



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

## The threat of Trump's Presidency - and what we need to do about it

**Don't mourn, organise. Joe Hill**

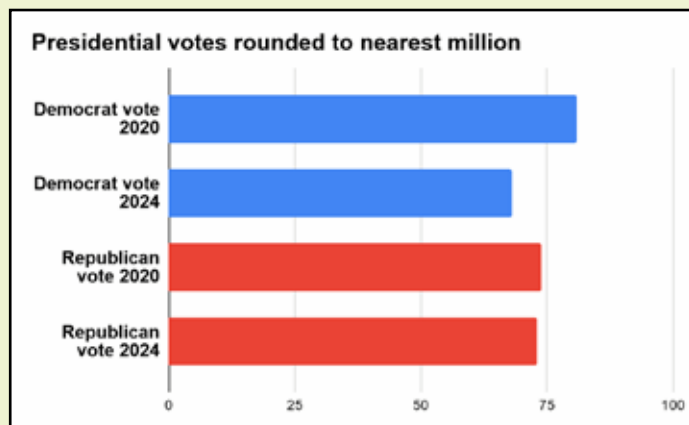
The re-election of Donald Trump should dispel any illusion that the world can reach sustainability under US leadership.

There was a time that Trump was seen as an aberration. He can now be more accurately characterised as the angry face of US decline, no longer easily dominating the world, nor able to sustain living standards at home at the same time as it increases its military expenditure and pursues wars abroad.

But Trump's popular support should not be exaggerated. This was not a Trump surge, but a Democrat slump.

With very few votes left to be counted

- Trump is down nearly a million votes on 2020 (from 74.2 to 73.4)
- Harris is down 12 million on Biden's 2020 result (from 81 million to 69 million), after running a rightist campaign in which climate was played down to invisibility.



The economy, particularly inflation, was the core factor in the U.S. vote— with real wages lower now than when Biden was elected.

The paradox for Trump is that the country's continuing dependence on fossil fuels has been and will be a big part of that problem; especially if war is pursued.

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When the US inflation rate hit 9.1% in June, 2022, the Roosevelt Institute **attributed** one-third of the increase to fossil fuel prices.

The US had already become the world's leading petrostate, with the Biden administration approving 20% more oil and gas exploration licences than Trump had managed in his first term; and, if Trump scraps the transition to sustainable energy, the US will lock itself into an outmoded technology.

With Trump back in the White House and Project 2025 unleashed, we can expect four years of turmoil, both domestically and internationally, as all restraints are removed from the US's fossil fuels and feral billionaires, the Paris process is attacked, the world economy is "decoupled" and resources are turned even more towards war preparation.

As **Progressive International** argue, The current world order *"built by US power after the Second World War ... is driving humanity off the edge of a cliff. From climate collapse to proxy violence, gaping global inequality to genocide, it cannot answer the needs of the majority of the world's people."*

Or those of its own.

This will do enormous damage to the world's chances of averting climate breakdown, but will, through its sheer

volatility and the increased threat it poses, accelerate the pace and scale of global resistance to it. As Climate Analytics CEO and former IPCC author Bill Hare argues *"If Trump follows through with his threat to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the biggest loser will be the United States. We have been there before—the U.S. withdrawal in the first Trump presidency did not cause the Agreement to collapse, as some pundits predicted."*

The Brazil COP next year will need to be repurposed as a mobilisation of an international coalition of the willing. The UK should be part of that and be prepared to break with the US over it. The Transatlantic cringe built into the "special relationship" has got to go.

This Newsletter includes substantial sections on the fossil fuel financed climate denial of the Right here, which will now get US government backing, the environmental costs of war and preparing for it - both of which will be even more salient for the climate movement now.

We also have an introduction to the TUC Worker Led Transition Team, who have a huge job on their hands.

*Come and see us! The GJA will be on 16 November Climate Justice demo with our banner. If you are a regular reader of this Newsletter please come and join us on the day (details on page 15).*

*Paul Atkin Ed*

A large crowd of people is gathered for a climate protest. In the foreground, a purple banner with white text reads "Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. 16 November." Below the banner, a sign says "1 ONE 1 ONE 1 EARTH ACT-NOW". The crowd is diverse, with many people wearing masks and winter clothing. The background shows a city street with buildings and more protesters.

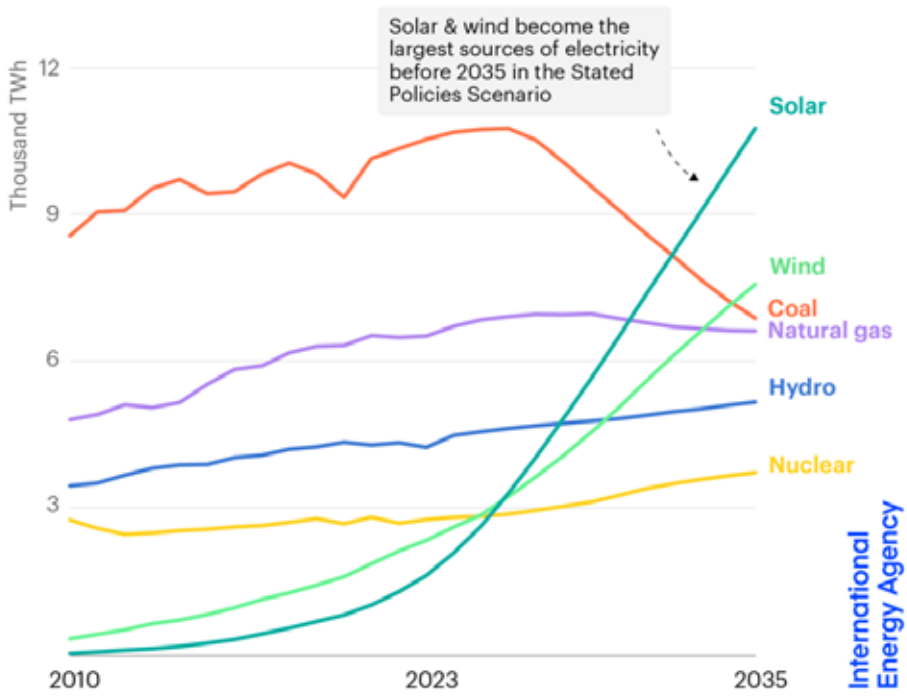
# Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. 16 November.

# International Energy Agency

## World Energy Outlook

### Under today's policy settings, both solar PV & wind surpass coal as the largest sources of electricity before 2035

World electricity generation in the Stated Policies Scenario, 2010-2035



Graph from IEA

This is a slightly edited version of the IEA press release with additional comments in italics.

The new IEA [World Energy Outlook](#) Report stresses that geopolitical tensions and fragmentation are creating major risks both for energy security and for global action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

*In other words, progress on mitigating climate breakdown is increasingly vulnerable to trade wars and actual wars, as we are currently seeing, which makes campaigning to avert them a crucial task for the climate movement.*

- On today's policy settings, the world will enter a **new energy market context in the coming years**, marked by continued geopolitical hazards but also by abundant supply of multiple fuels and technologies.
- This includes a bigger supply **of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG)** during the second half of the 2020s – and stronger manufacturing capacity for key clean energy technologies, notably solar PV and batteries. This could **put downward pressure on energy prices**, depending on how geopolitical tensions evolve.

*In other words, if the drive towards war can be halted, we get cheaper, more sustainable fuel. The authors do not note that a more ample supply of LNG from fracking is bad news, because it has a carbon footprint 33% worse than coal. Cheaper oil makes it superficially easier to sell, but also less profitable and, if this becomes structural, starts the process of unravelling, as the more marginal/expensive fields become uneconomic to develop or sustain production. Ed*

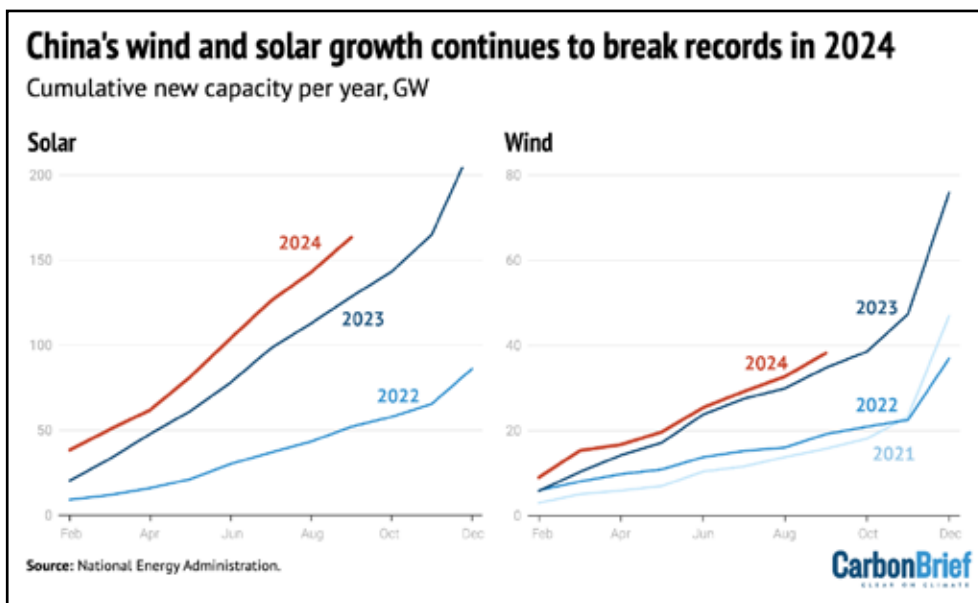
- The contours of a **new, more electrified energy system** are coming into focus as global electricity demand soars. Electricity use has grown at twice the pace of overall energy demand over the last decade. Two-thirds of the electricity demand increase over this period has come from China's rapid development towards becoming a high income country. This will **accelerate further**, adding the equivalent of Japan's current demand to global electricity use each year in a scenario based on today's policy settings – and rising even more quickly in scenarios that meet national and global goals for achieving net zero emissions.
- This requires **greater investment in new energy systems**, especially in electricity grids and energy storage. Today, for every dollar spent on renewable power, only 60 cents are spent on **grids and storage**. Secure decarbonisation of the power sector requires investment in grids and storage to increase even more quickly than clean electricity generation, and the investment ratio to rebalance to 1:1. Many power systems are currently vulnerable to an increase in extreme weather events, putting a premium on efforts to bolster their resilience.

- Despite growing momentum behind clean energy transitions, the world is still a **long way from a trajectory aligned with its net zero goals**.
- In the developing world especially, **high financing costs and project risks** are limiting the spread of cost-competitive clean energy technologies to where they are needed most and can deliver the biggest returns for sustainable development and emissions reductions.
- Meanwhile, **lack of access to energy** remains the most fundamental inequity in today's energy system. There are 750 million people – predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa – without access to electricity and over 2 billion without clean cooking fuels.

You can read the [full report here](#).

In their [Energy Technology Perspective Report](#), they further note that

- Based on today's policy settings, the global market for the top six mass-manufactured clean energy technologies (solar PV, wind turbines, electric cars, batteries, electrolysers and heat pumps) is set to rise from \$700 billion in 2023 to more than \$2 trillion by 2035 – close to the value of the world's crude oil market in recent years.
- Global trade in these clean technologies is also expected to more than triple in the same period, to reach \$575 billion, more than 50% larger than the global trade in natural gas today.



- China is set to remain the world's clean energy manufacturing powerhouse for the foreseeable future. Under today's policy settings, its exports of top clean technologies are on track to exceed \$340 billion in 2035, roughly equivalent to the projected oil export revenue this year of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates combined.



## Equinor and Total head for the lifeboats as BP and Shell go down with the ship

News that BP and Shell have shed any attempt to transition their business away from its fossil fuel core, shoring up short term profitability against long term survival (for them as well as us) contrasts with moves by TotalEnergies to diversify into metals production and Equinor taking a large "counter cyclical" investment into renewable energy company Orsted because "They can see oil demand and the oil market **in trend decline** and they are trying to de-risk that world" according to [Tom Price, resources analyst at Panmure Liberum](#).



Photo by Christian Lue on Unsplash.

# Fossil Fuel Funds Finance the Far-Right



Part of the Climate Bloc on the Stand Up to Racism demonstration against Tommy Robinson and the Far Right on Oct 26. Photo: Graham Petersen.

Across the globe, fossil fuel industries, joined by fellow travellers, finance governments to influence their agendas; right-wing administrations to shunt them further rightwards, significant politicians who accept lucrative consultancy and advisory positions, Far Right governments, MPs, senators, and Presidents both in situ and in-waiting. Not content with merely shaping Political Elections; they now sculpt entire political landscapes.

£5bn Shell profits in the first quarter of 2023 alone shows how fossil fuel industry far right financing is very well spent. Funded far right think tanks and climate sceptical groups spread climate disinformation, depress opposition, draft anti-climate protest legislation, file unfounded lawsuits to silence critics and deny climate change. All to protect profits by disabling democracy. Every effort is made to push societies closer to *“the post truth policies that allow authoritarianism to thrive.”*

Connections between Fossil fuels, Palestine, the far right and recent riots, are made by [Counterfire here](#); exposing a troubling intersection between climate denial, fossil-fuel interests, and far-right extremism.

Reform and its hard right satellites, recipients of fossil fuel cash, squash climate protest at the same time as creating mayhem on Britain’s streets. **Desmog notes** that Reform’s National Organiser Noel Matthews, used



The speech at the demonstration by Friends of the Earth CEO Jamie Peters can be [viewed here](#).

to post favourably about Tommy Robinson on X.

Fossil fuel cash shifts the right further rightwards, directly enriching the 2019-24 Conservative government by £2.35m. Together oil and *“gas interests, highly polluting industries and individuals who have expressed or supported climate science denial”*, **donated £8.4m** - 80 times more polluting cash than the Liberal Democrats (£132,000), and 160 times more than Labour, (£41,600).

Alaskan Pantheon Resources handed over £548,500, Michael Farmer possessing multiple fossil fuel interests, £317,000, Amjed Bseisu, North Sea Oil Licence awardee, EnQuest’s CEO, £75,900; Motor Fuel Group

Chair Alasdair Locke, £280,000. Amit Lohia, Harbourne, owner of AML, a global aviation fuel producer, handed over the largest prize: £1.6m!

Look how that turned out – rather successfully given the rightward lurch taken by the Party in recent years, its obliging dilution of the 2050 net zero target and gifting of new oil and gas licences ‘to max out’ North Sea fields. Dark Oil dollars cross the Atlantic to finance far-right Climate climate dis-information. Open Democracy gave the lie to UK Global Warming Policy Foundation’s (GWPF) claims to receive no energy-related funding, uncovering more than \$500,000 from a USA fund linked to fossil fuel’s Koch Brothers. Tax data revealed, entangled within a dark money web - , \$30m coal, oil and gas shares, owned by just one donor.

GWPF’s US wing receives donations from the likes of Sarah Scaife’s foundation. Sarah, libertarian inheritor of an oil and banking fortune, holds \$30m shares in energy companies like Exxon and Chevron. But around four-fifths of GWPF’s donations get forwarded to the UK mothership to finance climate dis-information dissemination, warning people will be colder and poorer in a Net Zero future.

G.B. News, far right media megaphone, funded by Legatum Dubai-based investment fund employs both Farage and Tice, heads of Reform

Fossil fuels industries and friends, provide prominent right of centre politicians with lucrative consultancy or advisory positions. Far right Gulf states, synonymous with oil money, pushed fossil fuels at COP28 hiring the now Lord Hammond and Lord Maude, and former Prime Minister Tony Blair ... as ‘consultants’. Fossil fuels ‘soft finance’, pushes “*the revolving door between parliamentarians and fossil fuel industry jobs, placements, internships and sabbaticals*” (5) as [Caroline Lucas put it.](#)

The former Green Party MP noted “*a direct link between fossil fuel money and MPs. When Environment Secretary, Theresa Villiers held £70K’s worth of Shell shares, Nadhim Zahawi’s business advisory service banked cash from oil company client’s, shareholdings in an oil and gas exploration and production company, and the £1 million worth of donations he received from fossil fuel companies,*” Energy Minister Sir John Hayes kept his second job for BB Energy, trader in vast amounts of oil. [Was the Conservative Party the political wing of the fossil fuel industry?](#)

[Fossil-fuel funded far-right think-tanks helped shape Conservative government agendas.](#) Truss, Patel and Kwartang are considered alumni for IEA initiatives. Policy Exchange drafted severe anti-protest legislation which condemned Big Oil protestors to sentences severe enough to incur UN opprobrium.

Farage believes that [Reform is capable of winning the next General Election.](#) The 2nd largest UK recipient of dark money, which represents £2m or 90% of its capital, much from Mordaunt and Hoskings.

Dismantling fossil fuels dismantles the far right. Without fossil fuel finance Farage would have had to run his campaign on just 8% of his budget!

*Dr Frankie Ann Ashton, uk2zero Convenor, Labour International CLP Policy and Campaigns Officer*

GMB are not standing up against Net Zero, we are making sure it delivers for the same working people whose interests [@TiceRichard](#) regularly votes against.

*Andy Prendergast of the GMB telling Reform where to get off.*



# Emergency?

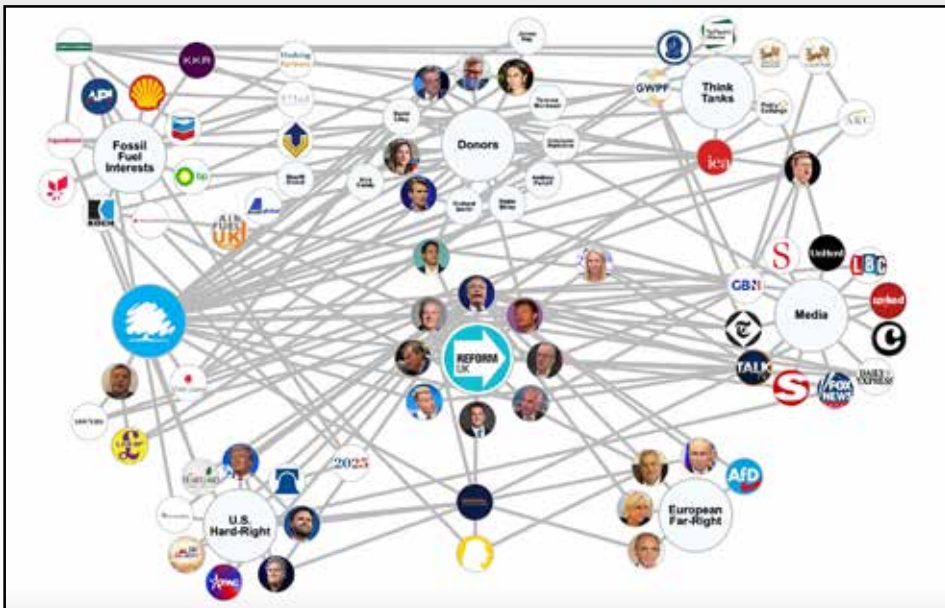
## What Emergency?

The impact of climate denial can be seen in this month's flash floods in Valencia, which killed over 200 people after a year's worth of rain in eight hours. The regional government, which is a coalition of the right wing People's Party and the Far Right Vox, had made budget cuts to emergency agencies last year leading to job losses and reduced capacity, waited to give the red alert until too late, giving people just 20 minutes to get safe and employers asked people to go to work, making them vulnerable in their workplaces or going to and from them.

- The local resident who said *"Just after 8pm, after an hour with water up to my neck and swallowing mud, the alarm went off"* has given us a metaphor for how the Right treats climate breakdown. They will wait until it's too late to respond.
- And the other who said *"There's no government presence or anything like that...everything that is being done is being done by the local community, like clearing the road or moving cars"* is revealing a manifestation of what John Bellamy Foster calls the **environmental proletariat** in a mass mobilisation described by the Guardian like this *"Amid the damage, destruction and mourning, however, there is also a potent sense of solidarity. Almost everyone in Utiel between the ages of 5 and 90 seems to be wielding a broom; and tractors, diggers, mini diggers and farm vehicles beetle through the still flooded streets offering help to anyone in need"*.

The key task, and not just locally, is learning from events like this, vote out climate deniers who haven't caught up with history, and transform our state structures so they can organise to predict and avert disasters, not just clear up after them.

It is apparent that when enraged people throw insults and clods of earth at their visiting head of state, that climate breakdown driven flooding does not simply wash away piles of cars, it also washes away the legitimacy of regimes. There is a warning in that for anyone who is listening.



The spider web of right wing climate denial. From [Desmog, exploration here](#)

## Tax the Rich - Petition from 350.org

We call on the UK Government to back national and global wealth taxes on the mega-rich and for permanent, increased taxes on polluting fossil fuel corporations. This will generate billions of pounds that should pay for the transition to affordable, renewable energy at home, and in the countries that are least responsible for the climate crisis as well as funding vital services like the NHS and eradicating poverty in our wider communities.

[Sign here](#)

***"The climate justice movement must be a decolonial, anti-capitalist, anti-fascist movement that fights against genocide as well as ecocide, that demands liberation and justice for all, and a system that puts people and planet over profit."***

**Greta Thunberg**



Photo by Aslihan Altin on Unsplash

# Military conflict and the environment

Every day we see the devastating humanitarian and environmental impact of military conflict in the news media. The world is far from peaceful. 2023 saw the **highest number of state-based conflicts since 1946** and non-state conflicts are also increasing.

Last month Islington Environment Forum held an online meeting with Doug Wier, Director of the Conflict and Environment Observatory ([www.ceobs.org](http://www.ceobs.org)).

CEOBS monitors the environmental risks and impacts of armed conflicts and advises on policy development. It provides assessments of the carbon footprint of military conflicts to raise public attention and inform national and international bodies like the UN environment programme. CEOBS aims to build legal accountability and responsibility for environmental cleanup and remediation and to change the behaviour of states and belligerents. It also seeks to strengthen norms around the conduct of war and resist the normalisation of environmental warfare.

The environmental impacts of war include pollution from damaged infrastructure such as burning oil facilities, toxic or explosive munitions left behind after conflict, the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure and human displacement - refugee movement and encampments put pressure on resources such as timber and water.

The Vietnam War was a turning point in the use of mechanised weaponry against the environment in which a foe was located. The US military sprayed defoliants across the country resulting in contamination that still affects Vietnamese communities today. Napalm and the ploughing of jungles were also deployed. Agriculture was targeted to undermine the Viet Cong.

Environmental targeting is becoming normalised. In the 1991 Gulf War, oil infrastructure was targeted to devastating effect. Currently the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station is embroiled in the Ukraine conflict, constituting a dangerous breach of norms around nuclear safety. In Gaza, agriculture and civilian infrastructure including water supply and sanitation is deliberately being targeted.

Since Vietnam, the environment has come to be seen as a civilian object, accorded protection and incorporated into international humanitarian law under the Geneva Convention. The Red Cross has developed guidelines for militaries which have been taken up by the UN's International Law Commission. United Nation bodies, including the Security Council, have focused attention and concern on environmental impacts of conflicts.

This is positive progress, but conflicts are often complex involving many actors, making it hard to identify responsibility for environmental damage which itself may be difficult to quantify. In addition to these technical / legal problems is the presence of resistance and inertia.

Nuclear weapon states including the UK and the US object to **Protocol 1 of the Geneva Conventions**. The protocol prohibits means of warfare which cause widespread damage to the natural environment, which nuclear weapons will inevitably do.

Military emissions were left out of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and exempted in the 2016 Paris Agreement. The provision of data on military emissions is voluntary along with any commitment to reducing them. Most countries refuse to report emissions. It is estimated that the **total military carbon footprint** amounts to approximately 5.5% of global emissions. If the world's militaries were a country, they would have the fourth largest national carbon footprint in the world.

Finally, it is increasingly common for belligerent states to ignore UN resolutions and international law when engaging in military operations as we see in the current conflict in Western Asia and Ukraine.

New sophisticated technologies enable CEOBS to gather ever more accurate data to monitor the impacts of military conflicts. This can inform legal, and policy initiatives to reduce environmental harm and raise public awareness. It is a slow but important journey towards building accountability and reducing the environmental damage and human suffering that result from war.

*Martin Franklin is a member of the Islington Environment Forum steering group.*

To access a recording of the meeting contact [islingtonenvironmentforum@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonenvironmentforum@gmail.com)



# Environmental vandalism

**A Palestinian farmer standing amid olive trees that were cut off by settlers as the harvest season began, Qusra village (Nablus). Between 1 and 17 October, Israeli settlers injured 44 Palestinians and sawed off, burnt or otherwise vandalised about 600 mainly olive trees and saplings in about 15 communities across the West Bank. Photo courtesy of the community.**

## From the UN

For decades, the Palestinian olive harvest has been marred by violence. Settlers have long burnt entire olive groves to the ground, blocked Palestinians from accessing their land, cut off water access and attacked farmers. In 2023, at least 96,000 dunums of olive-cultivated lands across the Occupied West Bank were left unharvested due to this repression. This year, amidst Israel's genocidal attacks in the Gaza Strip, this brutality has intensified.

*From Progressive International*



# A Lucas Plan for the Twenty First Century: From Asset Manager Arsenal to Green Industrial Strategy

Drawing on twenty one interviews with workers and trade unionists in the military industry, [Common Wealth's latest report](#) explores the potential of converting productive capacity in the military sector towards green manufacturing.

## Key findings

- Between 1980 and 2022, employment in the military industry fell by more than half, from 405,000 to 164,000 employees.
- At least four of the UK's naval shipyards — on the Forth, Lagan, Tyne and Mersey — already make products for the offshore wind sector.
- Almost all of the 21 workers and trade unionists interviewed for this report were open to their sites expanding into green production and saw it as feasible on technological grounds. However, their visions for this transition were diverse and ranged from a partial diversification away from military products to a more comprehensive process of industrial conversion.
- There are close adjacencies between the skills contained within the UK's naval shipbuilding sector and those needed to build products for offshore wind, including welding, fabrication and engineering.
- One naval shipyard's experience of collaboration with private offshore wind developers indicated that the public procurement and development of green energy and transport would be necessary to provide clear and sustained demand for transition sites while they invest and innovate to repurpose production.

## UK unprepared for future energy shocks

The [Energy Crisis Commission](#), which includes representatives from Energy UK, Citizens Advice and the Confederation of British Industry, has noted that future spikes in fossil fuel prices would hit the UK as hard as the 2022 one did because it depends so much on gas for heating, cooking and electricity generation.

To avert this they propose a faster transition to renewable energy, faster investment in insulating homes and a firm establishment of new build energy efficiency standards (not cutting regulation, please note).



Photo by Nicholas Doherty on Unsplash

# Meet the TUC

## Worker Led Transition (WLT) Team

We are a new team within the TUC, with 5 of us taking up our roles over the last few months to join Anna and Mika, who set up the team. Our new team has significantly expanded a project that's been running for the past couple of years, to support unions in high carbon manufacturing sectors to futureproof jobs through advocating for investment in decarbonisation. Our focus sectors include steel, cement, glass, automotive, chemicals, offshore supply chains and ceramics, industries which there can and should be a future for in the UK. We want to make sure that decarbonisation does not mean deindustrialisation, and that the vital jobs in these industries remain in the UK and aren't lost to countries that are currently better prepared for decarbonisation or have lower environmental and labour standards.

We aim to support the futureproofing of jobs within these sectors by working on the ground with affiliated unions in manufacturing, to assist reps and members to take pre-emptive action and advocate for, develop and negotiate future proofing plans (i.e. aiming to facilitate modern Lucas Workers' Plans). We also work directly with government to advocate for job protection, creation, and quality to be at the centre of industrial and decarbonisation policy, feeding through what we are learning from workers' experiences.

Our project partners the New Economy Organisers Network (NEON) lead on movement building around the project, building connections between the worker movement and the climate movement at the national and local level to strengthen unity and campaigning impact as one joined up movement. They also provide media spokesperson training for reps and officers, aiming to strengthen access of workers' voices into mainstream media.



Where the money is.... Unions and climate campaigns at the Treasury in October demanding £1.5 billion a year for a just transition in the North Sea. Photo Graham Petersen

**Our TUC team consists of four Project Officers (each leading on specific sectors), a Policy Officer and two Senior Policy Officers:**



**John Storey:**

John is responsible for chemicals and glass. He previously worked in the chemical industry and was a senior Unite representative. John has also worked for several trade unions in the food, construction and energy sectors  
[JStorey@tuc.org.uk](mailto:JStorey@tuc.org.uk)



**Ali Poncia:**

Ali is our industrial decarbonisation policy officer, responsible for advocating for policy that supports the transition of high carbon industry whilst safeguarding jobs.  
[APoncia@tuc.org.uk](mailto:APoncia@tuc.org.uk)

**John Romagnoli:**

John is responsible for automotive and ceramics. He formerly worked in the automotive industry, and was a Unite senior rep. He also worked as a Unite officer.  
[JRomagnoli@tuc.org.uk](mailto:JRomagnoli@tuc.org.uk)



**Craig Stewart:**

Craig is responsible for offshore supply chains and petrochemicals. He previously worked in the petrochemical industry and was a senior Unite representative.  
[CStewart@TUC.org.uk](mailto:CStewart@TUC.org.uk)

**Anna Markova and Mika Minio**

(job-share) are the TUC Senior Policy Officers who set up the team, and who's remit covers Industry and Climate, therefore having responsibility beyond the worker led transitions project (e.g. including energy).  
[AMarkovaMMinio@tuc.org.uk](mailto:AMarkovaMMinio@tuc.org.uk)



**Stephen Smith:**

Stephen is responsible for steel and cement. He previously worked in the printing industry, and was a Unite convenor at his plant, and has also worked for the TUC on Education and Training  
[SSmith@TUC.org.uk](mailto:SSmith@TUC.org.uk)

**Our team believes that good quality, low carbon, future proofed manufacturing jobs are within reach. However this will only be possible if manufacturing workers' voices are at the centre of shaping the future of the industry.**

**If you would like to find out more about our project, or have ideas for collaboration, please do get in touch with any of us!**

***In solidarity, The Worker Led Transitions team***

**TUC** Changing the world  
of work for good



*NEU President Phil Clarke speaking at the Teach the Future Parliamentary Reception  
Photo Jenny Cooper.*

## How the climate crisis is impacting conditions in schools

In the TUC's Schools Fit for the Future report, they estimate that school buildings overheat up to 40% of the time.

The climate crisis has increased the frequency and extremity of both searing and plummeting temperatures, which schools and colleges are having to deal with more frequently.

Flooding also poses a risk, something again becoming more frequent during the climate crisis.

The NEU have worked with other unions to issue a Joint Union Protocol advising on short term actions, but longer-term, more radical action is required to make buildings equipped to handle the encroaching climate crisis, to make buildings better insulated and more energy efficient.

Why more support and funding is needed to retrofit buildings so they are safe and able to reach Net-Zero The TUC and the NEU have both issued guidance on retrofitting – which is urgently needed by schools across the UK.

This could make schools more energy efficient, slashing carbon emissions and energy bills – as well as providing a learning opportunity for pupils to take part in.

What's more, it would provide the chance to make the desperately needed repairs for schools to be safe learning environments.

TUC estimates state that a 10 year retrofit programme of UK schools would support 42,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The scale of the retrofit project would need significant investment, which would reap longer term cost savings. Based on the costs demonstrated by the Public Sector

Decarbonisation Scheme so far, The TUC estimates that improvements at the required scale for schools will cost at least £13.5 billion.

Meaningful, adequate investment from government is urgently needed to meet the challenges facing school buildings at present.

***An extract from NEU President Phil Clarke's speech to the Teach the Future Parliamentary Reception on 8 October.***

### Fixing RAAC schools and future proofing them at the same time

There is an unmissable opportunity to combine efforts to retrofit schools for safety with efforts to meet the UK's decarbonisation goals. A net-zero retrofit programme initiated by the government would bring countless benefits to students and teachers – making buildings safer, helping schools to reduce their carbon emissions, increasing attainment rates, and reducing energy bills.

**Research from Teach the Future** and Let's Go Zero demonstrates that the costs of retrofitting for RAAC and retrofitting for net zero are not additive. Retrofitting for both at the same time is the most cost-effective way to overcome the issues currently plaguing school buildings. From a longer article by Lord Jim Knight that can be [read here](#).



# STOP BURNING TREES

COALITION AGAINST WOOD BURNING BIOMASS

## The future of Yorkshire and the Humber beyond Drax

The Stop Burning Trees Coalition has launched **BEYOND DRAX: A REAL GREEN FUTURE FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER!**

In collaboration with **Green House Economics** this report looks at the green jobs needed to decarbonise Yorkshire and the Humber, without relying on false solutions or prioritising shareholders profits!

The report finds there's a minimum of 70,000+ jobs needed to start properly decarbonising - just in Yorkshire and the Humber! Looking at sectors from renewable energy, to buildings and heat, to food and farming we get into the real green jobs needed.

We need to go Beyond Drax, to a Real Green Future that prioritises people and the planet.

[Read the report here.](#)

## New Rules

- The **EU** is sticking to its 3035 date to end all sales of new fossil fuel vehicles despite push back from manufacturers. **50% of new car sales** are projected to be EVs by 2030. This is already the case in China **according to Reuters**.
- In the **UK** older wind farms approaching their end of life will now be able to bid for contracts to enable 'repowering' projects to extend their lifespan from next year. From **Business Green**
- Energy ministers have tasked the newly established **National Energy System Operator** with creating a strategic spatial plan that maps where net-zero infrastructure such as renewables generation and storage should be located across the UK
- Six towns and cities have been selected to develop England's first **clean heat network zones**. The Energy Department (DESNZ) said these urban areas will roll out technology that recycles excess heat from sources like data centres or factories to warm several buildings at once. The schemes will be set up in Leeds, Plymouth, Bristol, Stockport, Sheffield and two areas of London - Old Oak and Park Royal.
- The **Bank of England** now once again has to reinstate climate change as one of the bank's key priorities, putting it on an equal footing with issues such as improving growth and boosting home ownership: reversing Jeremy Hunt's perverse decision to downgrade the significance of climate change for the Bank last year. *A pity not to pose it as the framework within which other decisions are taken. Ed.*

## Transport for Quality of Life

TQL have **published a new briefing** on how public transport and active travel can be funded, while fares are reduced or abolished. Please read and share.

## Battery backup is already working

On October 8, Norway's power exports to the UK through the **North Sea Link** suddenly dropped from 1.4 gigawatts to zero, causing a sharp dip in the UK grid's frequency and threatening widespread disruptions. Within two minutes, battery energy storage systems (BESS) responded to stabilise the grid and avert the crisis, **reports** Solar Power Portal.

# Events

## Energy Campaigns Strategy Day: 9 November

Are you campaigning for a better energy system for people and the climate? Would you like to link up with activists in other areas and on other issues and find out how your campaigning can support each other?

Book your place now for this strategy day in Leeds on 9 November: [https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed\\_events/energy-campaigns-strategy-day](https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/energy-campaigns-strategy-day)

The day will be an opportunity to

- Connect and network to build visibility and wider support for specific struggles - for example against new nuclear, biomass, carbon capture or new fossil fuels – and identify common demands and strategies
- Explore how climate activists can support workers' just transition demands, and seek to identify collectively the needed elements of a movement for energy justice that brings workers, communities and activists together
- Identify the labour requirements of a genuinely decarbonised and energy system and what is needed to get that labour in place
- Bring a whole-economy, cross-sector approach to energy so as to build on intersections with struggles over economic, health, racial and gender justice.
- Explore how different and complementary tactics and approaches can support each other

We plan to make elements of the day accessible for online participation, so please let us know if you would like to arrange this and we'll supply details.

For this,

or any other questions,

email Ellen:

[ellenrobottom@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenrobottom@hotmail.com)



On 16 November, we'll take to the streets for the **March for Global Climate Justice** to demand the UK government ends our reliance on fossil fuels, pays up for climate finance – and ends its complicity in Israel's escalating genocidal violence.

**Assemble at 12 noon Saturday 16 November**

Opposite the British Museum, Great Russell Street

Join and share our event pages on **Action Network** and **Facebook**, and join the **Telegram broadcast channel** for updates and info!

**We're bringing together an alliance of organisations from across our movements** for the March, with more than 40 now backing the march including the Climate Justice Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Extinction Rebellion, Just Stop Oil, War on Want, JCWI, Global Justice Now, Quakers in Britain, the UK Youth Climate Coalition and many more.

If your organisation isn't yet a supporter, send an email to [coordination@climatejustice.uk!](mailto:coordination@climatejustice.uk!)

The March will take place alongside actions across the country and worldwide for the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice.

**Find out more here.**



# ECOSOCIALISM CONFERENCE 7 DECEMBER 2024



## Ecosocialism Conference 2024: London (and online) 7 December

This year we are holding the conference at Birkbeck Conference in London and aim to develop a wider network of ecosocialist activists and politics, not just talking about climate activism but focussing on ecosocialist demands, what that future might look like and how we can tell stories about emancipation and sustainable living post-capitalism that are convincing to the largest number of people.

Speakers so far agreed include

- John McDonnell MP,
- Hamza Hamouchene (co-author of Dismantling Green Colonialism)
- Clara Paillard (Unite Grassroot Climate Justice Caucus)
- Asad Rehman (War on Want) and others.

The main themes of the conference are:

- the ecosocialist future (socialist planning, post capitalism, Radical Abundance);
- Dismantling Green Colonialism;
- Fighting the Far Right;
- Refugees/Climate refugees and solidarity;
- Workers led green transitions (GKN) problems as well as potential successes;
- Campaigns (Climate Justice Coalition, Fare Free London, Fuel Poverty Action, etc)

Our website [ecosocialism-conference.org](https://ecosocialism-conference.org) is being updated as we go along with more details.

You can get tickets from the website.



**Saturday, November 30, 2024**

**10:00 am - 5:30 pm**

Bernie Grant Arts Centre  
Town Hall Approach Road  
Tottenham Green,  
N15 4RX

Host Contact Info: [justtransition@londonminingnetwork.org](mailto:justtransition@londonminingnetwork.org)

*Supported by: Campaign Against Arms Trade, Community Action for Land Liberation, Decolonial Centre, Energy Embargo for Palestine, Fare Free London, Fossil Free London, Fuel Poverty Action, Global Justice Now, Global Women's Strike, People & Planet, People's Land Policy, Resist Glencore, Stand for Congo, Tipping Point, War on Want, Workers for West Papua*



ETI INSIGHTS

## Climate change:

Addressing extreme heat impacts for workers



[www.ethicaltrade.org](http://www.ethicaltrade.org)

Extreme heat is a human rights risk rapidly increasing in saliency. Businesses must collaborate with suppliers and worker representatives to prevent and mitigate impacts on workers in their supply chains.

**21 November 2024 from 10:00-11:30 GMT**

This is the webinar in an **ETI insights series**.



# Green Bites

## Stats of the Month

0.36%

The damage to the US economy caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in two weeks, just after Governor DeSantis banned mention of “*climate change*” from state statutes on the what you don’t know about can’t hurt you principle. Parts of Florida are becoming uninsurable. **Those whom the gods would destroy, they first send mad.**

20.5%

Record proportion of **new car registrations** that were pure electric in September, while the market share of petrol and diesel cars fell year-on-year in September by 9.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively

60%

Of London’s black cabs now run on electricity. See more about Possible’s Cabbies for the Climate campaign at [wearepossible.org/cabbies](https://wearepossible.org/cabbies).

2032

The date that **British Steel will have adequate grid connection** to enable it to close the last blast furnace in the UK - in Scunthorpe - and replace it with an Electric Arc Furnace.

45%

EU Tariff on Chinese made EVs, which follows 100% Tariffs imposed by the USA and Canada in an attempt to promote domestic EV manufacture, but which may well simply sustain fossil fuel car manufacture. The **Xinhua News Agency** comments *Instead of fostering cooperation, these tariffs risk sparking a trade conflict that could harm not only China-EU relations but also Europe’s own ambition for a green transition.*

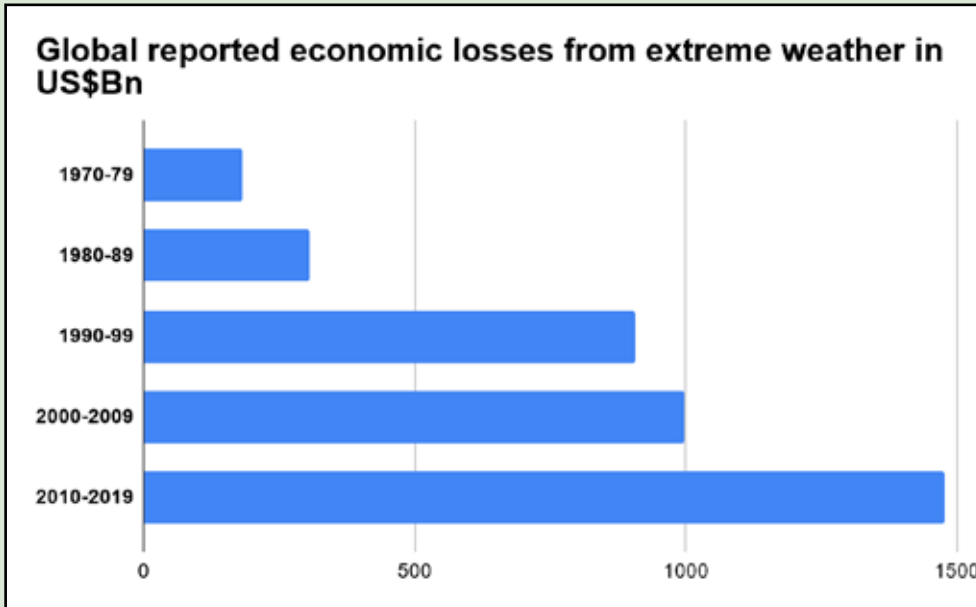
33%

How much LNG is worse for carbon emissions than coal; according to peer-reviewed research, published in the **Energy Science & Engineering journal**, which challenges the rationale for the current huge surge in LNG facilities along the US Gulf coast, built to send gas in huge tankers to overseas markets. The US is the world’s leading **LNG exporter**, followed by Australia and Qatar.

£130 Billion

Amount that could be raised in the UK by a temporary annual 2.5% tax on all individual wealth above £10 million for the next five years. This would affect fewer than 75,000 people but raise the 1% of GDP needed for a nationwide insulation programme to upgrade all 19 million homes rated EPC D or lower, cap single bus fares outside of London at £1.65, and free for people aged 25, fund a ‘**climate ticket**’ with unlimited access to rail travel for just £49, set up training schemes for the 3.2 million workers in high-carbon industries to retrain and switch to new green jobs in all four corners of the country and support farmers with the delivery of agro-ecological farming; essential for food security, cleaning up rivers and nature restoration. **Full Report from Greenpeace here.**

# Graph of the Month



Original Graph from WEF

## Don't Mourn, Organise

Please put this motion to your union branch. Trump's election makes this even more vital.

*"Hope is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency"*

Recognising the need for the trade union movement to take a lead in fighting for a just transition, and the role played by the Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletter in developing the debate on how to do this, (insert name of branch) agrees

1. to donate £100 to the GJA to help keep this work going
2. to circulate the next edition of the Newsletter online to our members with a suggestion they subscribe if interested

## Quote of the Month

*"The costs of failing to get climate change under control would be much larger than those of bringing emissions down to net zero".*

Office of Budget Responsibility

## 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**

