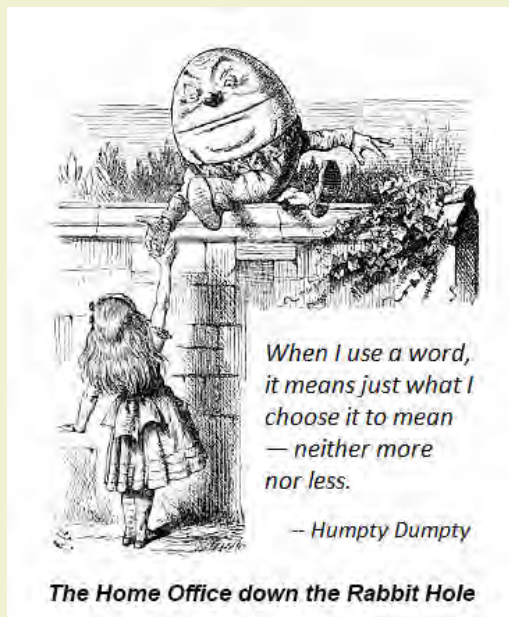




dauidgljay on flickr.com/photos/28062783@N00/

Democracy, “terrorism” and non violent direct action



To define non violent direct action as “terrorism” is a sign not so much that the Home Office has lost its marbles - though it is clearly absurd - but a clear marker of the direction the state is moving in. Habitually enough, this is following the US model, where the abandonment of constitutional norms is proceeding at pace; enabling an all out assault on any prospect of energy transition along with the living standards of the working class, encapsulated in Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill”.

This marches in step with the decision to prioritise military spending towards 5% of GDP. This would cost an additional £63.3 billion a year if met; and so would suck the life out of any investment in every other area. The Infrastructure Plan announced

in June means that investment is now scheduled to be lower for the next ten years than it was last year.

This will not generate growth - military spending is a dead loss for that - but will instead bog our society down in unsustainable stagnation and impoverish more and more of everyday life as climate breakdown progresses remorselessly. It cannot help but give rise to protest and resistance.

With this in prospect, the British state, which still has the reflexes of colonial control deep in its DNA, is using the proscription of Palestine Action as a warning shot, partly because it is so ludicrously over the top; though it follows the precedent of the Prevent programme, which defines ideas as dangerous.

This will go along with an ideological offensive to remilitarise everyday life, squeeze out dissent and close down avenues of democratic self organisation. The Romanian

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- **Reality Checks** - Tchh. It’s gonna cost ya? Learning from America - - Ignorance is Strength?- New Deal for the North Sea? - Rosebank rip off - The current scale of the Net Zero Economy in the UK- Bull from Reform
- **Campaigns:** Axe Drax: Raided over a whiteboard pen! - Don’t Reduce Fare-Free Travel – Expand it!
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playwright Ion Ionescu described a similar process in pre war Romania as “*rhinoceration*”, a poetic way to describe the “*battle ready, armour clad nation*” that Keir Starmer says he wants. A society that stands up straight and salutes; not one that questions.

Resisting all this has to be the warp and weft of all our political practice from here on as we defend a welfare state (one that looks after its people) from a warfare state.

Sebastian Mang, senior policy officer at the New Economics Foundation puts it very well, “*If extraordinary sums can be mobilised for the military, with far lower economic returns and much lower social benefits, then the refusal to fund a just transition and stronger public services is clearly political, not economic.*”

It shows that the alternative is possible as well as necessary. Let’s fight for it!

Paul Atkin Ed



Photo by Ray Harrington on Unsplash

Welfare not Warfare



Getting ready to march. At the Welfare not Warfare demonstration on 7 June 2025

Trade Union Round Up



Just Transition Framework Agreed for Further Education

Trade unions and the English college employer body, the Association of Colleges (AoC), have reached a landmark agreement for a Just Transition road map for colleges.

Background

In 2023, and as part of the Joint Trades Unions (JTUs) further education pay claim 2023/24, a groundbreaking Just Transition climate and sustainability element was included for the first time. The claim looked to develop a more collaborative approach to support the FE sector to meet the challenges and opportunities presented through a transition to net zero:

'The scope of which could include sustainability, new skills, climate justice and a road map to achieving a carbon neutral sector by 2030.'

A series of talks took place between the Association of Colleges (AoC) and the JTU's - UCU, Unite, GMB, NEU and Unison - which explored the different ways that the sector could work towards a 'Just Transition' and has resulted in the [Just Transition Framework](#).

The unions and AoC are now asking individual colleges to adopt the framework, a key aspect of which is the recognition of the role that staff and trade union members play in progressing this work within colleges, and local communities.

The framework, [launched on 26 June 2025](#), will be followed by a series of resources and training events to support UCU members at participating colleges.

Introduction to the Just Transition Framework

A comprehensive training session will now follow for any Green Rep or branch officer with the necessary time off for training. The more in-depth session will look at the bargaining guidance to accompany the framework to ensure successful implementation at a local level.

Just Transition Framework - Principles

Leadership

Strategic commitment at all levels within a college is a fundamental prerequisite if the institution is to be successful in taking forward its sustainability and net zero aspirations. The commitment of leaders within the organisation is critical to encouraging and supporting staff at all levels to develop their skills and expertise, enhance career prospects, and provide future job security and a just transition.

Workplace

It is crucial that the college creates an environment where colleagues feel valued and supported through this transition and the need for change to ensure a sustainable future for everyone and future job security. The college will commit to support staff to enhance their existing skills, obtain new skills and develop expertise to equip them for the future opportunities created by the green economy

Impact and opportunities

Transparent accountability should be provided through consistent and effective mechanisms, regular evaluation and reporting, and a partnership approach between college and staff and student representative groups.

Just transition should be seen as an opportunity in which the potential benefits will outweigh any investment costs, and that these can be best achieved through a trusted partnership approach.

[From fuller comment by UCU here.](#)



Photo: Mick Holder

Trade Union Round Up



UNISON Health Conference Commits to Year of Climate Action

A [motion at UNISON's health conference](#) on 'maintaining our commitment to a greener NHS' was moved by the chair of the health service group executive (SGE), Tanya Pretswell, who noted that,

"The challenges we face in achieving a greener NHS are widespread. We've got inefficient and outdated equipment, we've got leaky, drafty and crumbling buildings, we've got high levels of food waste and we've got staff who can't afford to access greener forms of transport to get to work, to name but a few".

And that greening the NHS "will not be an easy task", but fits into the greater mission embodied by the union's decision to make 2026 its Year of Green Activity.

The motion called on the SGE to

- engage with de-carbonisation work across the NHS,
- support branches to encourage activist involvement,
- produce resources and training opportunities to encourage local organising.

UNISON plans for Year of Action

Tackling climate change can't wait until a more convenient time – there's too much at stake for our members, their jobs, their families and the communities we all live in – we have to act now.

That's why UNISON is announcing that 2026 will be the Year of Green Activity.

UNISON members – in all their different roles across local government, the health service, community,

police, fire & rescue, education, housing, environmental protection and others – have to deal with the additional burdens of climate change. Burdens like pollution, extreme weather, floods or cold homes.

And we are all also increasingly affected by the financial burdens of global economic shocks that climate change causes to food and energy supplies.

Everything you do can help – from organising awareness events or local green activities, to engaging in local community projects. You could also consider becoming a local green rep or explore taking on the [branch environment officer role](#) yourself (training and support is provided).

So, join me in supporting branches, look for ways to get involved, and keep an eye out for updates throughout this year. And in the meantime, you can head over to our [Green UNISON webpages](#) to see materials and resources you can start using now to prepare.

Edited from a longer article by General Secretary Christina McAnea, [which you can read here](#).



Climate and Nature knocking on the door

Ian Byrne MP (Lab) Simon Opher MP (Lab) Carla Denyer MP (Green) Olivia Blake MP (Lab) Fran Heathcote, Gen Sec PCS, Richard Burgon MP (Lab) Gawain Little, Gen Sec General Federation of Trade Unions, Roz savage MP (Lib Dem) Photo Kristian Paul "

"The stakes couldn't be higher. Those who claim net zero costs too much willfully ignore not just the projected savings and health benefits, but the catastrophic costs of inaction."

Fran Heathcote, General Secretary PCS, from her article in Comment Central [The climate and nature crises are a workers' crisis: Labour must tackle both](#)

Trade Union Round Up



Graham Petersen GJA (second from left), spoke at a UNISON fringe meeting attended by 80 delegates.

BFAWU Conference stands for socialist green new deal

At the recent BFAWU Annual Conference, delegates passed a suite of progressive, worker-centred motions that set out a clear vision for just transition, climate justice, and public ownership.

Central to the climate-related motions was the call for democratic public ownership of all forms of energy. Conference condemned the escalating job losses across the fossil fuel sector – particularly in the North Sea and at Grangemouth due to the motion being submitted from one of our Scottish branches – and affirmed that workers should not be made to bear the cost of climate action. Delegates were clear: the transition to a green economy must not mirror the devastation inflicted on mining communities in the 1980s. Instead, the union demanded a Socialist Green New Deal, where energy workers themselves help design the green transition, ensuring no loss of jobs, skills or conditions.

- Conference explicitly rejected false solutions like nuclear energy and the failed promises of private corporations. Despite years of greenwashing, privatised renewable energy – particularly wind power in Scotland – has failed to deliver for workers, with 4,000 jobs lost in the last year alone. BFAWU delegates rightly pointed to this as evidence of why a green transition cannot be left in the hands of profit-driven companies. Instead, they called for public ownership of Grangemouth, North Sea operations, and renewables as the foundation of a democratic, worker-led energy strategy.

Another key motion passed was the call for free, publicly owned transport for people of all ages again moved by one of our Scottish branches. The Conference exposed the role of privatised, polluting

road traffic in driving the climate crisis, while also fuelling ill health, poverty, and isolation. Delegates were united in their rejection of above-inflation fare hikes, peak-time train charges, and government subsidies to bus company profits – all of which contribute to the unaffordability and unreliability of public transport.

Rather than regressive measures like workplace parking levies, the BFAWU called for a publicly owned transport system that is vastly expanded, reliable, accessible, integrated, and powered by green energy – and made free at the point of use. This would not only cut emissions and improve public health but would also create hundreds of thousands of skilled, unionised jobs and apprenticeships, including 70,000 in Scotland alone. Conference pledged to champion this policy across the wider trade union movement, pointing to successful examples of free public transport already operating in over 100 cities and regions worldwide.

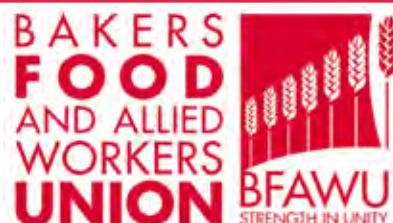
- The Conference also agreed that Labour's plans to build 1.5 million new homes must not come at the cost of weakening green belt protections – recognising the importance of safeguarding the environment alongside meeting the housing crisis.

Beyond the formal agenda, the climate discussions were brought to life in two powerful fringe meetings. Heat Strike and Earth Strike led inspiring sessions that connected the dots between workers' rights, climate breakdown, and system change. Heat Strike highlighted the deadly impact of rising workplace temperatures, demanding heat protections and climate-resilient jobs. Earth Strike offered a powerful call to action for the trade union movement to build mass mobilisation against climate inaction and capitalist exploitation of both workers and the planet.

Together, the motions and fringe meetings made it clear: the BFAWU is serious about climate justice – rooted in public ownership, worker empowerment, and socialist solutions

Sarah Woolley BFAWU General Secretary

As part of the trade union year of climate action BFAWU will be relaunching their Green Newsletter for members



Trade Union Round Up

NEU Climate Network Motion for Districts

This motion is being promoted by the NEU Climate Change Network this term and next so that local Districts of the union discuss and set themselves an agenda for the Year of Action.

Trade Union Year of Climate Action in...(insert name of your District)

In support of the trade union year of climate action endorsed by the TUC and NEU Conference, we commit to

- engage with the local Trades Council, other unions and local climate campaigns to establish mobilising networks for the year of action
- mobilise for mass actions in the autumn starting with the Make Them Pay demonstration on September 20th, the Workplace day of action on Friday 14 November and the Global Day of action around the COP on 15 November..
- promote and build the conference/festival being organised by education unions and climate campaigns in the Spring
- promote and publicise the webinars that will punctuate the year of action
- build green bargaining into local Reps training,
- survey local schools on Climate Action Plans, Sustainability leads, National Nature Park membership
- propose the Local Authority sets up a Network of these covering the whole local family of schools
- ensure that at least one of the District Officers on the local committee has this as part of their brief, with support from lay activists.

TUCAN: Climate risks and union action

The Trade Union Clean Air Network recently ran 3 workshops in Manchester, Glasgow, and London on the theme of 'How can we protect workers from air pollution and other climate risks'. The last meeting identified several follow-up actions:

- Liaise with the TUC and TUCAN supporting unions to take up the offer from the GLA Deputy Mayor and arrange a meeting to highlight trade union issues
- Promote campaigns around specific climate risks
- Highlight the link between health and safety and climate risks
- Increase the range of resources available to support union action
- Support union engagement on policy frameworks at national, regional and local levels
- Apply legal rights on the use of climate risk assessment and control methods
- Continue to press for central, regional, and local governments, and employers, to adopt WHO standards.

Link this work into the 2025 TUC Year of climate action

A full copy of the report can be found on the [TUCAN website](#) here.

As a follow-up on July 1st TUCAN was represented at the Healthy Air Coalition parliamentary launch of ['A blueprint for government action on clean air'](#)

This includes a section on occupational health and the need for worker protection from polluted air. The event was attended by Emma Hardy, the Minister for Clean Air. We were hoping for an announcement signifying the government's intent to address this health emergency but all we got was a promise to carry out a consultation on wood-burning stoves. This lack of ambition is a kick in the teeth for the thousands whose lives will be prematurely ended from polluted air.

Graham Petersen



'The Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, addressing the hybrid meeting at UCU Head Office'

REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

Tchh. It's gonna cost ya? Learning from America

- Westinghouse is in talks with government officials over building 10 nuclear new reactors. According to estimates from the Department of Energy, this could cost \$75bn without accounting for delays or cost overruns
- The **New York Times** and CNN report that just one of the coal- and gas-fired power plants that had been due to close until “Trump ordered them to keep running” could cost Midwest energy customers tens of millions of dollars”.
- The **Wall Street Journal** says electricity prices will rise, due to “*more expensive natural gas*”.
- **Bloomberg** columnist Matthew Yglesias says the Republican budget bill, if passed, “will raise” electricity prices and “kneecap America’s short-term wind and solar installations while undermining the hope for innovative new solutions”.
- **PV Magazine** reports that unsubsidised wind and solar remains the cheapest source of electricity in the US, “despite persistent low natural gas prices”.
- **Inside Climate News** covers a University of Maryland analysis that finds Trump’s climate-policy rollbacks will reduce US gross domestic product (GDP) by \$1.1tn by 2035.
- Extreme weather already costs roughly \$150 billion each year in the US from direct impacts like damage to infrastructure, agricultural losses and widespread injuries, according to a **2023 federal assessment**.



Ignorance is Strength?

Thousands of scientists are opposing a Trump order for what he called a restoration of a ‘*gold standard science*’ across federal agencies and national laboratories, which amounts to

- putting his political appointees in charge of vetting scientific research
- So they can ‘correct scientific information’ and control the way it is communicated to the public
- and the power to ‘discipline’ anyone who “violates” the way the administration views science.

An open letter, signed by more than 6,000 scientists, academics, physicians, researchers and others, say that this would destroy scientific independence.

Trump’s new head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency “bewildered” staff this month by telling them he was not aware the US had a hurricane season.

In a **snap poll** carried out by Yonder on behalf of Zero Hour; the results showed:

- **77% say that taxes should be increased for the most polluting companies to fund public services and renewable energy projects.**
- **Two-thirds believe that building new homes and infrastructure projects should not come at the expense of the environment.**

New Deal for the North Sea?

Shadow Energy Minister Andrew Bowie (who?) has said that Ministers should apologise to North Sea Oil and gas workers for the jobs lost since coming to power amid projections that 400 jobs could be lost every fortnight up to 2030.

What he does not note is that this is actually slower than the rate of job losses under the Tories between 2013 and 2023; when they continued to invest in new oil and gas fields and 227,000 workers lost their jobs all the same. That's a rate of 436 a week.

Perhaps an apology from him might be appropriate.

But, more importantly, apologies don't create jobs. A proper plan for the North Sea - like Uplift's **New Deal for the North Sea** - could, and it's that that unions should be campaigning for, not holding out the fantasy that overturning the ban on investing in new fields would make any significant difference to the loss of work in a dying field.



Andy Muir: flickr.com/photos/37589005@N04/

Rosebank Rip Off

North Sea developers are able to **write off most of their development costs** before profits are taxed with UK taxpayers now effectively covering 84 per cent of the development costs of new projects, like Rosebank.

Equinor would make most of its investment for Rosebank while the generous reliefs are switched on, but it will generate most of its profit after 2030, when the windfall tax is no longer in effect.

Tessa Khan, executive director of Uplift, said it right: "Oil and gas production isn't the cash cow the Treasury thinks it is. In the case of Rosebank, the UK public would lose hundreds of millions of pounds from its development, while its owners, including the Norwegian government, would walk off with £1.5bn in profit."

Greenest Parliament ever?

Climate Barometer polling shows that since the general election

- 77% of MPs think the UK should be one of the most ambitious countries in the world when it comes to climate change action, regardless of what countries like the USA and China do (up from 51% in April).
- 94% of MPs support the aim of reaching net zero by 2050 (up from 76% in a poll of the previous parliament in April).

But

- only 8% of MPs thought climate was important in driving the election result, whereas
- 19% of voters said that climate change was one of the issues that was important to their vote.
- Within this, 47% of Greens voters and 32% of Lib Dem voters cited climate change as a key issue.
- And of those who tactically voted Labour (33%), 43% said they would have voted Green, if they felt they could.

A **separate poll** of 1,000 former Conservative voters found that a third would be more likely to support the party again if it adopted more ambitious climate policies.

REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

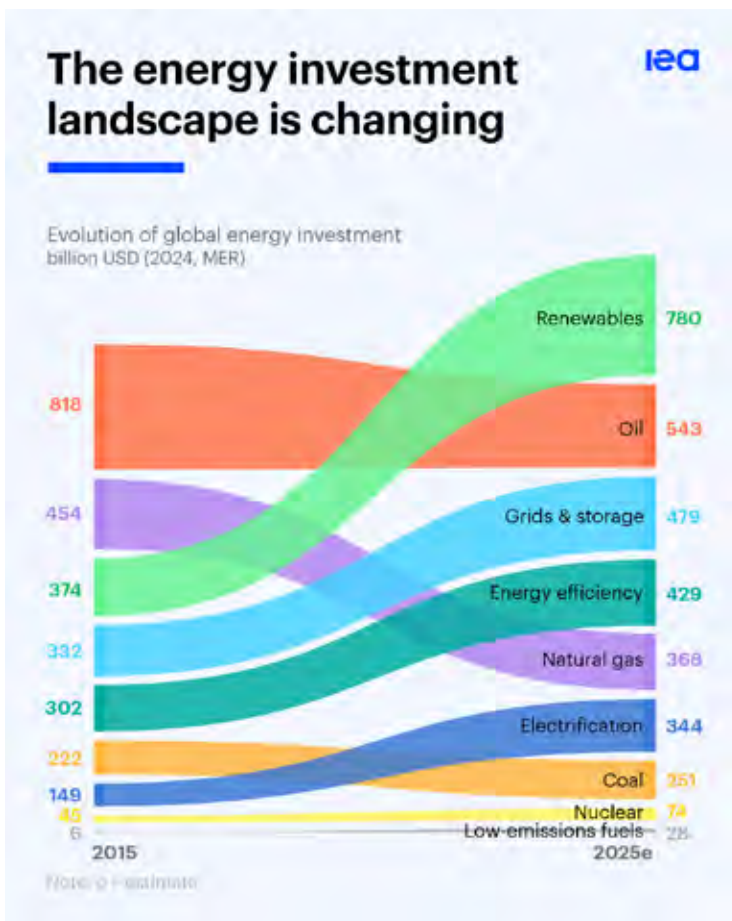
The current scale of the Net Zero Economy in the UK



From the **Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit Report** This analysis from February last year shows that these businesses contributed £74 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2022-23, which is equivalent to 3.8% of the UK economy – larger than the economy of Wales (£66 billion). They also supported 765,700 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs, equal to nearly 3% of total UK employment, and also notes that Net Zero employment already accounts for more than 10% of all jobs in Aberdeen

Bull from Reform

- **New Reform Chair David Bull** suggested that “net zero” was “subjecting people in this country to become poorer”. But, **according to** the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the UK’s net zero economy grew by 10 percent in 2024, employing almost a million people in full-time jobs with an average wage of £43,000 – £5,600 higher than the national average; while a **recent report** compiled by risk management experts with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and the University of Exeter in England found that the global economy could experience a 50 percent loss in gross domestic product between 2070 and 2090 due to climate change, based on current emissions trends.
- Reform’s Lincolnshire councillors have **abolished** the local authority’s Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee, which oversaw flood defences, even though Lincolnshire is one of the most vulnerable regions for flooding.
- Reform is claiming that it will use “**every lever**” to block new wind, solar and battery projects in the councils it now controls; which have jurisdiction over 5,076 megawatts (MW) of battery schemes, 786 MW of solar and 56 MW of wind. But, **councils do not have direct control over these projects**. Local planning authorities do. So this is likely to prove a “nuisance” with “limited effect” on the government’s clean power targets overall.
- On a visit to South Wales, Nigel Farage proposed to reopen flooded coal mines and blast furnaces that have cooled solid, while pledging to stop “net zero investment”, like that in the Port Talbot docks that will service floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea and generate 10,000 local jobs (more than three times the number lost at the Tata steelworks).
- The **rate at which people joined UNISON** in the ten councils run by Reform more than doubled in the week after they were voted in.
- “Farage’s proposal to pay for higher welfare spending through scrapping £45 bn worth of net zero spending a year is a fantasy because most of that £45bn is private investment in new energy and transport infrastructure which can’t be clawed back by the Treasury because they are not spending it in the first place. The Institute for Government, which wrote the report that Reform’s numbers are based on, has **already issued a statement to this effect.**” This is from an article in City AM entitled **Reform’s plans to scrap net zero would cost investors and put up taxes** by Sam Hall of the Conservative Environment Network. Perhaps he should also send it to his own Party leader.



Axe Drax: Raided over a whiteboard pen!

Ever had your house burgled, or your bike nicked and been told by police ‘there’s nothing they can do’? Well, it turns out if you’re Drax or Enviva, police can pour resources into cracking down on the use of a whiteboard pen...on a whiteboard.

On the April 25, Axe Drax and Reclaim the Power peacefully occupied Enviva’s European headquarters (one of Drax’s biggest wood pellet suppliers) calling on them to stop poisoning communities with their deadly business. Nothing was broken, damaged or taken: yet we have since faced staggering levels of repression.

At 1am on Saturday 26 April, one of our supporters was arrested, their home raided and tech seized under suspicion of ‘burglary’. The alleged ‘burglary’? Writing on some windows and whiteboard with a *whiteboard pen*.

The police have since continued their strategy of intimidation, doxing and targeting others believed to be involved, relentlessly harassing housemates, neighbours and attempting to spread fear amongst communities.

During this time, two people attended York Police Station after solicitors interview offers were ignored. They were immediately arrested under suspicion of ‘burglary’, their homes raided and housemates threatened. Just days later, two others attempted to offer an interview and were told to go home, despite the obvious ongoing “search” for those allegedly involved.

All those arrested were given bail conditions preventing them from speaking online about the harassment they’ve faced. This is a clear attempt to silence people from speaking out against the repression of peaceful protest, in direct violation of Article 10 of the ECHR.

‘When I looked at the officer that was choking George Floyd, and he said “I can’t breathe,” this is the same thing that these industries are doing to our community.’ - Belinda Joyner, on the impact of Drax and Enviva on her community

That’s what we wrote on their whiteboard. These words are **so dangerous** to Drax and Enviva that they’re once again using police as private security, pouring unbelievable resources into targeting and intimidating those resisting their deadly business. This utterly farcical behaviour has had huge impacts on people’s lives.

For years, Drax and Enviva have killed people by poisoning the air they breathe. We’ve seen human rights violation after violation. We’ve watched communities face ongoing assaults on their lives from their toxic pollution and psychologically torturous noise. All whilst they operate with impunity, deliberately targeting low-income, rural Black communities with the least political power.

Let us be clear: these raids and attempts to crush organised resistance were at the orders of Drax. Why else would bail conditions for an action targeting Enviva focus on Drax? When has anyone ever seen the police react in such a way to a real burglary, let alone the use of a whiteboard pen?

Drax is cracking. It’s now up to all of us to step up to resist their deadly business and work for a genuinely just transition away from burning forests and poisoning communities.

We are **raising funds** to replace stolen tech and continue taking action against Drax.’



Don't Reduce Fare-Free Travel – Expand it!

Free public transport should be extended, not scrapped, Fare Free London said after the Telegraph, Daily Mirror and MyLondon all published stories, supporting claims that free passes for the over-60s are “unsustainable”, and highlighting “critics” who said the passes are “difficult” to justify.

Simon Pirani of Fare Free London said: *“The idea that there is a small pot of money to fund free public transport, and that it is running out, is nonsense. There is no reason why public transport should be funded from the fares that people pay. It can be funded from general taxation. In most of the world’s big cities, fares make up a much smaller share of the money used to pay for the system than they do in London. Public transport is already free in Luxemburg, Tallinn (the capital of Estonia), Montpellier and other European towns and cities. And in more than 130 municipalities in Brazil and a good few in the United States, too.”*

Taxes on wealth and property could fund free public transport and other public services. Development rights around stations (used in Hong Kong), land value capture, and progressive taxes on companies (used in France) are some obvious ideas.

The Telegraph, Mirror and Mail feign horror that £135 million/year is spent on the 60+ Oyster Card, and £350 million/year on the Freedom Pass in London, but taxing wealth, and clamping down on corporate tax evasion, would raise billions, not millions.

They repeat unsourced, and erroneous, figures that over-60s passes are mostly used by employees earning “nearly double” what their colleagues in their early 20s earn (£42,000/year, compared to £24,000/year) when

actually over-60s in full-time jobs in London earn on average 14% more than their colleagues in their 20s, not ‘nearly double’.

These newspapers are trying to turn one section of working people against another. And what about the millions of Londoners, of all ages, who are not in full-time work and struggle to pay their fares? What about the low-income families for whom it is a burden second only to paying the rent?”

These stories, with whole paragraphs worded identically all quote the Institute for Economic Affairs, the extreme right-wing think tank, who advocate privatising the National Health Service, support zero-hours contracts, oppose most business regulation and support offshore tax havens for the rich. So it is no surprise that they are targeting the benefits of public transport as a public service.

More information at farefreelondon.org.

FARE-FREE LONDON

Reasons to be cheerful...

Bus Transition

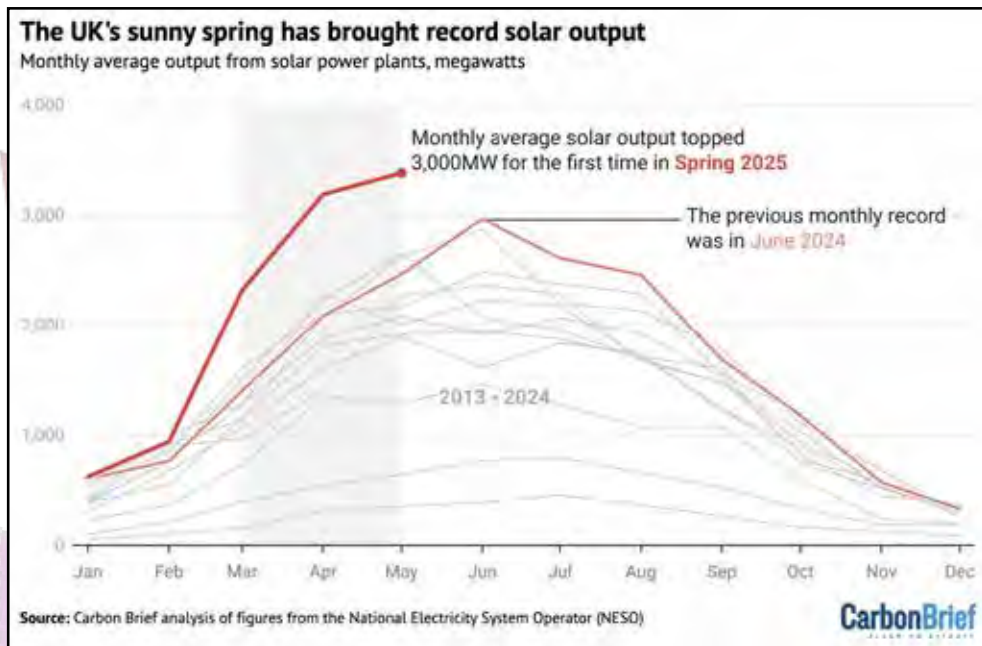
The Chinese megacities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Dalian have already completed the transition to fully electric, with fleets of over 16,000, 11,000 and 4,600 buses respectively. The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT’s) [2024 paper on electrifying public transit in Chinese cities](#) examines how this has been done. Some small cities elsewhere have also completed the transition to a fully electric bus fleet, such as Antelope Valley Transit Authority in Los Angeles County. In cities across Slovenia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Finland, zero emission buses already account for more than 90% of purchases. Cities including [Los Angeles](#), Bangalore, Jakarta, Amsterdam, and Mumbai have set targets to procure [only zero-emission buses from 2025](#) and to transition their fleets to become fully electric by 2030 or sooner, and have started the procurement and operation of e-buses.

From [C40 Knowledge hub](#)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bengbu_Bus_No.102_with_BYD_Electric_Bus.jpg

Reasons to be cheerful...

Around the world



Solar sites in the UK generated a record 7.6 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity from January to May 2025. This is 42% higher than the 5.4TWh generated in the same period last year, as well as marking a much larger 160% increase over the past decade.

German battery storage capacity has tripled in the last three years to over 20 gigawatt-hours (GWh) with a looming “battery tsunami” to come according to **Berliner Zeitung**.

Meanwhile, **applications for new wind capacity in Germany** have more than tripled in four years, reaching a new record high in 2024; and, if expansion continues at the current pace, Germany could exceed its target of 115 gigawatts (GW) of wind power by 2030.

UK **Consumers saved more than £300m** by using energy flexibly in 2024, according to figures from the Energy Networks Association as a result of lower infrastructure costs, reduced connection charges and increased use of low-carbon sources.

The “**future homes standard**”, will mean almost all new homes are built with solar panels and heat pumps from 2027. Gas boilers are

to be effectively banned in new-build properties. The standard will be published in the autumn. These households “*will save households hundreds of pounds on energy bills*”, according to the energy department; which a **Daily Telegraph** editorial says will “pile unnecessary costs” on house builders...how sad for them.

The government’s plans for accelerating the roll out of solar power across the UK include measures to encourage homes and businesses to install more panels on rooftops, balconies, and carparks to deliver 45GW to 47GW of total UK solar capacity by 2030: a 2.5-fold increase on the 18GW or so installed at present. People living in flats and rented homes could install “plug-in” solar panels on roofs and balconies. These typically cut bills by 30%. Balcony solar power panels have boomed in Germany, Spain and other European countries, and Germans can now buy individual panels for less than £200.

Meanwhile, **South Australia’s huge rooftop solar resource** now regularly meets all of the state’s demand and then some, *sending wholesale prices into negative territory* for thousands of hours a year.

Chile’s government will introduce an “*accelerated decarbonisation*” bill that aims to boost investment in renewable energy sources, help end coal-powered thermoelectric plants and move the country’s 2040 goal to decarbonize the electric grid up to 2035. **From Reuters**

67% of Canadians “*favour clean energy projects such as critical minerals, renewable power and transmission, and energy storage, over “33% who prefer conventional fossil fuel projects.”* And there is a margin of 76 to 24%—for shifting Canadian climate policy to align more with Europe, rather than the United States. Only 14% say the government should do less to combat climate change and transition the country to clean energy.

The IEA slashed forecasts for **Chinese oil consumption** up to 2030 by about 1 million barrels a day amid “*extraordinary*” domestic sales of electric vehicles. It predicts China’s demand will top out in 2027, and worldwide demand two years after that.

“*Many car industry experts have said the battle over the 2035 ICE ban is largely symbolic. It appears unlikely that many consumers would opt for a combustion engine car in ten years’ time, given recent technological advancements and price reductions for electric cars.*” **From Energy Mix**

China’s installations of wind and solar in May were “*enough to generate as much electricity as Poland*”, installing 93GW of solar capacity in one month – almost 100 solar panels every second.

94% of respondents in a survey of 40,680 people in 20 nations expressed **support for a carbon tax** that would transfer wealth from the worst polluters to people in developing nations to **combat inequality and climate change**.

Events

Climate Coalition lobby of parliament

Climate Coalition lobby of parliament.

Wednesday 9 July.

The three headline demands are:

- Vital funding for communities already hit hardest by climate change here and around the world
- Fair investment that cuts bills, backs UK jobs and strengthens local economies
- Action to restore nature, protect our health, and build a future that's safer, fairer and healthier for all

This **overview** of what Labour should do in government (written after the election) covers a lot of the key points.

Please register here.

Durham Miners Gala Saturday 12 July 2025

Join the NE Justice Coalition's wide range of members to march in this historic and massively popular event.

We will be forming a climate bloc and marching behind the Crook banner and the Jack Drum Arts/ Nordestinos band.

Meet at United Reformed Church Waddington Street Durham DH1 4BG 9am. (7 min walk from the station). If you can't make 9am then join us at Market Place at 10am and look out for our banners.

The march is stop-start as bands play to the crowds on the way but it is fun and the music will be great!

Once at the racecourse, relax and listen to the speakers, get some food, visit a wide variety of stalls or **come and help on the stall in the main tent.**

Contact number if you can't find us or have a problem: Jacky Doran Climate Action Newcastle - 07798 747798

Also, the **Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group** will be taking a banner and a stall to promote the **Year of Trade Union Climate Action**: working at the grass roots to promote activity at workplace and branch level, including joint events and activities across branches, and collaboration with climate action groups in the wider community. To link up call or text Ellen on 07930 966205

More information about the Gala itself is here.

How we can slash energy costs with clean power

Wednesday, July 9 · 10am - 5pm

Manchester City Council Albert Square M2 5DB

Expert-led discussion about how to move the energy economy towards net zero using clean energy, not carbon capture or nuclear power with

- **Professor Mark Jacobson** from Stanford University: a world leader in the movement for 100% renewable energy.
- **Dr Doug Parr**, the Chief Scientific Officer for Greenpeace UK, on the energy-environmental challenges we face now.
- **Professor Nick Eyre** will be talking about energy efficiency,
- **Professor Steven Thomas** will speak about the (un)economics of nuclear power,
- **Alethea Warrington** from Possible will speak about community energy developments
- **Alison Downes** will talk about the Stop the Sizewell C Campaign.
- **David Toke** will talk about how the pathway towards 100 per cent renewable energy is a much cheaper and plausible pathway towards net zero than carbon capture and storage.
- **Samantha Mason** will talk about the campaign for jobs through green energy.
- **Richard Outram** will introduce the NFLA,
- **Dr Ian Fairlie** will talk about his latest research on nuclear power's effects on childhood leukaemia.

The Conference is organised jointly by 100 percent renewable UK and Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA).

PLEASE NOTE: *You can attend online (details will be circulated after you register) or attend in person. The tickets are £10 whether online or in person. This is because paying for the online broadcast costs £500. Lunch and refreshments at the in-person event cost £20 a head. All contributions over and above the £10 tickets are much appreciated, as the Conference is not commercially sponsored.*

Events

Turn up the Heat Week of Action

Organisations across the Heat Strike Coalition, such as the TUC, Extinction Rebellion, Equity, and Disability Rights UK, have already pledged to take action during Turn Up The Heat Week

Mon 14 July to Sun 20 July 2025

- **Meltdown Monday - Day of online action**
- **Tipping Point Tuesday - Day of banner drops in your sunniest local location**
- **Workers Wednesday - Day of lunchtime walk-outs**
- **Thermometer Thursdays - Day of taking pictures of thermometers in workplaces**
- **Fire Friday - Day of rally outside Parliament**
- **Warm Weekend - Cool stations across our communities**

So **sign up for Turn Up The Heat Week here** and join your local WhatsApp group to meet other people organising in your community!



Photo: John Englart flickr.com/photos/takver/

Green Gathering Festival

Wales, 31 July - 3 August.

Green Gathering is centred around environmental and social justice, and is fully off-grid too!

Speakers include

Lowkey: musician, activist and patron of Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Ellie Chowns: MP for North Herefordshire - one of four Green MP's - focusing on water, river pollution and Gaza.

Tom Fowler: Spycops revelations: as the public inquiry into undercover policing inches into its tenth year, and with a cloak of secrecy protecting the identity of officers involved, will justice ever be served?

Tyrone Scott: Roots, Rebellion, Resistance - Tyrone explores how culture, music and community traditions shape radical climate action, and how we build a culture of resistance rooted in joy, memory and collective care.

Professor Tim Lenton: Tim will talk about the dangerous tipping points in the climate that we are approaching, and the positive tipping points in society that we need to trigger to avoid climate breakdown.

Clive Lewis MP: Clive is pushing a private members bill on nationalising the water industry.

vKarim Mussilhy: The Fight for Truth, Justice and Change following the Grenfell Fire

Clare Farrell (XR), Sarah Lunnon (JSO, Insulate Britain), Mel Kee (Green New Deal Rising): Youth Climate Action - where now, what next?

George Marshall: Overcoming climate denial, delusion and group think.

You can purchase tickets here.



Photo Green Gathering Festival

Events



Film Screening: THE LINE WE CROSSED

Thursday 17 Jul 2025 19.00 - 22:30

Good Shepherd Studios, Leytonstone, E11 3DR

Doors open at 19:00 / Screening starts at 19:30

A film directed by Liz Smith (112 mins, 2024)

A story of dissent, drawn from the frontlines of climate resistance. Through the experiences of those who stood in defiance, it traces the quiet unraveling of our protest rights. The film challenges audiences to question what makes dissent effective and where the line of acceptability is.

The screening of this informative film is followed by a **Post film Q&A and drinks** with director Liz Smith and activist Trudi Warner.

The amazing on-site **Back to Ours** cafe will be open for the duration of the event serving light refreshments and drinks.

Standard Tickets: £7

Concessions: £5 (*Unwaged, Over 60s, Under 18*)

Buy tickets [HERE](#)

Spaces are limited - so please notify in advance if you can no longer attend so your ticket can be reallocated.

**Tickets are non-refundable.*

**MAKE
THEM
PAY**
CENTRAL LONDON
20 September

Our NHS is crumbling, energy bills keep rising and the climate crisis is a bigger threat than ever. But billionaires keep getting richer. That's why we've launched Make Them Pay today alongside more than 40 organisations from across our movement.

On Saturday 20 September, we'll come together in our thousands on the streets of London to demand that the super-rich pay up for the crises they're fuelling through their rampant profiteering and polluting.

More information [here](#)

15 November: Global Day of Action during COP30!

14 November: Day of Workplace Actions

Keep in the loop on all our plans in the lead-up to COP30 [here](#).

Green Bites

<50%

Amount of India's energy still produced by coal, down from >60% in 2014. 30 additional GW of renewable energy were added between April 2024 and April 2025, enough to power 18 million homes, and this is accelerating.

0

Amount of energy generated by coal in Ireland since the **closure of its last coal-fired plant** at the wonderfully named Moneypoint.

-45%

Drop in UK Tesla sales between May 2024 and May 2025.

90%

Projected cut in EU carbon emissions by 2040. The **EU is currently** reckoned to be on track for a 54% cut by 2030, but this relies on them *"delivering on fresh promises despite a green backlash and surging focus on defence spending"*.

37.5%

The increase in solar electricity generation in India in the last year, now up to 9.8% of total electricity generation. Nuclear is up 17.4%, hydroelectric by 25.4% and wind by 12.1%.

6000

people in Germany died due to extreme heat in 2023 and 2024, with deaths occurring in *"densely built-up cities with little greenery, lots of concrete and a high proportion of socially disadvantaged population groups"*.

4.3x

"stress-free" protected bike lanes attracted 1.8 times as many riders as painted but unprotected bike lanes in US cities, and 4.3 times as many riders compared to no bike lane at all. Urban planners take note!

Equations of the month

1 Lower Thames Crossing = £9.2 billion = every community in the UK having a "reasonable level" of bus services for the next 9 years, or 11,400 miles of cycle lanes, or 5,700 miles of bus lanes or over half of all the potholes on UK roads filled in. The **KenEx Tram link proposal**, by contrast, would improve local connectivity between South Essex and North Kent and remove 10% of local traffic from the road network at 10% of the cost.

The **5% GDP EU target** for military spending = **€63.3bn a year and £32billion extra a year** = the €375bn to €526bn annual shortfall in meeting the bloc's green and social goals + E97bn -E238bn.

Just the interim **3.5% of GDP UK target** for military spending = **£32bn a year** = enough to fund the entire life cycle of 620 terawatt-hours of onshore wind farms (**88% of the power the country is projected to consume annually by 2050**). From **Analysis by NEF**

Bonkers headline of the Month

"The Welfarist religion has made Britons so soft we can't even stand hot weather."

Philip Johnston in the Daily Telegraph . Or **Mad dogs and Daily Telegraph** leader writers go out in the midday sun.

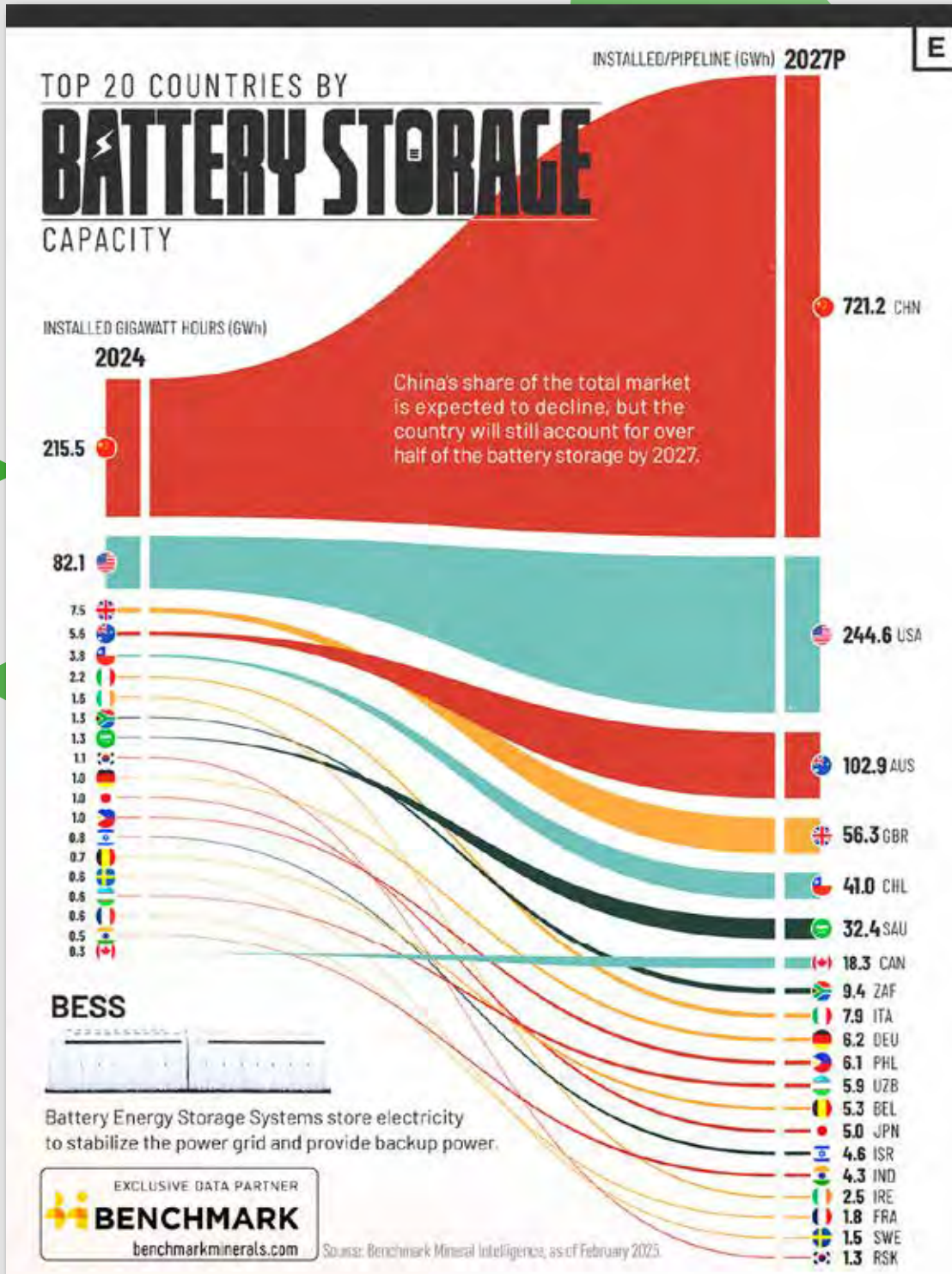
Supporting the Greener Jobs Alliance

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.

Green Bites

Graph of the Month



Two quotes of the Month

(with a different emphasis on how to see the link between militarisation and climate).

“Climate is our biggest war. Climate is here for the next 100 years. We need to focus and...not allow those [other] wars to take our attention away from the bigger fight that we need to have.”

Ana Toni, COP30 chief executive

“What we see in Palestine will also be the suffering of all of the peoples of the South... The West defends its excessive consumption and its standard of living based on destroying the atmosphere and climate, and to defend it, knowing that it will cause the exodus from the south to the north, and not only of the Palestinian people, it is ready to respond with death.”

Colombian President Gustavo Petro at a 2023 meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

From Visual Capitalist The question posed by this graph is not so much why China has invested so much, but why other countries, with a much higher per capita wealth, have not?

Also worth noting is that UK capacity at present is qualitatively more advanced than that of other European countries.

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greenerjobsalliance.co.uk

