIA & ANTISEMITISM  
**SAT 26 OCT**  
CENTRAL LONDON LOCATION TBC

NATIONAL  
DEMO



## England til we fry? All out on October 26

After the racist riots this summer, the far right is once more rallying in central London on October 26th. Alongside xenophobia and militarism, opposition to “Net Zero” is core to their stance.

Funding from oil stained US **dark money** from the Middle East Forum, the Koch brothers, the Gatestone Institute and the David Horowitz Freedom Centre has kept “Tommy Robinson” wealthy afloat for years now.

Farage is Trump’s agent in the UK and stands for the same climate denial as Project 2025. This programme for a second Trump term from the Heritage Foundation - **which can be read here**, helpfully alphabetised by Progressive International - not only trashes Federal Funding for future proofing their economy, it removes any regulation or research and sets the US on course to become a complete rogue state on climate.

While a Trump win is now less probable than it seemed earlier in the Summer, even if he is defeated, “drill baby drill” is a mainstream consensus. The US is now the world’s leading petro state and Biden has approved 20% more new oil and gas licences than Trump did between 2016 and 2020.

Farage has said that Trump wants a “realignment” on the Right in the UK; which will definitely be on the basis of digging in on fossil fuels and sabotaging any transition to sustainability.

This is already on the way, as the front runners for leadership of the Conservative rump - Badenoch and Jenrick - both making it clear that they want to dump “Net Zero”.

In this context, when Keir Starmer, instead of having a grown up debate about the difficulties of decarbonising sectors like cement and glass, and engaging seriously with scientists who point out that CCUS and Blue Hydrogen are more part of the problem than they are the solution (see letter below) allows a light minded young staffer with aspirations to be a Murdoch journalist to write in his name that “I will not sacrifice Great British Industry to the drum banging, finger wagging Net Zero extremists” - he is using the Right’s language and negative framing and thereby

### Contents

- Editorial: England ‘til we fry? All out for Oct 26
- A Just Transition as the UK’s last coal power station closes
- Carbon captured? The problem with CCUS and Blue Hydrogen
- Green Hydrogen Breakthroughs
- A just energy transition for the good of health
- Draft Motion – A worker-led transition
- Party Conferences: Greens - Labour
- International boost for free public transport campaign
- Fare Britannia call from Greenpeace
- Benefits of LTNs
- New Rules: Hague Advertising ban, ICC Ecocide, UK High Court bans new coal mine, Nationalised NEOS
- Events: How Green is your workplace? - Ending the Fossil Fuel Era - TUC: How to win worker led just transitions - COP Day of Action
- Green Bites

undermining his own government's drive for renewable energy and perversely helping build a reactionary consensus against what the public wants.

Because the overwhelming TUC vote for a motion that climate change is a trade union issue and we need a fast move away from fossil fuels not only reflects majority opinion in the country, with 74% wanting more serious action, it is a call for mobilisation across the movement to prevent any backsliding from the government and for the unions to link up with the broader climate movement in a Year of Climate Action in all our communities and workplaces.

So, not only should we turn out in big numbers as trade unionists on October 26th because we are against racism, we should also be there under our climate campaign banners and engaging with the antiracist movement to make this link and build for the social transformation we need.

*Paul Atkin Ed*

## In the next newsletter

The next Newsletter will carry an item on the way forward after the TUC, and building the Year of Action; as activists from the unions, which actively supported the UNISON/PCS composite, are now meeting regularly to get this underway.

# A Just Transition as the UK's last coal power station closes

**This is a historic moment. It is also a story about unions and an employer working together to ensure no worker is left behind.**

GMB, Prospect and Unite worked closely with Uniper to plan and manage the impact of the site closure on the 154 workers on site. A GMB lead rep described how this meant that a *“stressful process and time in people's lives is transitioned smoothly, achieving a positive outcome whenever possible.”*

This is in stark contrast to the simultaneous and devastating end to coal use in the Port Talbot steelworks.

Since 2015, union reps at Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station were aware of the inevitable fate of their plant, and the need for a proper transition plan to support the 154 strong workforce through the site's closure.

In 2020, representatives from the recognised unions (GMB, Prospect & Unite the Union) set about planning and negotiating for a solid transition plan for the entire workforce. By this point, the three unions had prior experience of negotiating and ensuring a smooth transition for the workers at EDF's Cottam coal power plant, followed by West Burton A.

The three unions brought similar proposals to Uniper. Uniper Executives were receptive and engaged collaboratively with unions, recognising that what benefited the worker also benefited the company.

The recognised unions and the Uniper Executive team put a successful plan in place. This meant there was a coordinated process to identify new jobs for workers to move across into, backed up by funding and support for workers to reskill, retrain and find new high-quality jobs, whilst also ensuring the plant was able to continuously produce electricity.

*Now read on at this [TUC Blog](#) which goes into detail on how the plan was negotiated, what its outcomes have been, and key issues in wider implementation, including the need for a long term transition plan for all carbon heavy industries with full union involvement of the sort that we have not seen for steel and has not yet been set up for the North Sea.*  
*Ed*





# Carbon Captured?

## The problem with CCUS and Blue Hydrogen

**Labour inherited plans from the previous government for £20 billion funding for carbon capture projects over the next two decades. Under these plans, some of our energy would be supplied by gas burning with carbon capture and storage, and also from 'blue' hydrogen, made by splitting methane and capturing CO<sub>2</sub>.**

Scientists have long warned that these technologies are unproven, and that they risk locking us into continued emissions for decades rather than being genuinely zero carbon. Some leading climate scientists have written to Ed Miliband, [calling for a policy rethink](#). However Labour have just [announced](#) that they intend to press ahead.

One of the biggest problems is that gas extraction and processing results in leaks of [methane](#) - a powerful short-term greenhouse gas, estimated to be responsible for around 30% of current warming. A global stocktake has just revealed that emissions of methane have been [soaring dangerously](#) in recent years.

Maintaining UK gas supply for these projects would depend on increasing imports of liquefied gas shipped from the US and other countries. Most natural gas production in the United States is fracked shale gas, with energy intensive extraction and high methane emissions.

It's not just upstream methane emissions that are under scrutiny. Carbon capture in power generation has a long history of failure and underperformance, while problems have also been experienced with undersea storage. We are calling on the government to pause these

investments, to review the latest evidence on the climate impacts and to consider the risks involved before committing massive public funding.

We need to move away from dependence on fossil fuels. The kind of investment the government is talking about could create many more jobs, at decent pay, if used for a workforce to insulate homes, install heat pumps, improve public transport, and invest in renewable energy - all proven solutions to cut emissions.

Please write to your MP and ask them to call on Ed Miliband, the Secretary of State to pause and rethink before committing funding to these projects based on fossil gas and carbon capture.

From [Action Network](#)

*The GJA signed this letter. Ed*

[Find out more about the issues here](#)

[Full text of scientists' letter to Ed Miliband here](#)

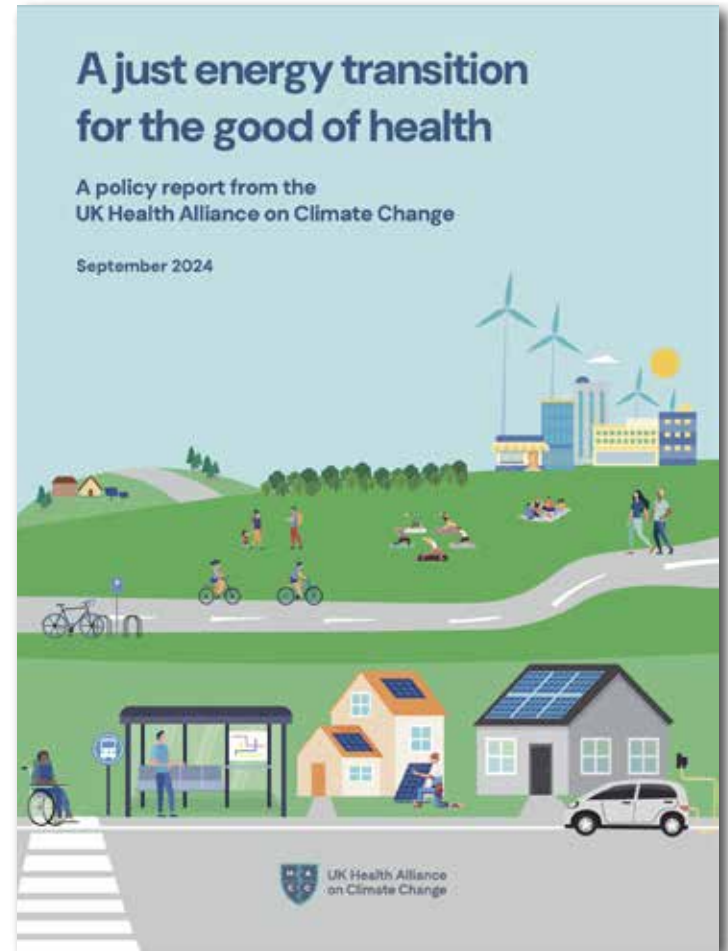
# Green Hydrogen Breakthroughs

Green Hydrogen, which is produced from water by renewable energy, can address many of the issues of hard to decarbonise sectors like glass and cement, which the government is arguing require Blue Hydrogen and CCUS.

Three companies have been awarded a share of £500,000 from the [Net Zero Technology Centre's \(NZTC\) 2024 Electrolyser funding competition](#) to accelerate the development of their technology. This aims to scale up the Scottish supply chain and establish an export market.

- Clyde Hydrogen Systems has developed a decoupled electrolysis technology. Hydrogen and oxygen are produced separately at different times and rates, enhancing safety and reducing costs. This produces high pressure hydrogen without mechanical compression and is compatible with intermittent renewable energy sources and can safely produce gas streams at very low power inputs.
- Aqsorption Ltd's high pressure membraneless electrolyser technology is designed to be more efficient and operate at higher pressures than other technologies, with reduced maintenance costs. This reduces reliance on expensive rare earth minerals. The system efficiency will be boosted even further by recapturing kinetic energy from the high-pressure oxygen output.
- Latent Drive's SeaStack technology is a direct seawater-to-hydrogen electrolyser with a specific cell design to exploit the properties of seawater, eliminating the need for desalination and purification of the feed water; which allows hydrogen production offshore with close coupling to the energy supply at wind farms. This will capture more wind energy at a lower cost – reducing the cost of the Green Hydrogen and the burden of maintenance in severe environments at floating offshore wind platforms, port installations for refuelling working vessels or port infrastructure.

## A just energy transition for the good of health



The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change has published an evidence-based policy report on: [A just energy transition for the good of health](#).

The report was produced in collaboration with the *Faculty of Public Health, Planetary Health Report Card, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Psychiatrists, and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons*.

The report outlines the devastating health consequences of the UK's current dependency on fossil fuels, which are the main driver of climate change and air pollution, and are destructive to the natural environment on which all life depends.

It puts forward six recommendations for the governments of the UK to deliver a cleaner energy system and a better, fairer and healthier society:

1. **End UK dependency on oil and gas.** End government subsidies, investments, new licences and consent for fossil fuel exploration, extraction and sales; redirect funds to renewable energy sources and technologies; and implement policies to achieve a just transition.
2. **Revise and strengthen the 2050 net zero strategy.** Deliver a revised, strengthened net-zero strategy with robust policies to achieve significant emissions reductions across all sectors of the economy, ensuring a credible plan is published to decarbonise the energy system and encourage uptake of green energy retrofit government schemes.
3. **Invest in people to meet the demand for green jobs** Establish clear public targets for green skills creation, with a particular focus on those regions and groups most at risk of job loss and support the industry to develop green skills through investments and incentives for training and apprenticeships.
4. **Improve infrastructure and access for active travel and clean transport** Implement targets to reduce motorised road traffic in line with net zero targets and upscale investment in high-quality infrastructure to enable and promote walking, wheeling, cycling, and public and shared community transport use
5. **Enable a low-carbon, climate-resilient health service** Provide sufficient capital investment and funding to decarbonise NHS infrastructure, estates, and services, accelerate the transition to electrification of the NHS fleet, and deliver public transport and active travel routes to NHS sites for staff, patients and visitors combined with actions to deliver resiliency in health and care services.
6. **Demonstrate leadership by delivering domestically and meeting international obligations** Demonstrate global leadership by delivering ambition domestically through accelerated action to phase out fossil fuels, increasing investment, development and use of renewable energy, and stepping up to meet international financial commitments to pay for the UK's global contribution to the climate crisis

[Download the report here.](#) Please feel free to share it further and get in touch if you have any queries.

**Anandita.pattnaik**

# Draft Motion – A worker-led transition

*This motion is going to the UCU National Climate Conference on 15 Nov, please consider putting it to your union branch too. Ed*

In July, 2024 workers at the GKN automotive engineering plant in Florence, Italy passed an incredible three years in permanent assembly – by some way the longest factory occupation in Italian history.

That would be historic enough in itself – but what started out as a standard industrial dispute to save jobs has transformed into a visionary rank and file worker led movement for just transition, with a reindustrialisation plan to move from producing parts for luxury cars, to solar panels and cargo bikes. All under workers control, and for the benefit of the community, not for profit. The Lucas Aerospace alternative plan offered an alternative industrial strategy. The GKN struggle has taken this forward and offers a real opportunity to take a workers-led transition to the next level.

We note that the TUC 2024 Congress passed a motion calling for ‘a year of green trade union activity including engagement with community and climate justice groups.’ This should include holding assemblies in all sectors and workplaces to begin planning just transitions from below, with an action plan to implement them.

This branch calls on the UCU to:

- Send a message of support to the ex-GKN workers at [collettivo.gkn.firenze@gmail.com](mailto:collettivo.gkn.firenze@gmail.com)
- Share & show the **Reel News videos** about the GKN occupation at meetings
- Buy shares in the popular share issue at [insorgiamo.org/100x10-000/](http://insorgiamo.org/100x10-000/)
- Campaign for the TUC and Trades Union Councils to support the occupation by adopting the measures above.



# International boost for free public transport campaign

**Public transport has been made free, successfully, in dozens of cities around the world, campaigners heard at a public event organised by Fare Free London on 29 September.**

Daniel Santini of the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, speaking on a video link, explained how 116 Brazilian cities, with an aggregate population of 5.6 million, had introduced free buses and trams.

There has been “*accelerated evolution*” of the schemes in the last five years, in response to a dangerous setback to public systems caused by a sharp increase in the number of motor vehicles and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Brazil is the world leader in free public transport: its 116 cities compare to 69 in the US, 64 in Poland and 43 in France, Santini said.

In France, in addition to those 43 authorities with fully free fares, there are dozens more locations that offer extensive discounts, Jerome Serodio of the National Coordination of Collectives for Free Public Transport told the gathering.

Revenue from fares only comprises a small part of total income for French public transport systems – 14% according to a study made in 2015. Abolishing fares is “*a political choice*”, Serodio pointed out.

The powerful blow that free public transport can strike for social equality was graphically described by Mallige of Karnataka Janashakthi (Karnataka People’s Power), in southern India, who also spoke by video link.

In June 2023 the state authorities introduced free public transport for women. The scheme has proved phenomenally popular, with 2 billion rides in the first 11 months. The

average bus is now 90% full, up from 70%.

Misogynists and the upper middle class have expressed bitter opposition to the scheme, Mallige said. Right-wing politicians accused the state government of using it to “*appease*” the Dalit community (working class people branded as “*untouchable*” for centuries) and other minorities such as Muslims and Christians.

Ellie Harrison of Get Glasgow Moving added a Scottish dimension to the discussion. The group has been actively campaigning for free public transport for several years, and in 2022 won free bus passes for the under-22s in the city. The council has also secured funding for a pilot free public transport scheme.

The Fare Free London gathering, at the Waterloo Action Centre, also heard from researchers who explained the case for abolishing fares in detail.

Lisa Hopkinson of Transport for Quality of Life pointed out that millions of older and disabled people already have free bus travel across the UK. This could and should be extended.

Funding could be shifted by taxing environmental “*bads*”, e.g. by reallocating spending on roads projects, introducing road user charging, taxing aviation fuel and a higher tax on private jets.

Drew Pearce, a sustainable mobility researcher, explained the results of a research paper that he co-authored, published in Nature, that analysed London’s transport sector decarbonisation policies. Replacing petrol and diesel with electric vehicles would not be enough to comply with global climate commitments, he said; car usage has to drop “*hard and fast*” too.

Free public transport would help

to achieve public acceptance for climate policies, but this “*carrot*” would need to be combined with “*stick*” policies to discourage unnecessary car journeys.

The event heard from activists working to win support for free public transport, including in trade unions. Daniel Randall, a train driver on the London Underground, reported that the RMT’s London transport regional council, which represents 15,000 staff employed by Transport for London and its subsidiaries, had declared support for Fare Free London.

*“The demand for free public transport is an extension, a radical extension, but a logical one, of my union’s long standing demand for the public subsidy [to TfL] to be restored”, he said.*

John Moloney, deputy general secretary of the PCS civil service union, reminded the event that his union, and Unite, already had existing policy favouring free public transport, that could form the basis for building the new campaign.

Tahir Latif of the Greener Jobs Alliance urged people to target next year’s union national conferences, to ensure support at national level.

**Simon Pirani, Fare Free London**

*Fare Free London was set up in February with support from the **Greener Jobs Alliance, Tipping Point, the Stop the Silvertown Tunnel coalition and others.** We ask trade unionists to pass motions supporting the principle of free public transport and supporting our campaign.*

Resources and campaign materials at [farefreelondon.org](http://farefreelondon.org). Contact [info@farefreelondon.org](mailto:info@farefreelondon.org).

# Benefits of LTNs

A study analysing six years of data from Enfield, Kingston and Waltham Forest, as well as a control group in other outer areas, by Westminster University has found the following.

- A shift from private vehicle use towards healthier, more active modes of travel — specifically cycling and walking.
- Health economic benefits can exceed the costs involved in setting them up 100 times over. *The public health benefit equates to £4,800 per person over 20 years, compared to a cost of just £28–35 per person for low-traffic neighbourhoods implemented in 2020, or £112 for higher-cost versions with additional features, like greening and crossing improvements.*
- Each year, low-traffic schemes prevent 37 deaths and over half a million sick days, per the study, which was based on surveys in the low-traffic boroughs of Enfield, Kingston and Waltham Forest.

The most effective set-up, the research suggests, is a combination of low-traffic neighbourhoods and proximity to main road cycle tracks, which lead to substantially increased walking and cycling, and reductions in car ownership and/or use.

The official study of low-traffic neighbourhoods, commissioned by UK prime minister Rishi Sunak hoping for negative findings that would help them push back against low-traffic neighbourhoods, found that twice as many locals support the schemes as oppose them.

Other positive effects of different techniques around the world to reduce car use, from Low Emission Zones here to cutting Minimum Parking Requirement regulations in North America [can be read here](#).



Image [www.flickr.com/photos/jackfield/50579500182/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jackfield/50579500182/)



If every driver in Britain switched one return car journey to train, it would save the same CO<sub>2</sub> as switching off half of the UK's street lighting for a year\*

Small switch big difference 

## Fare Britannia call from Greenpeace

A flat £49 a month Climate Card on the models already in operation in Austria, Hungary, Germany, France and Portugal is projected to increase rail use by 28%, as well as saving travellers significant sums. **Greenpeace are proposing** a regional trial for the North of England within two to three years, with a national roll out built on the lessons learned.

**From National Rail and the Campaign for Better Transport.**

## New Rules

**The Hague** bans fossil fuel advertising. The ban will come into effect on January 1, 2025 and applies to advertising for fossil products and services such as air holidays, cruise holidays, petrol cars and gas suppliers.

Ecocide is now under consideration by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to formally become the fifth international crime after genocide, crimes against humanity, **war crimes** and the crime of aggression.

On Sept 13 the **High Court** ruled that approval for a new coal mine in Whitehaven, West Cumbria was unlawful because greenhouse gas emissions from burning the coal should've been considered before it was green-lit.

The UK now has set up a **National Energy System Operator** to "sit at the heart of the energy industry ensuring that a holistic, whole system approach is taken in delivering decarbonisation across energy, heating, transport and beyond in order to delivery net zero" according to Fintan Slye, NESO Chief Executive. Having a nationalised structure is needed to do this. A wider application of this principle might be useful.

# Party Conferences

## Labour Party Conference



**Labour Party Conference 2024 took place in the wake of the General Election and in a week that saw Britain battered by floods whilst mainland Europe was in the wake of even more extreme weather. It has been the hottest year on record with extreme weather events claiming lives and livelihoods across the globe. Disappointingly, Keir Starmer gave the existential threat of climate change only a passing mention in his first leader's speech as Prime Minister.**

Ed Miliband's announcement to ensure landlords upgrade poorly-insulated rental properties will help those in cold drafty homes and cut carbon emissions. While Friends of the Earth welcomed this, they pointed out that with 10 million poorly insulated homes across the country, this alone won't fix the cold homes crisis. They cited the triple whammy of health, economic and environmental harms caused by heat-leaking homes will likely cost £6bn a year on average over the next ten years to make them fit for the future.

FOE also responded to the Environment Secretary, Steve Reed's plans to funnel private investment into our vastly outdated water infrastructure, pointing out these proposals are still subject to confirmation from Ofwat because they will be tied to the regulator's decision in December on how much water bills should rise. FOE are also calling for a new Environmental Rights Act so that communities could hold polluters to account and defend their areas in court.

Rachel Reeves' speech as Chancellor of the Exchequer was interrupted with protests about arms sales to Israel. Her response was to say the party 'represents working people not a party of protest'. Protest rights are still facing restrictions with Labour planning to overturn the court ruling that deemed Suella Braverman's serious disruption redefinition as unlawful. Richard Hermer QC spoke at fringe meetings about the primacy of the rule of law. It is important for the Home Secretary and Chancellor to hear this message. It is concerning that we have seen heavy prison sentencing brought down upon environmental protestors, at times with longer sentencing than those involved in the violent far right riots.

Off conference floor, the fringe saw a large number of meetings on environmental issues including net zero and climate change. This was not just due to civic society, but also industry lobbying a government that has made some strides against fossil fuel interests. The hydrogen industry had a large presence so we can expect there to be many interests lobbying the

government. This month's carbon capture storage funding announcement saw Keir Starmer thanking BP and Equinor for being present, **and an inadequate answer to the press questioning of how effective this technology is.**

The eruption of the far right was referenced in many fringes and given their targeting of environmental causes it's important to both deal with the racism that energises them and bring allyship from the environmental movement to all those targeted by fascism.

Whilst there is a prevailing narrative in the media and within Labour about chasing Conservative and Reform voters, this brings with it often reactionary policies on immigration, protest and increasingly, climate change. An illuminating session by Labour List cut across this, highlighting **research by Savanta** which shows that a quarter of Labour's core vote would consider voting Green and Lib Dems already. They are perceived to be more representative of these voters on progressive issues including climate change. Labour losing votes to the Greens and Lib Dems could see a scenario where Tories who took second place in the general election came first. This would be a lose-lose scenario for those voters who want to be represented by more progressive policies including on climate change.

As was said in the fringe meeting, Labour has more to gain from moving left than it does right.

***Our Correspondent in Liverpool***



# Green Party Conference 2024



**At its conference in 2023 the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) announced the aim of getting four MPs elected in the next general election. This aim was applauded, but some were not entirely convinced. However, the GPEW strategy electoral worked, and this seems to be the result of electorally oriented change within the party, a process which for some is still incomplete.**

So, as well as some triumphalism about electoral success, there was at the GPEW's 2024 conference an agenda of reorganisation being pushed forward and almost the first two days were occupied with wrangling over such internal matters and procedures. This squeezed several policy motions off the conference agenda, which consisted of over 40 motions. GPEW members can vote in a prioritisation ballot to favour certain motions, but there are ways to override this so only about 22 motions were taken and not all of these were debated. A sad omission was a motion to restore winter fuel allowance to all pensioners.

But eventually, probably much to the relief of the many new members who have recently joined GPEW, there was debate on policy and motions were voted on.

For me some of the highpoints were

- a motion on 'Zane's Law' concerning toxic waste disposal and the danger to human life that it poses.
- opposition to Freeports amended to insist on trade union representation for workers in them.
- a call for Solidarity with Women in Afghanistan.
- a motion to Stop Gatwick and Luton Expansion airport expansion

However, some of the tensions between concerns with environmental protection and a desire to reduce carbon emissions by improving transport infrastructure emerged in the conference's final session when support for HS2 was narrowly passed after heated debate.

The conference ended with a motion expressing solidarity with Palestine recognising that apartheid and genocide were appropriate terms to describe what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank. The fact that

this motion passed and that this was the result of a sophisticated and well organised campaign working within GPEW rules, may be an indication that there are politically significant changes happening within the membership of GPEW.

The conference also saw the start of a new grouping entitled Green Organise which attracted large numbers to its inaugural meeting. It seems clear from this that there is an appetite for a more explicitly left emphasis in GPEW's policies, statements and campaigning. At this time Green Organise still needs to work out questions about its organisational relationship to GPEW and to the wider left, but it could have a significant part to play in Green and Left politics.

***Peter Murry is a member of GPEW and of Green Left, an ecosocialist tendency within GPEW. This article represents his personal views only.***

# Events

## HOW GREEN IS YOUR WORKPLACE?

**OUR PLANET IS IN TROUBLE!**  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
**THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER**  
**7-10PM**  
**FREE ENTRY** REFRESHMENTS **FREE ENTRY**  
ALL AGES WELCOME

SHORT FILM: 'COP 26 - ORGANISING FOR A FAIR HOSPITALITY CITY'  
MUSIC: FRIENDS FROM SEGE THE DAY

SPEAKERS FROM  
GREEN JOBS ALLIANCE,  
GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADES UNIONS,  
LOCAL WORKPLACES & COLLEGES

THE ENGINE ROOM  
52 HIGH STREET  
BRIDGWATER TA6 3BL

SCAN ME  
  
LIVESTREAM

 **green jobs**

 **BRIDGWATER TRADES UNION COUNCIL**  
FOUNDED 1913

Organised by Bridgwater Trades Unions Council

## End fossil fuels




With COP29 on the horizon, the Climate Justice Coalition is convening groups from across the climate movement to organise mobilisations, events and actions to pressure the UK government to end our reliance on fossil fuels.

Find out how to join and support our demand, organise an action for the **Global Day of Action for Climate Justice on 16 November**.

## ENDING THE FOSSIL FUEL ERA

How to win a just transition

**WHEN:** 7PM, Thursday 31 October  
**WHERE:** NEU, Hamilton House, London WC1H 9BD  
**SPEAKERS:**  
Mitzi Jonelle Tan Filipina climate justice activist  
Irene Vélez Torres Colombian Consul General  
Izzie McIntosh Global Justice Now  
Jenny Cooper NEU National Executive  
**Chair:** Michelle Singleton UNISON

 **Global Justice Now**  **#Stop Rosebank**  **FOSSIL FREE LONDON** 



Book your place [www.globaljustice.org.uk/mitzi-london](http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/mitzi-london)

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY is stealing our future and making record profits while they're doing it. It's time to stop them.

Activists and governments from some of the most climate vulnerable countries are spearheading the demand for a Fossil Fuel Treaty: a global exit plan to end the era of oil, coal and gas. This is a fight for the future and for the transition to clean energy that leaves no worker, community or country behind.


*Organised by Global Justice Now, with the National Education Union, Stop Rosebank and Fossil Free London*

## How to Win Worker-led Just Transitions

12-2PM TUE 5 NOV | UNISON, 175 ARUNDEL GATE, SHEFFIELD, S1 2LQ

In this workshop, **Ste Smith** and **John Romagnoli** (TUC) will explore how to support workers to devise & implement alternative plans & strategies in workplaces under pressure to cut fossil fuel use

**Worker-led plans** are about offering hope that the story of 'net zero' will not be about job losses & left-behind communities, but better, sustainable jobs in workplaces that value their workers

Part of **Leveraging Green**, a new series of organising workshops for union officers & senior reps 

# Green Bites

## Stats of the Month

74%

Support for net zero among the UK electorate after the General Election in July, up from 69% in April. This is the highest level during the last two years. Support was even up from 59% of 2019 Tory voters in April to 76% of those who voted Conservative in July. [From Carbon Barometer.](#)

<20%

Of UK electricity generated by fossil fuels over the summer this year. This follows a [16% reduction in fossil fuel generation](#) and a 10% rise in renewable generation during the first 5 months of the year compared with the same period in 2023 - which was itself the lowest year for fossil fuel generation since 1957. On the way out and therefore fighting all the harder.

Two  
Thirds

How much electricity generation from fossil fuels had fallen in the UK by 2023 since peaking in 2008; with coal down 97% and gas by 45%.

Renewable energy is up six-fold since 2008. Electricity demand has declined by 21% in the same period.

Fossil fuels made up just 33% of UK electricity supplies in 2023 – their lowest ever share – of which gas was 31%, coal just over 1% and oil just below 1%. [From Carbon Brief](#)

£1,342

Annual savings on fuel bills for a new three bedroom house constructed with the full range of solar panels, heat pumps, and battery storage in new homes at the point of construction according to a [report from MCS](#). Missing out any one of these technologies will result in unnecessarily higher energy bills and carbon emissions. It should be a no brainer for the government to require this as standard. Will it?

30

The number of green energy projects in Africa announced at the [Forum on China-Africa Cooperation \(FOCAC\)](#) in Beijing in September, albeit in the context of an overall lower level of funding. This move underscores a growing emphasis on renewable energy and reflects China's strategy to create new markets for its renewable technologies, such as solar panels and electric vehicles.

£1.8  
billion

Invested in 188 oil, gas, and coal assets – producing 93 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year - by Marshall Wallace, the hedge fund owned by Sir Paul Marshall, the new owner of The Spectator which, as it is edited by Fraser Nelson and is about to be edited by Michael Gove, might be considered to be oily enough already. [From Desmog](#)

10

The number of [children killed or seriously injured](#) on UK roads every week, most of them by cars. Ten more reasons every week to invest in public transport and promote active travel.

20  
Euros

The price for a [monthly rail pass for all train services](#) just introduced in Portugal. We want parity! Centre Right PM Luís Montenegro said: *"This is an investment in people, it is an investment in the environment, it is an investment in the future."*

**\$230  
billion**

Invested in **EV development in China** between 2009 and 2023. In 2023, more than half of all electric vehicles sold worldwide were made by Chinese firms, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Much of that was driven by domestic consumption – of all new EVs sold globally in December, 69% were in China, according to the research firm Rystad Energy.

**18%**

Growth in global renewable energy jobs from 13.7 million in 2022 to 16.2 million in 2023, according to the newly released **Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2024** by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). This reflects the strong growth of renewables generating capacities, together with a continued expansion of equipment manufacturing.

China leads with an estimated 7.4 million renewable energy jobs, or 46% of the global total. The EU followed suit with 1.8 million, Brazil with 1.56 million, and the United States and India, each with close to 1 million jobs.

## 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.

## Quote of the Month

*“The bottom line is, we’re in a terrible corner now. That’s what all those pictures of floating cars really means. We don’t have room left to make tradeoffs and deals; physics isn’t in a bargaining mood. Every battle is dishearteningly existential now.”*

## Follow us on social media



Subscribe  
to the GJA  
Newsletter  
**HERE**

