



You don't half talk a load of twaddle, Donald

Send in the clowns, don't bother, he's here...

In his attempts to get the rest of the world, and the US working class, to pay for the burgeoning and enormous US deficit - and pull the wagons in a circle around the doomed fossil fuel sector - Donald Trump is already beginning to generate enormous opposition, and to cut a figure that is both ludicrous and threatening. Pennywise with imperial power. But his plan for a fossil fuel surge could be more flop and "aw!" than shock and awe.

- The FT reports that *"Energy executives think investor pressure on oil companies and the economics of "a sector always beholden to oil prices" are likely to block his mission to launch a new era of "American energy dominance" noting that "Wall Street's reluctance to approve another drilling binge means that US oil output is likely to rise more slowly in the coming years than under the Biden administration", and "much less than in the shale bonanza years in the previous decade" because Trump's push for lower oil and gas prices "would make shale companies less profitable – and less likely to follow [his] command to 'drill, baby, drill'".*
- **Reuters** reports that US oil and gas companies are *"unlikely to expand development in Alaska and the Arctic", because "US oil production is already at record levels due largely to increased production in more accessible areas like Texas and New Mexico, and companies have limited spending on new projects to focus on returning cash to shareholders."*
- **Bloomberg** reports that Trump's plans to sell more liquified "natural" gas (LNG) could be hampered by limited supplies this year, with new capacity only emerging in 2026 and 2027.
- The **Canary** notes that Trump's restrictions on offshore wind disproportionately threaten jobs in Republican districts.
- The **Washington Post** reports that *"energy economists are puzzled by the new administration's math", due to the apparent discord between wanting more energy production while also threatening offshore wind projects in development.*

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- **Guardian Business** reports that Trump's obsessive tilting at windmills is leading to other countries lining up to lure the potential billions of dollars worth of renewable energy investment that he is turning away from the US, a point also identified by **the Energy Mix**, which expects Trump's measures will accelerate Canada's transition away from oil.
- Despite the inevitable negative ripple effect of his policies, Trump's determination to pull back from clean energy makes his country an outlier on a global scale. *"Most major economies are investing in ever-cheaper solar and wind power,"* the New York Times **wrote**. And that means the U.S. *"risks further ceding a global market to China."*
- **The New York Times** also notes that the rollback of fuel economy standards will increase the price of fuel at the pumps (**as will tariffs**); a direct attack on the Trump voters who supported him for *"cheaper gas"*.
- A point underlined by Industry executives reported in **the FT**, who have warned that Trump's recently announced restrictions on renewable energy *"risk sparking an electricity crisis in the US, driving up costs for consumers"*.
- When Trump left the Paris agreement in 2017, **cities and states, civil society organizations,** and **630 businesses and investors** stepped up to fill the gap. From the Bonn summit that year, the *We Are Still In* coalition was a constant presence, with its own pavilion at the conference site. This time, the **pushback was immediate**, with Governors Kathy Hochul of New York and Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico coordinating the state-level response. *"We write as co-chairs of the United States Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of two dozen governors representing nearly 60% of the U.S. economy and 55% of the U.S. population, to make it clear to you, and the rest of the world, that we will continue America's work to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and slash climate pollution,"* **they wrote** to UN Climate Secretary Simon Stiell.

And Trump's unique ability to lose friends and alienate people is showing up in the **85% of Greenlanders** who don't want the US to buy their land out from under them and the Canadian basketball and hockey crowds who booed the US national anthem in the week the tariffs were announced.

Fear of clowns, in this case, is a healthy reaction, but time is not on his side, and it could be downhill all the way from here...

Paul Atkin Ed



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11 March 12.00 noon

You are welcome to attend and participate in debate and discussion on the current 'hot' topics.

Attendance can be in person at UCU HQ, Carlow Street, Camden NW1,

or online via a zoom link to be circulated near the time of the meeting.

We are discussing the possibility of speakers from Labour and Green Parties, from a number of trade unions, the TUC, and from political campaign groups.

We'll keep you informed as the details are finalised.

Anyone wishing to attend can email the GJA Secretary at tahirlatif51@icloud.com to register.

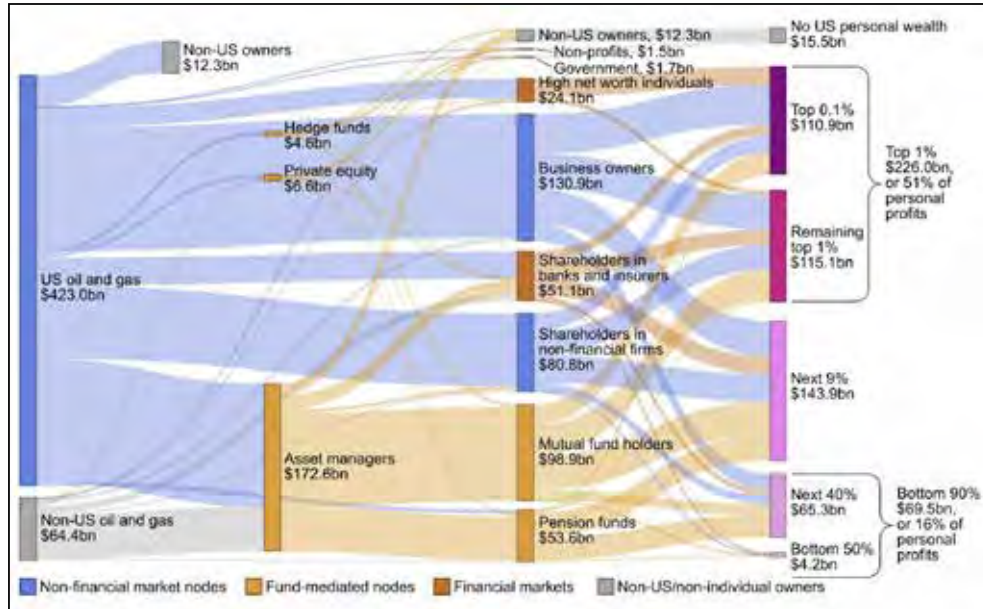
The U.S. fossil fuel industry spent US\$219 million to elect the country's next government, Yale Climate Connections reports, most of it on Republican campaigns.

That was after Trump invited about 20 oil and gas executives to his Mar-a-Lago estate in April to present what one independent journalist called a "breathhtakingly corrupt proposal: If they raised a billion dollars to help him retake the White House, he would roll back any policy they didn't like when he took office."



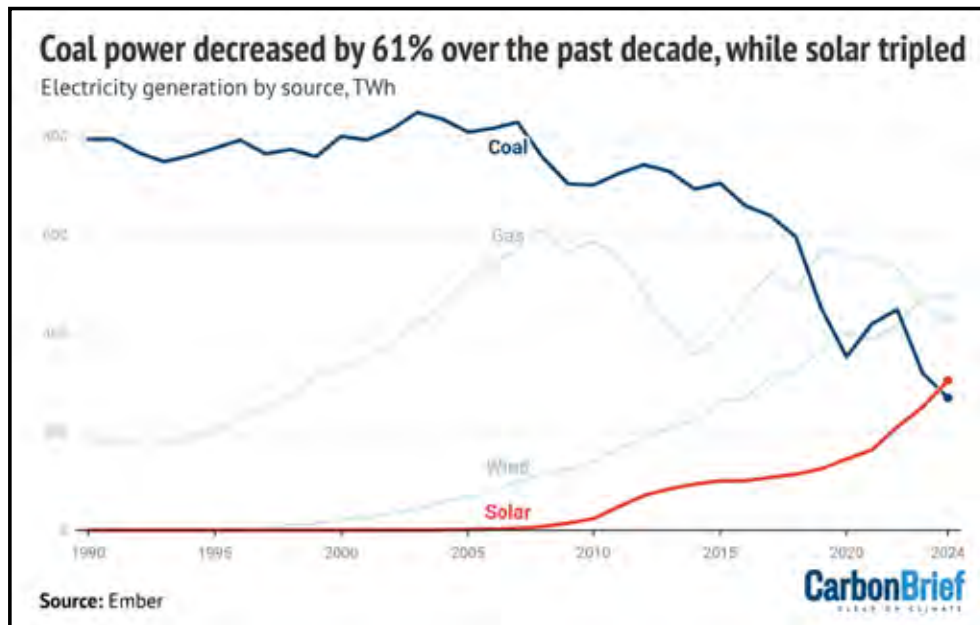
Who the Oil Profits went to

Nearly all of the record \$439 billion in profits US companies made from oil and gas in the 2022 boom year went to the wealthiest 10%. They had an 84% share of it. Economists from the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts have followed the money to find out whose pockets they ended up in. Of the total global bonanza, they found the US was the biggest beneficiary and that the \$439 billion of profits US owners had accumulated were distributed as below:



The totals in the column on the right help explain the suicidal adherence of the top 1% to trying to stave off the transition away from fossil fuels. From [The Rest is Bullshit](#)

Solar overtakes coal in Europe



The EU generated more electricity from solar than coal for the first time ever in 2024, according to analysis by the thinktank Ember covered by [Carbon Brief](#). Solar power output in the EU more than tripled between 2014 and 2024, while coal has plummeted by 61%. The analysis also found that wind and solar growth over the past decade has pushed EU fossil-fuel generation in 2024 to its lowest level in 40 years, despite a long-term decline of nuclear power.

Graphic from OXFAM. See their report here on why these people are not “wealth creators” but climate destroying parasites. They have a magic money tree the size of a redwood. Time to shake its branches. The Greenpeace petition to do just that is here.

A Key Motion for your Union Conference this year

The GJA, Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group and others have drafted a possible general motion aiming to push forward from the excellent [motion passed at September’s TUC agreeing to a year of TU action on climate](#). A key part of this is to highlight COP30 in Brazil, 10-21 November, as a key mobilising moment of unity.

[This motion can be read here.](#) Please try to get this, or a suitably adapted version, tabled in your union if you can. Key elements of it could also be incorporated into other motions if that would be more effective.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2024 counts extreme weather events and critical change to Earth systems as the greatest concerns facing the world over the next decade. In his virtual maddress (that was a typo, but it seems to work) Trump called for OPEC to lower oil prices and praised “good, clean coal”.

Three Letters to the Government



John Englart (Takver) at <https://flickr.com/photos/81043308@N00/33824783930>

An [open letter to Keir Starmer](#) from numerous climate campaigns, including the GJA, asks him as PM to urge Trump not to pull out of the Paris agreement, and do everything in your power to maintain and repair the principles of collective global action on climate change, and 'common but differentiated responsibility' and for the UK to act "as an exemplar for a comprehensive, swift, and equitable fossil fuel phase-out: an end to new North Sea oil and gas drilling with a fully funded plan for workers and communities, alongside a comprehensive climate plan for the rest of the economy" and do "its fair share on climate finance by increasing our direct contributions, implementing and demanding the highest standards of transparency, and unlocking domestic and international finance using the well-known 'polluter pays' principle.

Full list of signatories: Campaign against Climate Change, Climate Justice Coalition, Faith for the Climate, Fossil Free Parliament, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Global Justice Now, Greater Manchester Climate Justice Coalition, Greener Jobs Alliance, Greenpeace UK, Mothers Rise Up, NEU Climate Change Network, Oil Change International, Operation Noah, Platform, Quakers in Britain, Unite Grassroots Climate Justice Caucus, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance, Tipping Point, War on Want, Weald Action Group, Women's Environmental Network, The Working Class Climate Alliance, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Justice Coalition.

A [Letter from SERA Co Chairs](#) Ken Penton and Lisa Trickett argues that "the drive for growth cannot be decoupled from - and indeed needs to be reconciled with - the need to address climate change and the entrenched inequality that scars too many of the communities we serve" and for "a fast and fair transition that delivers for climate and community"

- welcoming the "commitment to nine new reservoirs" but arguing that the cost of the new and upgraded infrastructure and technology needed to tackle the water crisis should not "be met by water ratepayers alone", noting that "The shareholders in water companies have taken out over £83bn in dividends since privatisation whilst loading £74bn of debts on the companies", so they "should pay a fair share of funding"
- Supporting "the absolute need to ramp up housebuilding" but for those homes "to be sustainable and adaptable to the climate challenges the UK will face", requiring "changes to building regulations and the government working closely with councils to support the development and delivery of local plans to ensure we build high-quality homes that are not expensive to heat and cool and recognise that water is a resource we cannot afford to waste."
- On the basis that 'sustainable aviation fuel' "is a misnomer as there is currently no aviation fuel in use which does not lead to increased carbon emissions" so "we will still likely breach our finite and legally binding carbon budget" if a third runway is built at Heathrow, that increased "air pollution from the particulates and nitrous oxide that an increased number of planes will emit" that will "have a negative impact on the health of those living or working near the airport" makes it "not something we can support."
- Instead, "We believe investing in a repurposed national grid; rail, bus and walking and cycling infrastructure; and energy efficiency are more urgent and will deliver much greater sustainable economic, social, health, and climate returns in the short, medium, and long term."

Union Support for Climate and Nature Bill

This poster format shows the breadth of union support for the Climate And Nature Bill, which came up for its second reading in Parliament on 24 January. It was not supported by the government on the slightly bizarre grounds that it would make international commitments legally binding; begging the question, why sign them if you don't mean them?

Broader support could have been forthcoming with wider union consultation on the need to protect jobs, which should become a standard reflex in future discussions.

Backbenchers have been offered input into legislation instead and the Bill will be back in July, which could be a point of further pressure if the government is backpedalling further by then, particularly on Heathrow and North Sea fossil fuel exploration.



Quote of the month

"The new intake is very clear. If Trump is closing his door on green investment, we should be opening the door to green investment. The Americans are going to miss out. We don't want to."

Unnamed Labour MP quoted in the Guardian

No Newts is Good Newts?

All the rhetoric from the government front bench about "people matter more than newts" (Rayner) or Starmer's remark about HS2 being held up by a bat cave (which conjures up a different image altogether - "to the batmobile!") is like a tepid UK version of Khrushchev's heroic developmentalism in the late 50s early 60's, reverse the flow of that river, irrigate that land, drain that lake, grow cotton; which didn't work out too well and generated an environmental response in the USSR that grew increasingly influential in the 1980s.

The point isn't that newts matter more than people, but that people can't survive in an unsustainable, ecologically impoverished environment.

Reeves's remark at Davos - on Heathrow expansion - that growth matters more than net zero turns reality on its head. You can have Net Zero without growth, but if you try to get growth without Net Zero, you are just accelerating ever faster towards economic collapse. **As the OBR has pointed out** "The costs of failing to get climate change under control would be much larger than those of bringing emissions down to net zero." Risk Insurers Swiss Re calculate that failure to meet Net Zero will lead to a **10% loss** of global GDP by 2050, equivalent to fighting a war permanently.

Time to take off the virtual reality headset. Does the Treasury really think we are still in the Holocene?



A third runway for Heathrow?

Not as likely as some would think

Here we go again. Another senior government figure supports Heathrow expansion, inviting proposals from Britain's largest airport by this summer. Yet far from the being a quick fix, as Rachel Reeves would like us to believe, Heathrow expansion is likely to be neither quick nor fix at all.

After the Airports Commission had recommended Heathrow expansion, back in 2015, citing economic benefits that might accrue, the Treasury published its own assessment, which looked at both sides of the balance sheet, assessing the “disbenefits” to the UK from Heathrow’s expansion against any benefits.

These “disbenefits” included the considerable number of international flights that an expanded Heathrow would divert from regional airports around the UK, the carbon abatement costs that would be passed on to the rest of the economy, the impacts of increased vehicular congestion, and DALYs (“Disability-adjusted life years” – the monetary value for illnesses and deaths that would flow from the noise and air quality ramifications of so many extra flights overflying the country’s most densely populated residential areas).

The Treasury’s conclusion – as expressed as the “Net Present Value” (NPV) was that the aggregate economic benefit to the UK of Heathrow expansion would be somewhere in the range of just £3.3bn to minus £2.2bn, over a period of 60 years. And this was only augmented when, in autumn 2021, the government reevaluated the costs of carbon abatement, adding £50bn to the “disbenefits” side of the balance sheet – and so reducing Heathrow expansion’s aggregate impact on the UK to a loss of £46.7bn over 60 years.

As for Rachel Reeves’s claim that a third runway would create 100,000 jobs, Heathrow’s record in job creation is not actually as almighty as one might be led to believe. In fact, between 2013 and 2018, before the pandemic began, there were 11,000 fewer people working at Heathrow. These figures are buried in the Airport’s previous proposal for a third runway in the 2019 Masterplan consultation. Heathrow also admit that “after the opening of the third runway, there are efficiency savings due to the potential duplication of roles”. Where is the evidence that 100,000 additional jobs would be created? It lies in a yet unpublished study that was provided by Frontier Economics commissioned by ... Heathrow.



Rachel Reeves is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Her department is the Treasury. Yet rather than take heed and cite her own department’s assessments, she chose to rely on an economic benefit report commissioned by Heathrow Airport itself and quoted it as her economic evidence for supporting a third runway. It may not surprise readers to learn that this particularly tendentious report fails to compute many of the “disbenefits” which the Treasury had duteously identified.

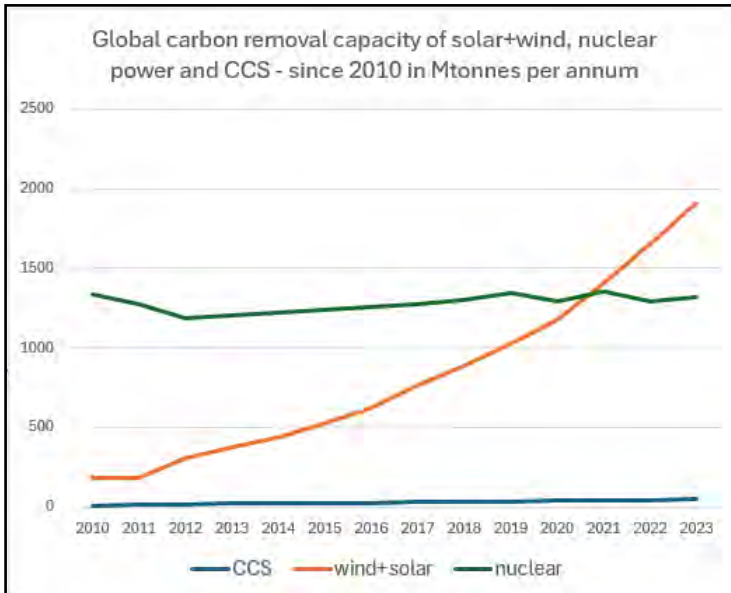
While we might expect such a one-sided approach from Heathrow, should we not expect better from a Chancellor of the Exchequer? Perhaps Chancellor Reeves will fail to understand why forsaking her own department’s evaluations and simply swallowing Heathrow’s sales puff might not sit well with some. Yet it has given rise to a sense that impropriety is afoot.

Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition

Canada’s insurance sector is raising alarms about the potential for the country to become “uninsurable” by 2035 due to insufficient policy action on escalating climate disasters.

Parts of California and Florida already are.

Meanwhile, a former California insurance official has criticised the industry for underwriting the very fossil fuel projects that worsen the climate crisis.



Carbon capture and storage has added practically nothing to decarbonisation, and nuclear has stagnated. Wind and solar are the only real players. From [David Toke's substack](#)

Fracking by any other name will smell as bad



Europa Oil & Gas are planning to carry out proppant squeeze in the small village of Burniston just to the northern edge of Scarborough. By exploiting a loophole in the fracking moratorium oil and gas companies can change the name from fracking to the much friendlier sounding term of 'proppant squeeze'.

Given the environmental pollution and destruction this will entail, local people have vowed to fight back. They say, "We find this completely unacceptable in a time of increasing climate disasters and believe all oil and gas exploration should be completely halted".

The campaign needs as much solidarity as it can muster from other community and environmental groups and of course - trade unions.

The Planning application is imminent and we expect the campaign to ramp up considerably once it goes live.

The oil and gas industry has a long history of accidents, disasters and total disregard for communities. We will fight to stop them trashing our neighbourhood and our planet - please join us.

More information from scarboroughfrackfree@gmail.com.

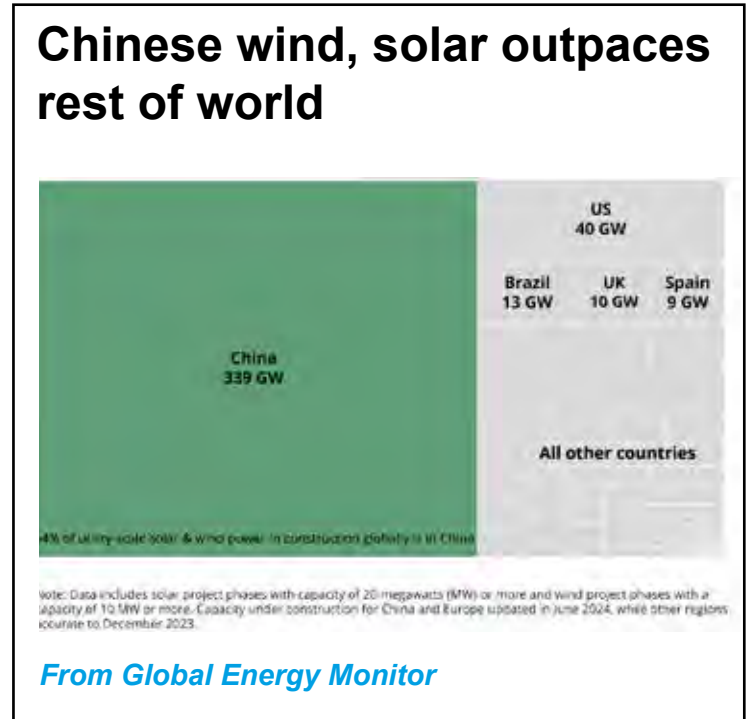
Chatham House advises closer UK cooperation with China on climate

Chatham House is urging ministers to deepen climate cooperation with China, saying the "with us or against us" approach "belongs in the cold war" arguing that a formal deal would allow "bolder and more confident engagement," allowing Britain and China to better share expertise; and stressing that "With rising geopolitical instability, and a retrenchment of climate leadership in some quarters, they have an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of bilateral cooperation, and in so doing shore up multilateralism and accelerate practical climate action, which is in all our interests."

At the same time, Lord Adair Turner - head of the Energy Transitions Commission – an alliance of companies focusing on a net-zero transition - told the **Financial Times** that that more collaboration on low-cost green technologies would be needed between "the west" and China and China, the EU and the UK should form a coalition of "the world apart from the US" on climate action, following the retreat of the Trump administration from its climate commitments.

And this is why...

Utility scale solar and wind power currently in construction, by country



Energy Skills Passport Falls Short

In January, the UK and Scottish Governments released the long-awaited Skills Passport. This comes after years of campaigning by trade unions and climate groups, to demand that one of the key roadblocks to workers transitioning is removed. While there has been progress, there is still much that is needed for the passport to be a meaningful part of a transition package.

Currently, the main barrier that workers face to retraining is the cost. They're made to duplicate both technical and safety qualifications to work across two sectors, which on the whole comes out of their own pocket. This is the point the trade union reps on the steering group, the STUC, and we as campaigners have made to the Scottish and UK governments time and time again. The crucial part of any meaningful skills passport was to address this and enable workers to move easily across jobs, without paying through the nose even once, let alone twice.

Disappointingly however, the communications from both governments and industry around this passport, and the info on the beta site (including in the FAQs), mentions none of this. The focus is purely on pathways to jobs and helping workers "see how their skills match up" to new renewables work based on their existing qualifications and certifications. We know that offshore oil and gas workers have the skills base to move into renewables. The passport was never meant to be a consciousness-raising exercise for them! It was about making it materially easier to transition.

The Scottish Government heard from trade union reps that if the eventual passport wasn't going to include standardising safety certifications, this would make it worse than useless. This was a clear policy that offshore workers are aware of and invested in, and we know it

is only the start of a broader package that's needed. Unite made the point in October that creating skills pathways (and careers hubs) is welcome, but without the investment in jobs to go, it raises more questions than it answers.

In October 2024, climate groups and trade unions joined forces outside the UK Treasury in London to demand £1.9 billion per year of ring-fenced investment into just transition measures out of the upcoming government budget. This included funding not only for skills and retraining, but also around creating jobs in manufacturing wind turbines, and upgrading our ports so they are fit for purpose and ready for the energy transition. The UK and Scottish Governments must recognise that the skills passport needs much more and that it is only the first step in a longer-term, direly needed set of just transition policies. At the upcoming comprehensive spending review, they must heed the call of workers, communities, and the climate and put their money where their mouth is.

Rosie Hampton, Friends of the Earth Scotland



Press Gang: Fossil Fools

An [analysis from Carbon Brief](#) reveals that before the General Election in 2024, newspapers published 16 editorials attacking Ed Miliband as a personification of Net Zero commitment. Since the election, this increased to 45 – roughly two a week.

Right wing papers the Sun and the Daily Mail repeatedly, and rather frenziedly, called Miliband an “[eco-zealot](#)”, a “[madman](#)” and a “[hysterical eco-obsessive](#)”.

Overall, there were 368 editorials published in UK newspapers last year about climate change and energy - the second-highest annual tally recorded by Carbon Brief’s [project](#), tracking [UK newspaper editorials](#) back to 2011.

In 2024, unprecedented numbers of these editorials opposed climate action in general, as well as renewable energy; preferring to go down with the ship rather than changing course.

The Emperor’s new clothes?

This month’s award for bare faced contradiction goes to every Right leaning politician who goes on the air simultaneously decrying high energy costs while arguing for more nuclear power as the solution, when [nuclear is, and will be, more expensive](#).



Private schools driving 47% air pollution increase on school run

New research by parent group [Solve the School Run](#) has identified that NO2 levels increase by 16% when state schools are in term, but surge to 47% when private schools go back compared with the levels when all schools are closed during the holidays.

Campaign for Better Transport Priorities for 2025

- **Integrated transport.** The Government is preparing an Integrated National Transport Strategy, which is a crucial opportunity to campaign for a transformed, sustainable network built around buses, trains and trams, shared transport, walking and cycling, with more freight carried by rail.
- **Making rail reform work for passengers.** The Government is reforming the way the railways are run, posing a campaign for real improvements for passengers: fair fares and more reliable trains.
- **Buses for all.** We need a ‘[bus service guarantee](#)’ to ensure all communities have at least a minimum, reasonable level of bus service, as well as better bus stops.
- **All aboard! [Better Transport Week 2025](#)** will champion sustainable transport and encourage people to give it a try.



Air Quality in LA and Delhi

The Los Angeles wildfires resulted in at least 10 fatalities and the destruction of nearly 10,000 structures. Despite the severity of these fires, the city’s Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 158, which is significantly better than Delhi’s AQI of 451. [From Ironic Algorithm from Tiffin News](#).

SMMT’s most recent figures for battery EV sales show a 57% year-on-year increase in car registrations, compared to an 18% fall in petrol and a 10% fall in diesel.

Florence and Luton - the struggle continues

BWTUC, RMT, Reel News and the GJA held a joint meeting to discuss the GKN Workers dispute in Florence, Italy. Around 25 people attended a solidarity event in the Bread and Roses pub in Clapham, London. The latest film chronicling the struggle was shown along with one about the Stellantis workers dispute at the ex-Vauxhall plant in Luton.

We were joined online by Dario, one of the GKN spokespersons, who updated us on the latest phase of the action that has been going on for over 3 years. It has been a rallying cry for the left in Italy and around the rest of Europe. The worker assembly is now entering another crucial period and you can keep up to date with the latest developments here [In the global war between rich and poor, – we need Reel News](#)

Graham Petersen

London's transport chief urged to shake up funding to spark climate action

Fare Free London has appealed to Seb Dance, London's deputy mayor for transport, to "consider a major shift in the way that public transport in London is funded", so that London can "play its fair part in tackling the climate emergency".

Fare Free London, which is supported by community groups, climate campaigners, transport workers' trade unions and others, was set up last year to advocate free public transport in the capital.

It is now three years since Mayor Sadiq Khan announced that London would aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030 and committed to reducing vehicle traffic (measured by vehicle-kilometres driven) by 27% between 2018 and 2030.

However, in 2023, a team based at Imperial College concluded that London would need to cut vehicle traffic by more than two thirds to meet this target.

But, while transport sector emissions fell during the Covid pandemic, they have been rising since then.

And though there have been welcome investments in public transport, such as in the Elizabeth Line, the car-centred character of the capital's transport is still being reinforced by

- projects such as the Silvertown Tunnel, which will open in April*.
- Above-inflation increases in tube and rail fares, due on 2 March, which will hit low-income households hard, and discourage a shift from cars to public transport.

Transport for London's current Business Plan expresses the aspiration to "reduce our reliance on fare income" – but at the same time envisages that income from fares will increase by 47% between 2022/23 and 2026/27.

Zero-fare public transport

- would open the city to all. It is a social justice measure that supports low-income households struggling with bills. The health benefits are well researched and convincing and, combined with other policies to reduce car traffic, free public transport can help cut greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- is "the sort of bold, inspiring policy shift that will make a tangible difference to climate targets"
- would require a new financing model. In a campaign briefing published last year, Fare Free London listed ways that London could build on methods used in other big cities, where the transport systems are already far less dependent on fares than London's.

Central government policy also matters, as it could both expand the Greater London Authority's revenue-raising powers, change its own transport spending priorities, and move towards free public transport nationally.

"Free public transport is 100% do-able", said Pearl Ahrens, speaking for Fare Free London. "Public transport is free in 118 municipalities in Brazil, several cities in the USA, and European cities and towns including Montpellier in France, Tallinn in Estonia and Luxemburg.

"What is needed is a bold vision that prioritises social justice, and effective action on climate change and air pollution."



Fare Free London has submitted [our response](#) to the government's "call for ideas" about its proposed new Integrated National Transport Strategy, and we ask all our supporters and allies to do the same.

Any organisation or individual can respond to the survey, [on line here](#). It can be done in a few minutes if necessary. If you support the idea of free public transport, please take this opportunity to mention it!

The DEADLINE for submissions is Thursday 20 February.

More information at farefreelondon.org.

**TfL has announced that bus trips on routes 129 and SL4, which will use the Silvertown Tunnel when it opens in April, will be free for a year after that. So will trips on the 108, which goes through the Blackwall Tunnel next door.*



New Rules

USA The introduction of a **congestion charge in lower Manhattan**, starting on 5 January has reduced traffic by 7.5%, led to speedier bus journeys and a 6% increase in bus journeys, is slated to raise US\$1 billion each year to help the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) refurbish its public transit systems, and a predicted 10.72% drop in carbon dioxide equivalent and fine particulate matter by 2045 but now faces a threat from President Trump to “kill” it by rescinding federal approval of the various federal and state environmental assessments that are needed in order for it to work, because nothing speaks to freedom and the American dream quite like breathing in the exhaust of the car in front while you sit in an interminable gridlock honking your horn in frustration.

A new **virtual power plant program** launched in Texas on 16 January by financier Solrite Energy, and solar and storage provider, Sonnen installs free solar panels and guarantees an electricity price a third cheaper than the current standard and continuity of supply in an increasingly flaky grid, in exchange for the companies taking the profits from any additional energy produced. As this is at scale, they will probably do rather well out of it. Couldn't, and shouldn't, this be done by municipalities, so the benefits can go to further investment?

The **Supreme Court** has refused to hear an appeal from oil and gas companies trying to block lawsuits seeking to hold the industry liable for billions of dollars in climate damage, allowing cases by California, Colorado, and New Jersey and others, seeking billions of dollars in damages from wildfires, rising sea levels, and severe storms. There is now a wave of legal actions **in the U.S.** and **worldwide** seeking to leverage action on climate change through the courts.

China **BJX News** reports that China's National Energy Administration (NEA) and top economic planner the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) have jointly issued a plan for “*optimising regulation capacity of the power system*”, so that more “*new energy*” storage sites, such as batteries, will be retrofitted or constructed during the “*periods of difficulty absorbing renewable energy*”. The plan aims to add more than 200 gigawatts of “*new energy*” capacity, such as wind and solar, annually from 2025 to 2027. **China Energy Net** says that China's finance ministry has clarified an earlier announcement that government agencies must ensure that 30% of their vehicle purchases are EVs to add that “*in principle, 100% of procurement should be EVs*”. In 2024, China saw a “*significant surge*” in electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities, with the total number of charging poles nationwide surging 49% to 12.8m, state news agency **Xinhua** says.

USA Donald Trump has pledged that no wind farms will be constructed during his second term, threatening billions of dollars in planned wind projects. He is also weighing an executive order that seeks to stop gas-powered appliances including stoves and heaters from being phased out by federal and local regulators. There will be a fight over any Trump attempt to repeal Joe Biden's recent memorandum blocking offshore oil and gas leasing. The **Associated Press** reports that the Biden administration also finalised new tax credits available for companies that generate zero-emissions energy. **The New York Times** explores whether the new incentive is “*Trump proof*”. The **Associated Press** also reports that the Biden administration “*abruptly dropped*” a new plan to protect old-growth forests after “*pushback*” from Republicans and the timber industry.

Canada. About **150 Canadian municipalities** are looking to integrate natural assets as “essential infrastructure” into their financial reporting.

UK. For the first time in five years, the toxic bee-killing pesticides - known as neonicotinoids - **won't be allowed** on any fields in England. Hooray!



Edinburgh's Stop Rosebank group celebrates verdict outside the Scottish Supreme Court

The Scottish courts' verdict is in: approving a massive new oil & gas field during a climate crisis is unlawful and against the public interest. **BusinessGreen** reports that burning all the oil from Rosebank would emit as much carbon dioxide as running 56 coal-fired power stations for a year, while the gas contained in the Jackdaw field would produce more CO₂ than the entire annual emissions of Ghana, but for now, the Rosebank oil project is dead in the water! Heathrow Runway 3 next!

Marseille is taking steps towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 with a target to develop 15MWc of photovoltaic production on municipal assets. So far, solar panels have been installed in 60 schools, part of a €1.5 billion Schools Plan aimed at modernizing 470 schools over the next decade and fitting them with clean electricity infrastructure. The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) has signed a €200 million loan agreement with the City of Marseille to fund this major renovation. **From C40**

In December 2024, **Sheffield City Council** voted to create **Local Climate Bonds**, with a plan to launch the Sheffield Climate Bond later this year. Think of this as climate crowdfunding: members of the public invest their own money to pay for local decarbonisation projects, enabling Sheffielders to directly drive green initiatives in their local areas. From ‘**now then**’, a **magazine for Sheffield**.

Events

TUC: Green organising in the North East, Yorkshire & Humber

Just Transition Network

Your one-stop-shop for green trade unionism in the North East, Yorkshire, and the Humber. It's

- a TUC-convened open forum for all workplace green reps, other trade unionists, and allies to learn from each other, build campaigns, debate solutions, meet like-minded comrades, and work towards a just and fair transition in our region.
- a mailing list through which you can hear all the latest green trade union news and learn of all the key climate activist events from our region and beyond.

Join us today to fight for a green and just economy!






Greening the World of Work

Check out our new **Greening the World of Work** resource hub for inspiring green actions, workplace case studies, union resources, labour movement news, steps to get active

Or got a case study or story others should know about, get in touch with our Green Bargaining Officer today

Improving Air Quality in Schools: what can we do?

Wednesday 5 March 2025
4pm - 6pm

This webinar will explore the impact of polluted air on the health, attendance and performance of students and staff, and examine practical solutions to put in place to clean the air we breathe.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc29eeef>

Campaign against Climate Change AGM

Sunday 9 Feb - 10-11.10am

The re-election of Donald Trump as US president of the United States increases the grave danger we are in, and the rise of the far right, of nationalism and of climate misinformation presents an urgent challenge for all of us here in the UK too. In 2025 we need to come together as a climate movement, and also make links with wider social movements to meet these challenges.

11.20-12.30: Campaign against Climate Change trade union group AGM.

The work of our trade union group is a key aspect of this. In the trade union group AGM, we'll discuss how to build on the motions passed at TUC in 2024 in particular for a year of trade union climate action.

Online:
[Sign up here](#)



Workshops

Are your organising tactics futureproof? How will climate change and net zero affect your members and workplaces? Are you net zero ready?

These interactive, expert-led online workshops set up the vital and timely tools you need to support and empower your members during climate change and the race to net zero. Workers in every sector are navigating through the most impactful and universal economic changes we've seen for two hundred years. So, whether you're a seasoned climate campaigner or a net zero novice, join us and gain tools to make sure that net zero works for workers.

3 Dec 2-4 pm	How Workers Won: Actually Existing Just Transitions, with Jenny Cooper (NEU) & Jo Cutter (Leeds Uni)	Watch now
14 Jan 2-4 pm	Winning Climate Disputes: Radical Action for Workers and Climate, with David Whyte (University of Liverpool)	Watch now
4 Feb 12-2 pm	Getting Workers' & Climate Voices into Employer Strategy, with Jo Rees (TUC) & Eve Merrall (UCU)	Sign up
4 Mar 2-4 pm	Health & Safety during Climate Change, with Graham Petersen (Greener Jobs Alliance)	Sign up
1 April 12-2 pm	The Power of Green Political Education, with Rosie Huzzard (NEU) & Daphne Robins (Unite)	Sign up

Why is climate education not mainstream? and what can we do about it?

M O F
MINISTERS OF
EDUCATION

EDUCATION
CLIMATE
COALITION

Climate
Majority
Project

zoom
event

24^{Feb}
4:30pm

Join the conversation
Register to attend

The aim of the discussion is to highlight perceived barriers from a variety of stakeholders across the education sector - looking for common ground and exploring possible future action.

Opening Statement from Prof Chamkaur Ghag UCL

Panellists

Dr Alison Kitson - IOE UCL (Teacher Training)

Jenna Crittenden - Chartered College of Teaching (Teachers)

Tilly - Teach the Future (Young People)

Megan Wakefield - Parents for Future (Parents)

Dr Poppy Gibson - Open University (Teacher Training)

Dr Siobhan Currie - Climate Psychology Alliance (Ed Psychologist)

Register
here

WE DEMAND CHANGE



We Demand Change – Organising to Win

Central London Saturday 29 March

We live in an age of deepening crises. From soaring rents and stagnant wages to climate breakdown, the rise of the far right, and the ongoing genocide in Palestine—those in power tell us that real change is impossible. But we refuse to accept their narrative. We Demand Change is a day of panels and workshops bringing together campaigners, trade unionists, and activists to build the movements we need. We'll discuss the key struggles of our time, from housing and workers' rights to anti-racism, climate justice, and resisting war.

The end of 14 years of Tory rule in 2024 should have been a turning point. Instead, Starmer's Labour has doubled down on austerity, continued to back war crimes in Gaza, and refused to tackle the root causes of economic inequality. While public services crumble, the government prioritises military spending over our hospitals, schools, and communities. The far right is exploiting this crisis to spread division and hate—but we won't let them. It's time to organise, strategise, and fight back.

Join us on Saturday 29 March in Central London to be part of the fight for a just future.

[Register here](#)

The Big Zoom - Memorial Call to action for Zane on International Workers Memorial Day

It is 11 years since 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola tragically lost his life. The basement of his home in Chertsey was flooded with water from the Thames, and there is strong evidence that this allowed hydrogen cyanide gas from a former landfill site nearby to seep into the house. In fact, hydrogen cyanide gas was detected 3 times in the home. Both Zane and his father Kye suffered a cardiac arrest. Zane tragically lost his life and Kye was paralysed from the waist down. Kye and Zane's mother, Nicole Lawler, have been tirelessly seeking justice and answers ever since. See [Truth About Zane](#) for more information.

On 28 April - International Workers Memorial Day - when we remember the dead and fight for the living - join the family from 6pm to 6.20 pm to send a powerful message to the Prime Minister about the need for an independent panel inquiry to investigate how Zane was killed.

Speakers

- Kye and Nicole Gbangbola - Zane's parents
- Andy Burnham - Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Introductions - Daniel Kebede - NEU General Secretary

Register here [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Green Bites

**WANT TO FIGHT FOR GREEN JOBS
AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL?**

ARE YOU A TRADE UNIONIST,
CLIMATE CAMPAIGNER OR
GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST PUSHING
FOR A JUST TRANSITION?

**JOIN OUR
JUST TRANSITION
WORKING GROUP
WELCOME CALL!**

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
7 PM




The **Stop Burning Trees Coalition** is a grassroots coalition fighting for an end to the industrial tree burning industry and for a just transition to a greener, fairer world. The Government is currently considering granting huge new tree burning subsidies to Drax and Lynemouth; with a decision possible any day now. This makes it more urgent than ever to be **putting pressure on our MPs and Ministers**; raising awareness about what Drax is doing to forests and communities; and fighting for the green jobs and clean energy we need.

Last year, the Stop Burning Trees Coalition and Green House Economics published the report **Beyond Drax**, setting out the need for over 73,000 green jobs to decarbonise Yorkshire and the Humber. These jobs would provide the climate action needed across the region, from building green energy to making homes warmer and peoples lives healthier.

Join the Stop Burning Trees Coalition on **12 February** at 6pm to get involved in the Just Transition working group or contact stopburningtreescoalition@gmail.com to get involved with the campaign. We know that a greener, fairer world is possible, but it's up to us to make it happen.

Sign up here.

Subscribe to the GJA Newsletter HERE

 greenerjobsalliance.co.uk



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.



New on the Debate Blog

- **Kill your speed to save the climate: responding to the car's role in the climate crisis** *Producing 27% of the UK's carbon emissions, the transport sector has a huge contribution to make in achieving our Net Zero and 1.5o targets. Here Daniel Scharf presents the case for how our approach to the private motor vehicle needs to evolve in response to this challenge*
- **Chinese Whispers** *The unilateral abandonment of responsibility for the future of humanity represented by Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, attempted sabotage of the US energy transition and international interventions to build a denialist international that will undermine it everywhere the US has influence, means that what China does, and doesn't do, will be crucial in the immediate period ahead.*
- **What UK school leavers do – and do not – understand about the climate crisis; and why this is a problem** *The conclusions of the December 2024 research report into climate literacy among school leavers in England makes worrying reading.*

20

The number of **major oil ports that will be overwhelmed** by the 1 metre sea level rise that is the median expectation for the end of the century - assuming a slow, gradual process - including thirteen of the ports with the highest supertanker traffic (including Ras Tanura and Yanbu from which 98% of Saudi Arabia's oil is exported, Houston and Galveston in the US, Rotterdam in Holland, Ust-Luga in Russia and Shanghai in China). This has been reported as "*ironic*", when it is actually a perfect metaphor for fossil fuel self destruction.

70%

Of people who feel **locked out from EVs** because of a lack of charging infrastructure, particularly in rural areas (which have only **15% of the total**).

1.1
billion

additional **journey miles in 2023 were made by car and taxi** thanks to cuts to bus services. Cuts to bus provision were 10 times higher in England's most deprived than its least deprived areas, and reduced bus services meant the economy became £2.6bn smaller with 39,000 fewer jobs. Cuts to bus services are a false economy.

18%

Of UK carbon emissions come from home heating.

10
January

The date by which **the richest 1% had used up their fair share** of the annual carbon budget (2.1 tonnes). It would take someone from the poorest half of the world's population three years to use the same amount of carbon.

£40
billion

The latest estimate of the **cost of the Sizewell C nuclear power station**, double the original estimate in 2020, compounding the difficulties in attracting investment. Hinckley Point is already costing £48 billion and is 5 years delayed, and counting.

90%

Reduction in **Oslo's municipal carbon emissions** since 2012.

10%

Of the £63 billion of inward investment promised at last Autumn's **International Investment Summit** was earmarked for data centres with a heavy emphasis on energy hungry AI. **One query** to AI chatbot ChatGPT uses energy equivalent to 20 mins of a lightbulb, which is reportedly nearly ten times as much electricity as is used for a Google search. In the US the expected power demands for AI are projected to require 80 new gas power stations, **according to the FT**.

90%

Of a wind turbine is recyclable and that a fully sustainable industry is "well within reach" according to the **US Department of Energy**.

419,859

The number of signatures on a joint 350.org, Avaaz, Friends of the Earth, Global Justice Now, Greenpeace UK and Stop Rosebank, calling for the government to commit to ending new oil and gas production.

33%

Of Americans do not have a driver's licence. The number of 16 year olds with one has declined from 50% in the 1990s to 25% today. The world's most car dependent culture is by definition exclusionary.