



With Solar, you can do a lot more with a lot less

Solar panels carried by one container ship can generate as much electricity as 100 container ships of coal

Number of container ships required to provide the means to generate equivalent amounts of electricity

Solar PV



LNG



Coal



Source: IEA

CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Graph of the Month: From Carbon Brief's devastating Factcheck **16 misleading myths about solar** which should be compulsory reading in all the newsrooms that propagate them.

As **Bloomberg** reports that the “deadly monsoon season” has killed at least 1,860 people in India and Pakistan, “with flash floods, landslides and inundated cities exposing the region’s growing vulnerability to climate-related disasters” Global greenhouse gas emissions in the first six months of 2025 were 0.13% higher than the same period last year, with the US accounting for more than half the increase, with slight declines in China, Mexico and Australia according to **Climate Trace**.

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Despite the sheer lunacy of US policy under Trump - neatly summed up by Border agents arresting two firefighters in California, **while they were fighting a climate change driven fire** - there is an increasing realisation **even on Wall Street** that fossil fuel investment rests on ever thinner ice. *See *Sticking with fossils costs you on p..and Reasons to be Cheerful on pages 10 and 14*

The penny is also beginning to drop that climate change driven extreme weather events, floods, droughts, wildfires, are badly affecting harvests. The **Times** reports that farmers are struggling after a “devastatingly dry” growing season, with temperatures 1.6C above long-term averages between 1 June and 17 August. The **Financial Times** reports that UK farmers are on course for “a second year of poor harvests”, with dry weather and “weather extremes” the key drivers of the trend.

This has **driven up food prices** this Summer, with a knock on effect on “the wider economy”. The 19p a day cost of meeting Net Zero targets in the UK by 2050 is already being dwarfed by this.

And this is projected to get worse. The risk of rice production failure across Indian districts for example will increase by 26% on average due to climate change by

2055-84, compared to 1966-2014 levels according to **Environmental Research Letters**.

The desperation of the Fossil Fuel lobby is now not only represented in their shrill disinformation campaigns in the press, but also by **AI generated posts** quoting scientists and web sites that don't actually exist.

Trump is increasingly looking like the Emperor Diocletian, who restored the old pagan rites for the last time when their time had already gone. As Bill McKibbin puts it. “*Big Oil spent more money on last year's election cycle in my country than they've ever done before. And it's why they're now being rewarded with a whole variety of measures designed to slow this transition down, which may succeed. I mean, it's possible that 20 years from now, America will be a kind of museum of internal combustion that other people will visit to see what the olden days were like.*

But it's not going to slow the rest of the world down much, I don't think.”

Praise be. **Sticking with fossils costs you on page 10 and Reasons to be Cheerful on page 14.*

Paul Atkin ED

English Councils take on the net-zero sceptics

At a time when the right-wing media and parties, and even some union leaders are pushing back on net-zero, it is heartening to see the Local Government Association taking a firm position. To support this, the LGA is calling for the government to introduce a legal duty to tackle the climate crisis. “*The LGA has adopted as its headline position, that: local authorities need statutory duties and powers, sufficient funding, and robust support to lead on climate action.*” **Back Local Climate Action | Local Government Association**

This approach makes sense because councils have **some impact on over 80 per cent** of an areas' emissions, and direct impact over a third of emissions given their central role in housing, transport and energy. While national action is essential in setting the framework and taking the big decisions, the complexity of transition in our 51 cities, 935 towns and 6,000 villages cannot be managed from a desk in Whitehall

The GJA supports this and sees this as an important part of our push for carrying out climate risk assessments with the workforce and local communities. To help unions participate effectively in these assessments we have commenced a project in conjunction with the Hazards campaign and the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN). In August a meeting was held in Manchester to plan the work for what we hope will be an important set of resources for the trade union movement.

This project will also hope to inform the discussions due to take place with regional and local authorities. In October, we will be organising a delegation of union officers to meet with Mete Coban, the Deputy Mayor of London for the Environment and Energy.

The **Green Alliance has published a blog from Climate Emergency** that contains more detail on the LGA policy.

Graham Petersen

**HAZARDS
CAMPAIGN**



Trade Union Round Up

The debate at the TUC this month should position the movement for campaigning through the Year of Trade Union Action, as the movement is gearing up across the world. See reports on India and Africa below. Watch out for our TUC Special that goes through all the climate related motions, with a full report on Congress to follow.

Climate Jobs UK

A new organisation called **Climate Jobs UK** has recently been set up.

GJA welcomes initiatives from unions campaigning for more green jobs in a clean energy transition, and for those jobs to be high paid and high skill (whether they are in the UK or anywhere else).

At this stage there is a limited amount of information to make an assessment about the likely impact of this 'coalition of unions.' We do know it is currently a very small coalition, consisting of just two - the GMB and Prospect. It would be useful to know whether other unions have been approached to join. What is needed is an alliance of all unions who have a stake in climate linked jobs whether it is energy, local authority, education, transport and other workers who are all exposed to climate risks, and whose jobs will be impacted by a fossil free economy.

If the focus is on UK jobs, it begs the question why the two unions have partnered up with an American University - Cornell. There is no shortage of organisations and academic institutions in the UK that have published quality research on the job implications of the energy transition.

Currently there is a lack of information on the strategic approach. We are sure that this will emerge in time, but we are concerned that the only substantive piece of work mentioned is a YouGov poll that has suggested that voters are opposed to a fast transition to net-zero. This of course fits the narrative of those in the movement who are on record as opposing Ed Miliband's net-zero 'fundamentalism'. It also fits the narrative of Reform UK, and the **right wing media** have not been slow to make this link.

Climate Jobs UK ambition is to 'develop a worker-led, evidence-based climate plan that delivers on jobs.' Developing a "worker-led, evidence-based climate plan that delivers on jobs" is exactly what we need and what the GJA has been campaigning for unions to do since we were launched over 15 years ago.

For this to be most effective we need the most equitable transition for workers in the fossil fuel sector but also sharply focus where the expanding sectors are and could be, and how unions develop plans for the transformation of jobs into greener jobs.

As a basis for that we need coalitions of relevant unions, with supporting academia and NGOs/campaigns to research expansion opportunities and required levels of investment. For unions in sectors and regions to campaign together for the investment in the transition we need. That requires a commitment from unions to put the resources into this and seek allies to develop it. The work done by CACCTU's Climate Jobs project is a brilliant foundation to build from. The trade union year of climate action is exactly the framework to drive this forward.

The science, nature depletion, and extreme weather events tell us that the pace of transition needs to be speeded up and not slowed down. If Climate Jobs UK produces research that supports that then it will be a useful addition to the movement.

Graham Petersen and Paul Atkin



Trade Union Round Up



One of many demonstrations across India on 9 July: Photo INTUC

Indian General Strike raises climate demands

Called under the banner of implementing UN sustainability Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all - a massive General Strike in India on 9th July involved Agriculture and Rural Workers, Childcare Workers, Gig & Platform Workers, Taxi & Cab Drivers, Contract Workers, Municipal Workers, Scheme Workers, Informal Workers, Outsourcing Workers, and Health Workers right across the country. It was the biggest action since the enormous farmer's protests in 2020-21.

It not only rose in protest against the anti-labour, anti-farmer, and pro-corporate policies of the Central Government, including the imposition of four labour codes that dismantle collective bargaining, trade union rights, and job guarantees, the rising unemployment, inflation, wage suppression, and cuts in essential public services, rampant privatisation, contractualisation, and outsourcing, denial of the right to protest, attempts to disenfranchise migrant workers and the exclusion of workers' voices from policy decisions, the Indian National TUC put forward a 17 point Charter that also addresses critical socio-economic issues, including

- the urgent need for a **comprehensive national policy for migrant workers**; to guarantee portability of social security and welfare benefits across states, safe housing and sanitation facilities, accessible healthcare, quality education for migrant children; and strong protections against workplace exploitation and wage theft. The plight of migrant workers, who are the backbone of India's construction, industrial, and service economy were ignored during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to remain unaddressed in the face of rising job insecurity and precarious work arrangements
- and a demand for the creation of a **National Climate Resilience Fund** to protect workers and communities from the growing threats of climate change. Floods, droughts, cyclones, heatwaves, and other extreme weather events have already displaced millions and destroyed livelihoods, especially in agriculture, construction, mining, and informal sectors. Workers are forced to bear the double burden of lost income and lack of rehabilitation. The proposed fund must be publicly financed, democratically governed, and directly accessible to workers, farmers, and vulnerable groups, ensuring that climate justice becomes an integral part of national economic and labour policy.

By foregrounding the twin challenges of migrant distress and climate vulnerability, INTUC affirms its vision of a participative and progressive trade union movement that not only protects wages and rights but also secures the future of working people against systemic risks.

RD Chandra Shekar Organising Secretary All India INTUC

A study of rural workers in India's Dimapur district reveals that agricultural labourers have the highest "livelihood vulnerability" to climate change, followed by cultivators, "household industry workers" and other workers.

Trade Union Round Up



**NEW ENERGY FOR AFRICA:
RECLAIM AND RESTORE**
just transition, climate change and cop30

Date: 4 - 7 August, 2025
Venue: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Logos: climateworks FOUNDATION, TRADE UNIONS FOR ENERGY DEMOCRACY, MSI, WASH WASH, Mondiaal FNV, OXFAM

African Unions Commit to “Reclaim and Restore Public Energy Systems”

Representatives of African trade unions, global union federations from public services, energy, mining, transport, agriculture and industry convened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from August 4th-7th, 2025, for a strategy conference themed: **New Energy for Africa – Universal, Debt-Free, and Climate Secure.**

Convened by the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), in partnership with TUED and allied solidarity networks, the 80 person gathering committed to forge strategic alliances among unions, social movements and progressive policy groups around three strategic goals; the **public ownership and control of energy-related assets; liberation from the endless cycle of debt and exploitation, and advancing South-South cooperation to build climate resilient societies.**

Building a “Transformative Energy Future”

Opening the 4 day gathering, ITUC-Africa’s General Secretary Joel Akhator Odigie challenged the group to take a bold, transformative and movement-building approach to building public pathway options to achieve energy justice in Africa.



ITUC-Africa’s General Secretary Joel Akhator Odigie

“The Dar convening focused on how to strengthen African trade unions’ efforts and contributions to decolonise and reconstruct Africa’s structurally colonised public energy pathways to advance the continent’s industrialisation and development. As unions, we must go beyond demanding ‘a seat at the table,’” said Odigie.

In a **declaration released on 7 August by ITUC Africa**, unions, unions and their allies committed to mobilise support for a broad-based campaign “**reclaim and restore**” public energy systems. It urged governments to advance public pathway alternatives to expand electrification by first repealing neoliberal energy laws that, for three decades, have imposed market criteria on public utilities.

But “**cost-reflective tariffs**” and mandatory “**take or pay**” power purchase agreements (PPAs) with for-profit independent power producers (IPPs) are chiefly responsible for 600 million Africans being without electricity, and the number is currently rising at a rate of roughly 20 million per year.

Trade Union Round Up

Decolonising Development

Day One focused on the impediments to electrification and economic development. Tunisian scholar Fadhel Kaboub admonished global institutions that have sought to keep Africa locked in a cycle of debt to the North, increasing the pressure to export vital resources to meet debt servicing charges. “The World Bank is not a development bank, it is a means to keep Africa from using its ample resources for sovereign development and to bring to an end colonial forms of exploitation,” said Kaboub.

Mission Impossible?

The Dar es Salaam declaration urged African governments to reject pro-privatisation policies such as the African Development Bank’s “Mission 300.” At a **governmental energy summit** organised around Mission 300 in January 2025 many African governments agreed to “incentivize private sector participation to unlock additional resources by creating an enabling environment through supportive regulations, effective fiscal policies with appropriate incentives, and innovative financing mechanisms grounded in cost-benefit analyses. Further, incentivize African investors and support the development of an African electricity industry.”

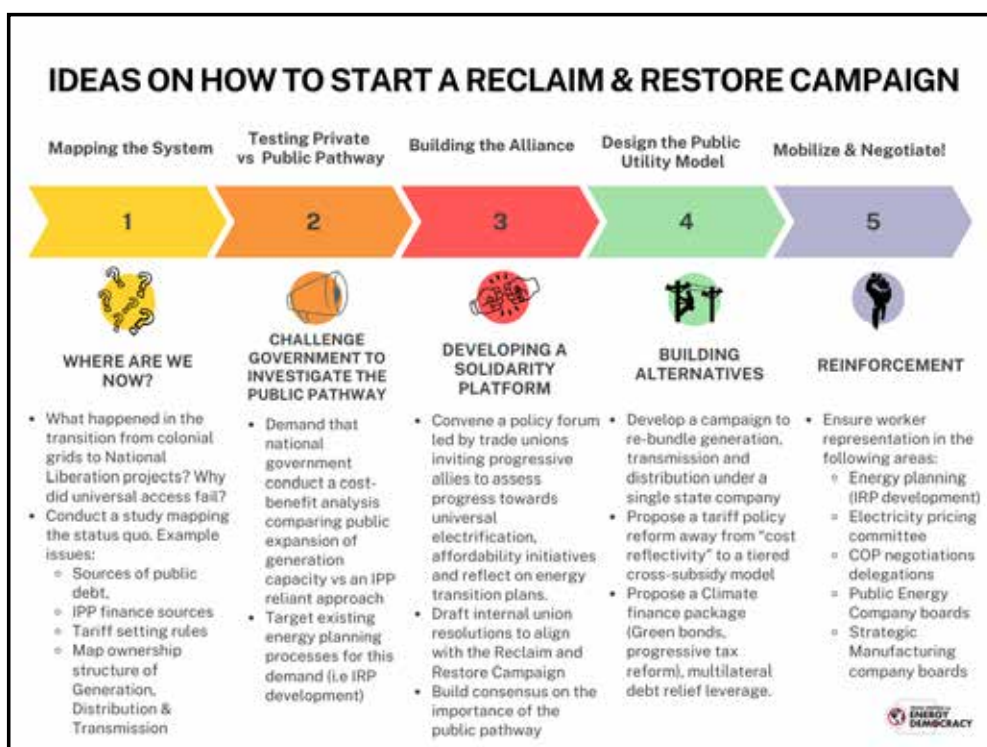
In a presentation outlining the need for a concerted campaign to reclaim and restore public utilities as a means of getting SDG7 back on track, TUED’s Sean Sweeney described how the AfDB’s 300 million electrification target will suffer the same fate as its previous initiatives. “Launched in 2016, the AfDB’s **New Deal on Energy for Africa** aspired to achieve 100% access in urban areas and 95% access in rural areas by 2025. Today the results are clear: the private sector did not show up. And private interests will not invest in electrification without guaranteed returns approaching 20% per year. This explains why more Africans are living in energy poverty today than was the case a decade ago.”



First Day of the Dar es Salaam Meeting, August 2025

Step-by-Step Reclaiming

On Day Two, TUED’s Brian Kamanzi presented a visual on how reclaiming public utilities might unfold at the level of policy and politics, beginning with governmental assessments of “public pathway” alternatives, including “rebundling” of power utilities, progressive tariff reform, and reconstituting energy planning that is not beholden to the whims of private capital.



“Since launching the Reclaim and Restore initiative, TUED has worked to track, learn from, and share how trade unions across the Global South are fighting neoliberal energy policy. Building on each other’s successes and struggles is essential for developing coherent campaigns rooted in our energy systems’ history, and strengthening union positions,” said Kamanzi.

Trade Union Round Up

Energy Access, Not Gender Neutra



Women's Caucus at the Dar es Salaam Meeting

Systemic gender oppression has left women facing the greatest levels of poverty, globally. New opportunities for a women's liberation platform emerge alongside the commitment to build campaigns to "reclaim and restore" public energy systems, presented TUED's Irene Shen on Day Two. Energy poverty disproportionately impacts African women who do the majority of domestic work without electricity and / or clean cooking fuels.

The "reclaim and restore" campaigns can advance a feminist agenda through energy access that reduces time spent on daily domestic chores and improves indoor air quality by increasing access to clean cooking fuels, a goal that the private sector has failed to do for decades. Electrification through reclaiming and restoring energy utilities has the potential to develop infrastructure for electricity demands beyond charging a cell phone or lighting a lamp, but to transform women's material conditions and prioritise a women's liberation agenda.

A women's caucus on the evening of Day Three highlighted the work of the women participants in the trade union movement and the legacies of mentorship between women at the meeting, building a supportive foundation of relationships that will anchor the work as women collectively develop a feminist public pathway.

As **Mavis Koogotsitse**, Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordinating Council (SATUCC), reflected, *"The women's caucus meeting was a powerful reminder of our collective strength, offering a platform for diverse voices and solidarity. It reinforced our shared commitment to empower women in our communities so we can tackle the challenges together. Additionally we emphasized our dedication to mentorship, to ensure that younger women have the support, guidance, and opportunities they need to thrive, succeed and not shy away from taking leadership roles."*

African Unity and South-South Solidarity for Global Public Goods

Looking beyond the power sector, the Dar gathering declared support for UN Secretary-General Guterres' call to strengthen governance of the global commons and for global public goods. This requires a radical overhaul of the multilateral financial system and an end to debt creating mechanisms like de-risking, "blended finance," etc. that deepen inequality and weaken states.

Solidarity with Palestine: Stop Weaponising Essential Resources



August 2025 action calling on the South African government to ban coal exports to Israel

The declaration also condemned Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza, and the "deliberate destruction of water and energy infrastructure [that] has killed Palestinians through dehydration, disease, and denial of medical care. This calculated weaponization of essential resources constitutes a war crime. We demand an immediate ceasefire, end to the blockade, and accountability for these atrocities. Palestine's liberation is inseparable from our struggles for social and economic justice."

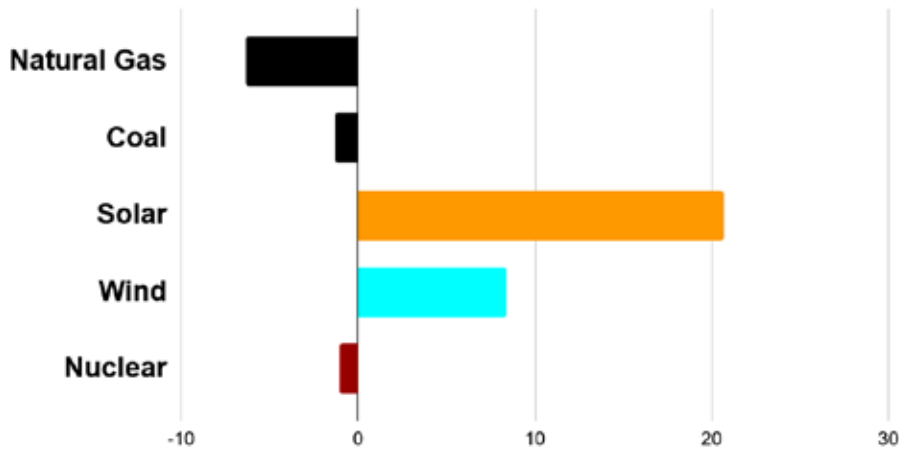
Call to Action

The Declaration concluded, *"We urge unions, communities, and progressive forces worldwide: Endorse this declaration and join our struggle for a debt-free, climate-secure, people-powered Africa. Our campaigns will reclaim Africa's energy and mineral wealth for public good—not private profit. Together, we will block privatisation, expose corporate capture, and win the future Africa deserves."*

Originally published by **Trade Unions for Energy Democracy**

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

Changes in sources of energy generation in the OECD
2024 - 5 in %



In May 2025, total net electricity generation in the OECD reached 860.6 TWh. Of this total, 356.6 TWh (41.4%) was produced from fossil fuels, 358.5 TWh (41.7%) from renewable sources and 141.6 TWh (16.5%) from nuclear power. On a year-to-date basis, total net electricity production increased by 2.3% in the first five months of 2025.

Meanwhile, UK imports of gas dropped 47% last year, even as North Sea production continued to decline, as the overall demand for gas dropped to its lowest level since 1992.

Mineral mining boom not 'critical' for green transition

"New research shows renewable energy goals could largely be met with the amount of minerals produced today – but the military industry wants more." The claim that achieving net-zero "inevitably means more mining" is "rarely...backed with evidence".

Research which analyses the UK's list of 33 "critical" minerals to determine how much is used for green technologies and how much is needed to meet the International Energy Agency's "2040 transition scenario" shows that "Renewable goals can largely be met within existing mineral production, if we make small reallocations of supply across sectors – slicing the mineral pie differently, rather than growing it." The scramble for these resources is being driven instead by increases in military spending which threatens to swallow the investment needed to get the job done.

Bill McKibbin explains it like this: *"you need to mine a lot less than you did before. And if you think about it for a minute, the reason is intuitive. You get yourself some lithium and you stick it in a battery and it does its job for 25 years. And if the battery degrades, then the lithium is valuable enough that it's already being recycled and put to work in the next battery."*

If you go mine yourself some coal, you set it on fire and you have to go mine some more tomorrow. So the Rocky Mountain Institute estimated in the fall that the total volume of minerals between now and 2050 would be roughly equivalent to how much coal we mined on this planet last year. There's no free lunch, but there are cheaper lunches and more expensive ones."

Full report here.

Oil and Gas generates fewer jobs than it did

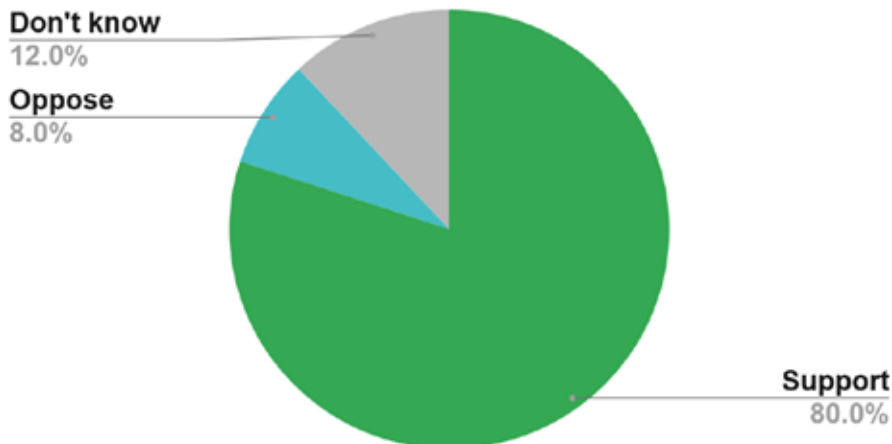
Canada's oil and gas sector is no longer the job creator or economic engine it once was, with the industry creating 43% fewer jobs per thousand barrels of production in 2023 than it did in 2012, according to a **new analysis by the Pembina Institute**. Automation eliminated over 25,000 oil and gas sector jobs between 2014 and 2021 and **those job losses are projected to continue**, wiping out about 30 percent of the remaining oil patch workforce by 2040.

Meanwhile, **demand for gas in the EU** declined by 17% between 2021 and 24, and is projected to fall a further 7% by 2030.



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

Produce more UK energy from investing in renewable infrastructure



A YouGov Survey for Friends of the Earth shows that people in favour of increased investment in renewable energy outnumber those opposed by 10 to one. Even Conservative voters favour it by 83:7 (more than 10 to 1), and Reform voters are in favour by 65:25 (between 2 and 3 to 1) despite the vehement campaigning of their Parties against it. Labour supporters favour it by 93:2, so any backsliding would not be popular. Awful lot of “eco-loons” out there!

The full report can be read [here](#).

School Leavers want Green Jobs

Research1 from **E.ON**, conducted across 2,000 school leavers aged 16 to 18, reveals that more than one in three (34%) school and college leavers in the UK plan to skip going to university. Instead, they plan to enter the workforce directly – through employment or apprenticeships or a combination of both.

This correlates with respondents' growing interest in sustainable careers and wanting to have an immediate impact on the climate crisis, as close to half (47%) are considering foregoing traditional higher education because they want to work in a green job now.

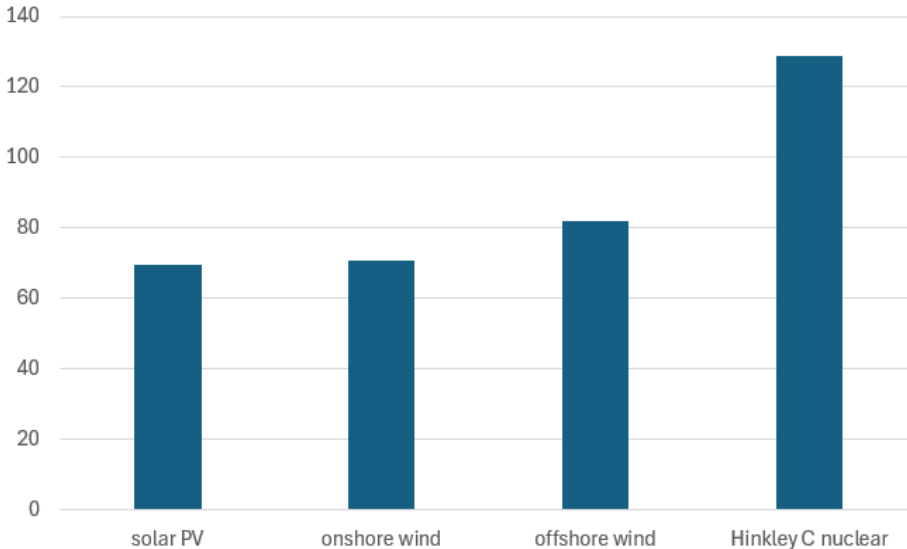


Photo: John Englart on flickr.com/photos/takver/

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

The cost of nuclear

Contracts-for-difference prices for non-fossil options (2024 prices)



The cost of nuclear. From David Toke's substack on **Why new nuclear power is a bad way to balance solar and wind**

Sizewell C could end up costing £100 billion, which the public will have to underwrite under the terms of the government's agreement with EDF.

Sticking with Fossils costs you

A **July report** from climate thinktank Energy Innovation found that Trump's "*Big Beautiful Bill*" could increase wholesale electricity prices by as much as 74%, largely due to its **repeal of many Biden-era green energy incentives**. Republican lawmakers who voted for Donald Trump's "*big, beautiful bill*" have accepted more than **\$105m in political donations from the fossil fuel industry**.

US electricity prices in Florida are rising more than twice as fast as inflation, driven by "power-hungry data centres" and the "soaring price of natural gas".

An **Alberta municipality** that declared an agricultural disaster earlier this month due to drought is moving forward with plans to host the "largest AI computer data centre on Earth," which could drain millions of litres of water every day from the watershed.

A **coal plant ordered to stay open in Michigan** by the US Department of Energy has lost \$29 million in just 5 weeks.

Going nuclear?

Thursday 11 September 2025 7pm
at the Italian Advice Centre.

The government is planning to expand the UK's nuclear power capacity arguing that it will enhance energy security, provide low carbon electricity and power the expansion of AI as part of its growth agenda. Nuclear power is controversial and there has been long standing opposition to it.

We will explore the issues with:

- **Mark Whitby**
- **Nicola Pilkington**
- **Chris Wilson**

Please let us know if you are coming by emailing.
islingtonenvironmentforum@gmail.com

Islington Environment Forum promotes discussion, information and campaigning for climate justice and environmental sustainability. Italian Advice Centre 124 Canonbury Rd, London N1 2UT

Extreme heat is also workplace violence

These are the words on a banner carried on a demonstration in Spain after Montse Aguilar, a Barcelona city street cleaner died after working a 7 hour shift in 35C heat wearing overalls made of polyester.

The Health and Safety Executive is drafting new guidelines to protect workers during the periods of intense heat that are now becoming regular - four so far in the UK this summer. This has been reported in the **Daily Telegraph** as including a right for manual workers, especially those at work outside in jobs like construction and bin collection, to take a mandatory break when temperatures reach 27C. HSE proposals include mandatory heat stress assessments and enhanced protections, such as more breaks and access to shade and water.

The government has committed to supporting reforms, with detailed proposals expected for consultation soon.

True to form the Telegraph frames this as “productivity will plummet under legislation to allow manual labourers to demand extra protection in hot weather” doubtless wishing they were in Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis - doubtless sitting in an air conditioned office - has signed **a law that prevents cities or counties from creating protections** for workers who labour in the state’s often extreme and dangerous heat.

TUC General Secretary Paul Nowak called for a legal workplace maximum. *“This weather isn’t much fun if you’re stuck in an overheated workplace.*

“Indoor workplaces should be kept at comfortable temperatures, with relaxed dress codes and flexible working to make use of the coolest hours of the day.

“And employers must make sure outdoor workers are protected with regular breaks, lots of fluids, plenty of sunscreen and the right protective clothing.

“With heatwaves becoming more common, we need to adapt. We need new laws on maximum working temperatures, improvements to workplaces to keep them cool, and climate action to reduce global heating.”

“Climate change has further accelerated low-wage workers’ exploitation, such as labouring through toxic wildfire smoke, active evacuation zones, and contaminated flood waters. To convince anyone to work in these harmful sites, employers must effectively conscript workers and coerce labour out of them.”

*From **Forced to work on an overheated planet** by Denise Brennan*

Meanwhile in Spain

Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez has said that his country’s wildfires have triggered the largest ever deployment of the European Union firefighting force. A heatwave in early August sparked 19 high-risk active fires burning across Spain – with the northern front of a fire in Extremadura described by local officials as “out of control”. Sánchez said: *“The clear answer to having fires of this magnitude now... is that the climate emergency ravaging the world is accelerating, becoming more serious and more frequent, especially in places like the Iberian peninsula.”*

This is one of the worst wildfire seasons on record, with Greece, Turkey, France, Slovakia and the Balkan nations having to battle blazes that have coincided with repeated heatwaves.

Sánchez is going to “propose a big nationwide pact for the mitigation and adaptation to the climate emergency”; and that this should be “a pact that should leave the climate emergency out of political fighting” and should be based on science.



Connecting Communities

In the **Buses Connecting Communities** report the Transport Select Committee, also proposes the government should:

- Introduce a minimum bus service standard to ensure that every community has a usable bus service
- Identify and protect existing socially necessary services and map where there are gaps
- Move to needs based, long-term funding for buses
- Include statutory guidance in the Bus Services Bill to create a national standard for bus stops.

Transport Committee calls for free all-day bus travel to under-22s

The undersigned organisations welcome the **House of Commons Transport Committee**'s call for a pilot scheme providing free all-day bus travel to under-22s – and we call for a more wide-ranging study on the potential for universal free travel on all types of public transport.

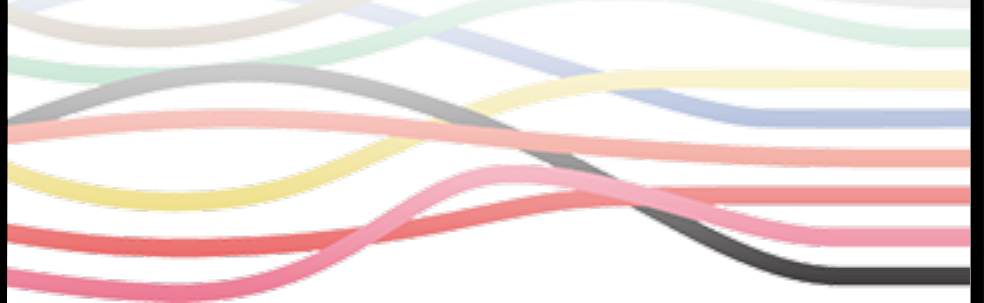
The committee states that access to free travel would help to remove “*barriers to education, training and employment for the next generation*”. But it is not only the young who experience these barriers. The burden borne by millions of households due to high fares and to the deterioration of bus services over the past decade is well documented.

High fares and poor public transport services exacerbate social inequality, and obstruct progress away from car-centred transport systems – and not only on buses. Trains, including the underground, add to the problem.

With regard to buses, the Transport Committee is calling for a change in the way that funding is provided. We believe that that change should be applied to public transport as a whole.

We call for the Committee and the government to consider the potential of universal free public transport, which has been successfully introduced in a range of European cities, including the capitals of Luxembourg, Estonia and Serbia, and more than 130 cities in Brazil.

Fare Free London Fare Free Yorkshire



Free Travel is win, win.

Meanwhile, the new West of England Mayors policy of free travel for under 16s is already having a positive impact, with Mayor Helen Goodwin reporting *"All our kids under the age of 16 can travel for free – and we've seen quite a significant uptick in terms of passenger numbers. We'll get the evaluation of that, but that's meaning that we've got loads of young people accessing the city centre and hopefully bolstering local economies as well."*

Early success in reducing train fares

Northern, TransPennine Express and LNER, already in public ownership, have been working together to cut some fares by up to 50%. The price of a ticket from Harrogate to Manchester has been cut from £33.90 to £14.10. Travelling from Burley to Manchester previously cost £32.60 and now costs £10.10. These publicly owned companies have simultaneously generated £200,000 in new revenue from more people now choosing to travel by rail. From **'Five ways to bring rail fares down with public ownership'** by **Cat Hobbs on Labour List**

And in **Scotland** peak fares for train travel were permanently scrapped from September 1st. This will mean big savings, for example, people commuting between Glasgow and Edinburgh will save £15.80 a day. Transport is Scotland's biggest source of climate emissions, so an affordable, accessible, high-quality public transport network will make it possible for people to get around without cars.

The wheels on the bus are turning green

New figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) shows the number of new buses, coaches and minibuses joining UK roads grew substantially in 2024, with 1,570 new electric or hydrogen buses entering service, representing the highest volume of annual fleet renewal in 16 years. The zero-emission deliveries represented 43.9% of all new large PSVs registered.

A 70.1% increase in registrations saw a total of 8,390 buses, including 4,816 minibuses, join Britain's roads during the year, making it the largest overall European bus market, reflecting growing operator confidence in ridership levels and substantial government funding for zero-emission technologies. **From SMMT**

In the GJA view, every driver of a zero emissions bus, and everyone who works building and supporting them, has a "green job"; even more so if the improved comfort of ZE buses meshes with low cost and reliability to help get car journeys down. It's not just about energy and manufacturing. Ed



Photo: flickr.com/photos/cityswift/

Labour members oppose Heathrow expansion

Described by Hammersmith and Fulham MP Andy Slaughter as **"the wrong answer to the wrong question"**, polling for LabourList by Survation reveals that **more than half of Labour members oppose the prospect of a third runway at Britain's largest airport**. 52% signalled their opposition to the plans, while only 27% said they supported expansion.



Photo: London Permaculture flickr.com/photos/naturewise/

Reasons to be *cheerful*...

The US treasury department issued guidance this month that narrows which wind and solar energy projects can receive the remaining tax credits that were largely eliminated under the Republicans' *'big, beautiful bill'*, which ends credits for projects that begin producing electricity from 2028, but it contains an exemption for projects that begin construction over the next year, **Inside Climate News** says that *"some industry analysts believed renewables dodged a bullet"* as developers will still get four years to complete their credit-eligible projects. Four more years!

And despite Trump, **solar may account for half of new electricity** generating capacity in the US this year.

And globally, investment in renewable energy projects reached a record high of \$386bn in the first half of 2025, up 10% year-on-year, **despite US renewables investment dropping** by 36% compared to the second half of 2024.

At the same time, financing for oil, gas, and coal projects by Wall Street's top six banks fell by 25% compared to the same period last year. Morgan Stanley reduced its fossil fuel financing by 54%. JPMorgan Chase, historically a major supporter of the oil and gas sector, trimmed its lending by approximately 7%. **Hedge funds have also now shifted** from long-term investment in fossil fuels to short-term selling. That means hedge funds are betting that oil company shares will decline. By contrast, hedge funds are shifting to long-term positions in renewables stocks. This could be because almost **40% of future fossil fuel investments** will be uneconomic under current and announced climate policies.

Analysts are noting that the first decline in global upstream oil and gas development spending since 2020 coincides with this reduction in lending.

As **BloombergNEF analyst Miquel Kishimoto Guardiola** puts it, *"the composition of banks' lending books is a better measure of whether they're having a 'meaningful energy transition impact' than their public net-zero commitments"* (which are backsliding at a rate of knots).

Quote of the Month

"Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history. If we can keep accelerating the pace, we have a chance."

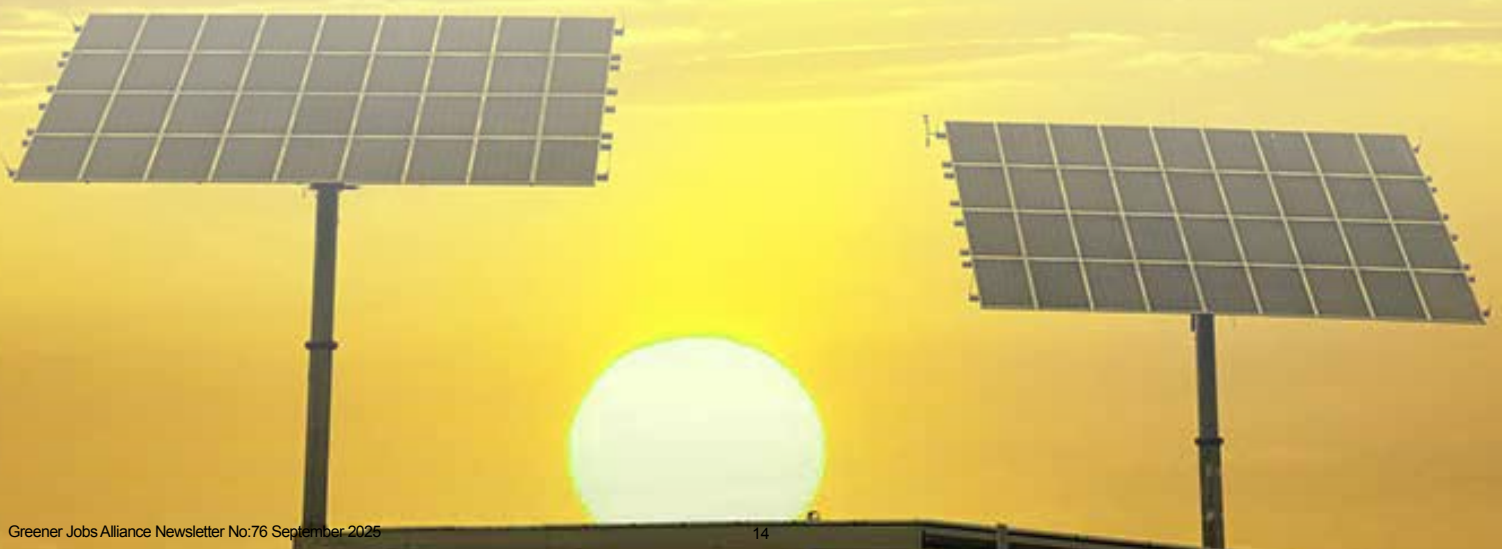
"We look around the few places in the world that have really done the job and we start seeing remarkable results."

"In May, China, which is at the forefront of all of this, was putting up a gigawatt of solar panels, the rough equivalent of a coal-fired power plant, every eight hours. California, which in the United States has done the most, is using 40% less natural gas to produce electricity than they were two years ago."

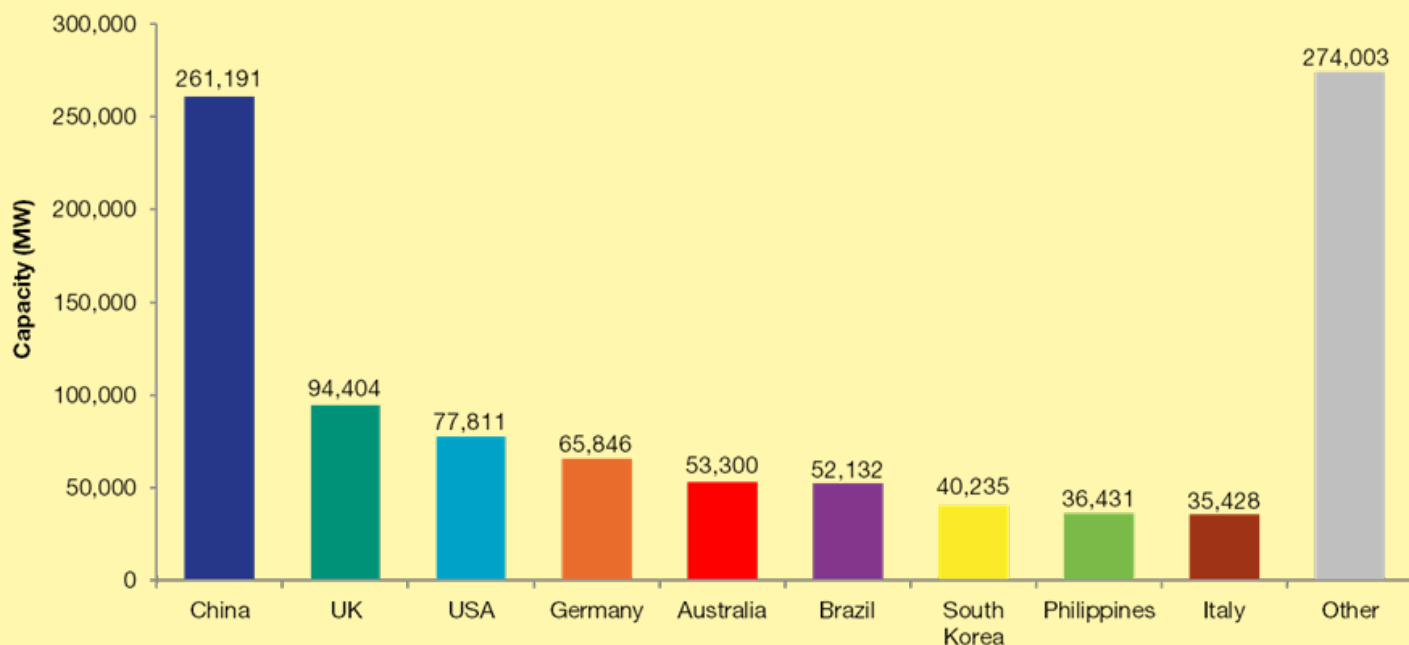
Bill McKibbin in his article ***Here comes the Sun.***



Image by Tung Lam from Pixabay



Reasons to be *cheerful*...



The **total global portfolio of active offshore wind farms worldwide** at any stage of development (from early planning to fully operational) now stands at 1,219GW across 1,555 projects in 46 countries. So, even a total retreat by the USA will have a marginal, and self harming, impact on the transition and, over here, Chancellor Rachel Reeves has rejected Trump's call to halt "unsightly windmills" in the North Sea and the Government is setting new minimum requirements for the amount that offshore wind developers must invest in skills training for local communities – a measure which unions have called for. **Eddie Dempsey**, General Secretary of the RMT comments "This ensures that oil and gas workers are not being left behind."

A UK university **cut the carbon footprint of its weekly canteen menu by 31%** "without students noticing". Exemplary practice that should be copied everywhere.

Solar power generation in Britain so far this year has already surpassed the total for 2024. According to data from the University of Sheffield, 14.08 terawatt hours of electricity was produced from solar in Great Britain by 16 August, about one-third higher than at this time last year.

A record amount of renewable energy capacity was granted planning permission in the UK, during the second quarter of 2025. 16.1 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy capacity, across 323 projects, This is a 195% rise on the same quarter last year.

China's thermal power generation is "trending downwards this year compared to 2024, on track to potentially decline for the first time in a decade", while coal production in July fell to the lowest level since April 2024 and **China's CO2 emissions** have fallen even as it uses more electricity. Electricity demand grew by 3.7% during the first half of 2025, but the increase in power from solar, wind and nuclear "easily outpaced that". According to Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, "We're talking really for the first time about a structural declining trend in China's emissions."

At the same time "more and more Chinese firms are investing" in solar projects in Africa, with a **60% increase in imports** in the year to June, which **New Scientist reports** as possibly "the beginning of a green energy boom on the continent".



Tangshanpeng Wind Farm China

Events

TRADE UNION YEAR OF CLIMATE ACTION

Organising Zooms

- Wednesday 24th September 7pm - A year of trade union climate action: mobilising for 14th and 15th November
- Tuesday 21st October 7pm - Why the climate crisis is an international working class issue: building global solidarity

Details to follow

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST TRUMP'S STATE VISIT

**TRUMP
NOT
WELCOME**

LONDON | WED 17 SEPTEMBER

**ASSEMBLE 2PM PORTLAND PLACE
RALLY 5PM LOCATION TBC**

Find out more [HERE](#)

MAKETHEMPAY

London ➡ 20 September

**20 September: Make Them Pay -
demo in London**

Calling to tax the super-rich, protect workers not billionaires and make polluters pay. [Find out more](#)

MP LOBBY WEEK 13 - 20 SEPTEMBER

13 - 20 September: local MP lobby week organised by the Climate Coalition to enable campaigners to follow up on meetings with MPs last month in Westminster, and enable more people to meet their MPs and call for climate action. [Find out more](#)

Linked to this, in Scotland, there will be a **Holyrood Lobby** on 18 September, and in Wales, there will be a **Senedd Lobby** on 17 September



How to Build Support for Free Public Transport

27 September Saturday 27 September, 10.0-13.0

Including

- Keynote presentation (by video): "How free public transport works in 130+ Brazilian cities". Daniel Santini (University of Sao Paolo). Questions
- Panel discussion: "How to build support for free public transport"
- Panellists: Caroline Russell (Green party, London Assembly)/ Ruth London (Fuel Poverty Action)/ Coral Jones (Doctors in Unite)/ RMT union activist, working at TfL, in a personal capacity/ Organisers from Fare Free London: Haringey, and Fare Free Yorkshire.

Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA.

[Register \(FREE\) on Eventbrite now](#), and spread the word.

28 - 29th September: To round off the month there will be some leafleting and campaign actions at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool focused on false solutions. People who want to be in the loop or contribute ideas to the mix can join the [WhatsApp group](#) or email ellenrobottom@hotmail.com

Green Bites

44%

of global mean sea level rise comes from **drying out groundwater**, compared to about 37% from Greenland and roughly 19% from melting in Antarctica.

£4.58 million

Median pay for a FTSE 100 CEO pay in 2024-5, up from £4.29 million on 2023-4 in the annual **High Pay Centre Survey**, the highest ever. *"No magic money tree"*

15X

Neighbourhoods in England that are home to the most minority-ethnic people are **15 times more likely** to face extreme heat than the least diverse areas.

\$11.36 billion

The stranded assets represented by the **60 liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers** that are currently idle worldwide, highlighting the need for the shipping sector to reassess its investment strategies as the global energy system shifts toward renewables. At the same time, **Trump's attempts to use tariffs** to force other countries to buy more US fossil fuels appear delusional.

40%

Increase in demand for used EVs in the UK in the second quarter of 2025. This is still only one in ten of overall sales.

100

False or misleading claims in Trump's climate report. **Detailed assessment from Carbon Brief here.**

New on the Debate Blog

- **Virtueless signalling - Reform under the spotlight**
- **Reparations now, climate justice now**
- **Free public transport for all - not just buses for under 22s**

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.

Subscribe to the GJA Newsletter



greenerjobsalliance.co.uk

