

Chavis Marmol, Tesla Crushed by an Olmec Head, 2024 From Progressive International

## There is no “National Security” without International Security

If the first duty of government is to keep its people safe, the shelving this month of a report from parliament’s joint intelligence committee that describes the “*destabilising impact of the climate and nature crises on national security*” as one of the “*biggest risks facing Britain*” is a stunning dereliction of duty.

Particularly as, according to both the [Times](#) and the [Guardian](#), the reason for the suppression is that the government is “*unwilling to face the issues raised*” because their cuts to foreign aid to pay for increased military spending, undermined the chances to “*stabilise countries most at risk from the climate crisis and avoid some of the impacts*”.

This ‘*global ecosystem assessment report*’, which looks at the consequences, of the degradation and destruction of tropical and boreal forests, coral reefs and mangroves on the UK, warns that food shortages and economic disaster are potentially just years away; with impacts already being felt and growing as temperatures rise.

This compounds the [local impacts of climate change on food production](#) that has already led to a shortfall of a quarter of the UK wheat harvest between 2020 and 2024.

Add to this the [letter from the Climate Change Committee](#) that UK planning should prepare for at least 2C of global heating by 2050, underlining that the country is “*not yet adapted*” to worsening weather extremes already occurring at current levels of warming, “*let alone*” what was expected to come, which builds on

### Contents

- Editorial, there is no national security without international security
- Climate and war in Gaza
- Trade Union Round Up - including Workplace day of action Nov 14- UNISON timetable for Year of Action -
- Reality Checks - including Renewable deployments cuts fossil fuel import costs
- Party conference round up. Green Party of England and Wales, Conservative Party
- Declaration from the Caracas World Congress in defence of Mother Earth
- High Fares = social isolation
- Reasons to be cheerful in Germany, the USA, UK, Cuba and China
- Events
- Green Bites

their report from April **which said preparations in the UK for rising temperatures were "either too slow, has stalled, or [are] heading in the wrong direction"**.

This will leave people throughout the country vulnerable to serious economic and health impacts, from hell *and* high water, on hospitals and care homes, food and water supplies; while impacts of high temperatures are already apparent, for example in schools; with the Department for Education already reporting lost learning time due to heat.

It's a statement of the bleeding obvious that none of this can be dealt with by increasing military spending, particularly not on the eye watering scale that President Trump has demanded. In fact, in diverting expenditure from domestic green investment and the overseas aid needed for international security, and to pay our dues as a country that has released far more than its fair share of greenhouse gases since the 1750s, this malign diversion of funding is making us less safe. You can't stop a flood or a shrivelled harvest by dropping a bomb on it. Trying to secure "national security" at the expense of the rest of the world can only lead to disaster. We make it through together, or none of us does.

Our campaigning in the trade union year of climate action will need to take all of this up.

The Climate Emergency Briefing at Westminster Central Hall on 27 Nov will hopefully deal with this. The UK's updated climate plan, due by 31 Oct is an opportunity for the government to pull its head out of the sand and do the right thing. We will publish a blog and assessment on what it does, and does not, cover.

**Paul Atkin Ed**

# Climate and War

War fuels the climate crisis. Beyond the terrible cost in human lives, conflict drives carbon emissions, destroys ecosystems, and spreads toxic pollution. In this project, local journalists in Gaza highlight how war accelerates climate breakdown - revealing an often overlooked but urgent link between the two. [Read more here.](#)



***Making the blooms into desert.*** Olive trees cut and vandalized by Israeli settlers on 11 October 2025 in Al Mughayyir village, in Ramallah governorate. Photo by OCHA

***Let me begin by stating that the environmental costs of the colonial occupation and conflict on the land and people Palestine started nearly a hundred years ago with projects like draining the wetland of the Hula, diversion of waters of the Jordan River basin (the river used to flow at 1350 million cubic meters/year and now barely a stream at 20 mcm/y), and uprooting of millions of local trees. The previous damage also included bringing in dozens of invasive plant and animal species and planting a monoculture of pine trees to replace more resilient mixed wooded areas destroyed. This catastrophic environmental damage (which I dubbed an "environmental nakba") has accelerated since 7 October 2023.***

***From the testimony of Professor Mazin B. Qumsiyeh, of the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability at Bethlehem University to the Gaza Tribunal.***

# Trade Union Round Up

## During the COP: Workplace actions on Friday 14 November

Do check with your national union whether they are planning to support members to take action on 14/15 November and in the year of action more generally. Here's a [list](#) of motions passed by unions to support the year of action). What's best will depend on your workplace and union, but there are various actions you could take, like:

- taking a group solidarity photo with posters in support of trade union climate action;
- having a stall with a climate quiz to do some myth-busting about climate and energy;
- holding a lunchtime meeting, which could focus on myth-busting and/or why the climate crisis is a union issue;
- doing a survey of what future actions people would be keen to take themselves and how they think their employer should act on climate.

[Very useful resources for this from CACCTU here.](#)

**Link up with others in your community** by organising with other unions to come together after work on Friday 14th in a local high street, at a rail or metro terminus, or outside the town hall for example, with banners and flyers. Trades councils have a vital role organising this.



### Global Day of Action during COP30

**We're taking to the streets for globally coordinated mobilisations on Saturday 15 November.** While world leaders gather for the UN's climate summit, **our call will echo through streets on every corner of the earth: this world is ours!**

**Check out all the actions being organised across the country,** find out more and join the one nearest you: [Events map here](#)

*Bring your union banner!*

## The Word from the COP

The UK trade union movement's delegates at the COP this year will be Jenny Cooper from the NEU and Tracy Wainwright from UNISON. This is Jenny's fourth COP and Tracy's first. Jenny will once again write her [daily Blog](#) straight from the negotiations and mobilisations and has invited us to feel free to share. Jenny will be available for report backs on her return, which can be booked via the blog. These will start properly from 10<sup>th</sup> November but this one sets the scene: [The Road to Belem](#)



Jenny Cooper NEU

## UNISON timetable for Year of Action

Unison's plans for the Year of Action include the production of short learning modules suitable for showing at union meetings and a thematic timetable for the year that it would be useful if other unions link up with.

**Themes include:** *Health* in February. *Women and climate*, to link up with International Women's Day, and *Public Services* in March - the *Energy sector* and *World Earth day* in April - *Education* and *Rights for Reps* in May - *Refugee week*, *Great Big Green week*, *Clean Air Day* and *Pride* in June - *Young members* and *Transport* in July - *Extreme Heat* in August - *Green Unison Week*, *Water* and *Film Festival* in September - *Black History Month* and *Preparing for COP31* in October - *Cop31* and *Global Supply chains* in November - *Disabled members* in December.

[Full timetable here](#) [Full plans here.](#)

# Trade Union Round Up

## Workers at the sharp end of climate change

A [new study reported in the Lancet](#) reveals the shocking impacts experienced now from climate change. It reveals that globally around 1 person per minute is dying from the rise in global heat. The report makes it clear that, with politicians like Trump tearing up climate commitments and oil companies exploiting new reserves, things will only get worse.

Workers and the poor are at most risk. Those that have done the least to cause these catastrophic conditions will suffer the most.

Heatwave days are now three times more likely in Europe, Oceania and North America, five to six times more likely in Asia, Central and South America, eight times more likely in Africa and twenty times more likely in small islands and developing states. So, the global south gets hit hardest.

The Climate Change Committee [wrote to the UK Government](#) in October setting out its concerns. This follows the [CCC Report](#) earlier this year which stated clearly that the current approach was 'inadequate'. On extreme heat they had this to say:

*Future heat will risk the health and lives of vulnerable people. Heat-related deaths already occur in the thousands each year but could rise several times over to exceed 10,000 in an average year by 2050. This increase is driven by both climate change and an increasingly*

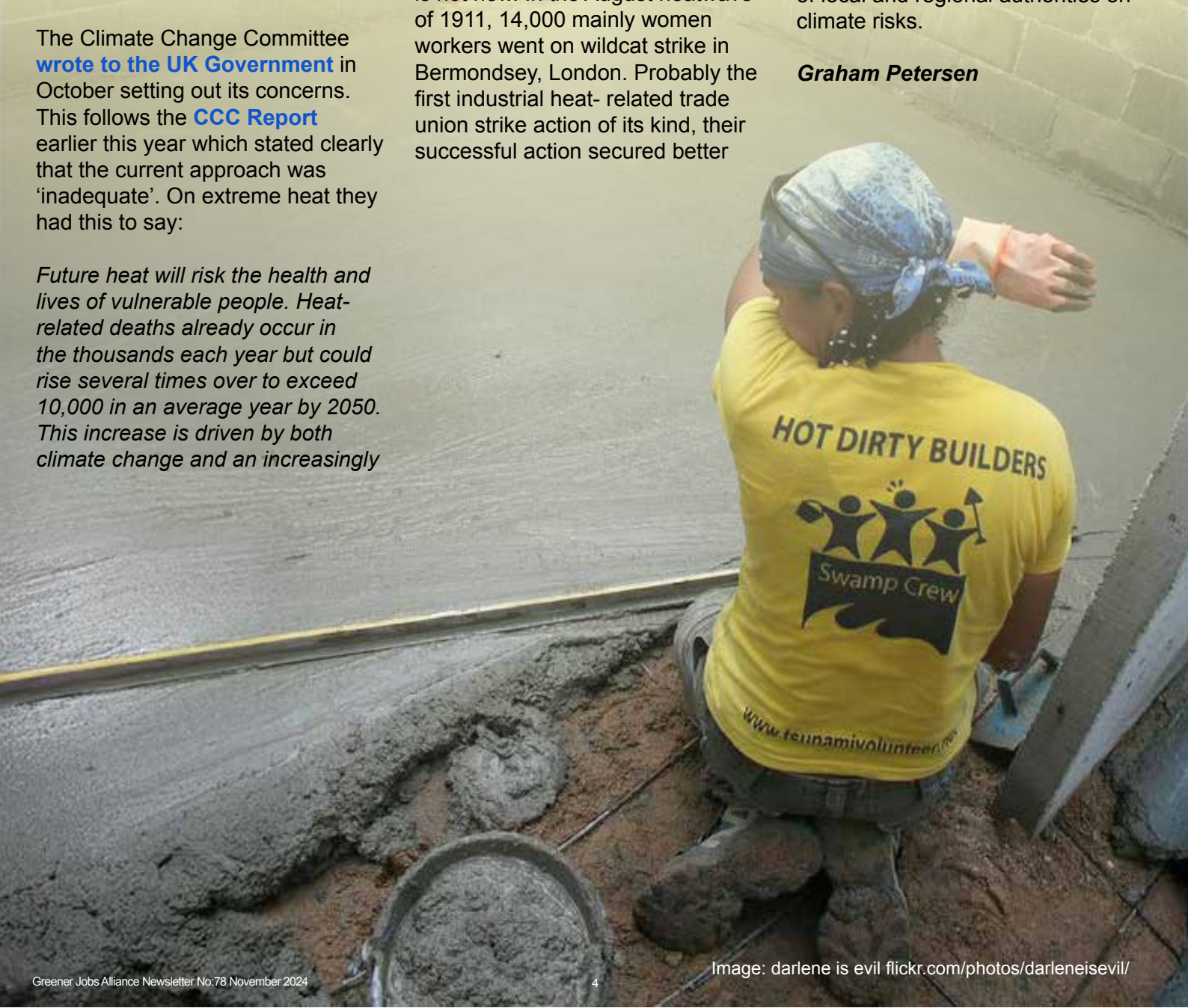
*vulnerable, ageing population. In heatwaves, many of our existing hospitals already struggle to operate effectively, with impacts such as unusable operating theatres and reduced staff productivity.*

Workers have always been on the frontline of exposure to climate risks. Direct action responses rather than waiting for employers and politicians to improve standards are back on the agenda. This approach is not new. In the August heatwave of 1911, 14,000 mainly women workers went on wildcat strike in Bermondsey, London. Probably the first industrial heat-related trade union strike action of its kind, their successful action secured better

pay and improved the appalling conditions in the jam and biscuit factories in the area.

Union organisation on heat and other climate risks is needed more than ever. The Greener Jobs Alliance is working hard with the Hazards movement and others to produce resources that will support negotiated agreements with employers. See below on how we are seeking to influence the policies of local and regional authorities on climate risks.

**Graham Petersen**



# Trade Union Round Up



*Members of the TUCAN delegation with the Deputy Mayor of London, Mete Coban.*

## Unions call for effective engagement on climate risks to workers

In October the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) organised a trade union delegation to meet the Deputy Mayor of London. Mete Coban is responsible for the environment and energy brief in the capital.

The meeting was useful and we had a strong delegation consisting of GMB, FBU, TSSA, NEU, Healthy Air Coalition, and TUC officers. We highlighted concerns about the lack of effective engagement with unions. There was agreement on:

1. Climate, like Equalities, was a cross-cutting issue throughout the GLA. One mechanism to ensure that the union voice is heard was through enhanced engagement with the Climate/Equalities tool that all GLA officers are expected to use. It was agreed we could have input to this.
2. A new Climate Action Plan is being developed. We have been invited to participate in this.
3. Each union presented on sector concerns - GMB -transport related pollution / FBU - staff and equipment shortages for dealing with emergencies like increased Fire. Flooding risks / TSSA - air pollution on the tube / NEU- air filtration in schools
4. There was also a commitment given to HAC to produce a pathway by the 1st quarter of 2026 on how London would achieve the WHO air pollution standards.

TUCAN underlined the need for action on indoor, workplace air pollution, generally much higher than outdoor pollution and spoke about how the GLA might get involved with this issue. The Deputy Mayor announced the launch of a project installing air filters in schools throughout London the following day. It was noted there had been no obvious involvement with trade unions on this project so far which underlined previous comments about the need for engagement with unions.

**Graham Petersen**



# Trade Union Round Up

## Nautilus pushes for just transition at new fuels training launch

At a [17 September launch of industry-wide training frameworks](#) for seafarers onboard ships powered by ammonia, methanol, and hydrogen, attended by delegates from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), Lloyd's Register Maritime Decarbonisation Hub, and Lloyd's Register Foundation, Nautilus argued that

- 76% of seafarers welcome decarbonisation,
- But 60% of seafarers have not received any communication from their company about the decarbonisation strategy
- and many are concerned about a threat to their jobs from automation rather than excited at the opportunities presented to reduce working hours and resolve fatigue/safety problems.
- and worried about the safety of new fuels and being criminalised when incidents occur involving the new technology.
- Raising pay and terms and conditions will be needed to avert labour and skills shortages.



**NAUTILUS**  
INTERNATIONAL

## RMT welcomes commitment to union rights and fair pay offshore

RMT strongly welcomed the announcement by Ed Miliband that he will introduce a new Fair Work Charter to close loopholes and ensure fair wages and trade union rights in the offshore sector. [Eddie Dempsey commented](#) that closing these loopholes in *“offshore wind is the essential basis for wider reforms that can deliver thousands more seafarer and offshore energy jobs that would otherwise be denied to our maritime communities.”*

## US Teachers Unions use contract negotiations to fight climate change

In Illinois, the Chicago Teachers Union won a contract with the city's schools to add solar panels on some buildings and clean energy career pathways for students, among other actions.

In Minnesota, the Minneapolis Federation of Educators demanded that the district create a task force on environmental issues and provide free metro passes for students. And in California, the Los Angeles teachers union's demands include electrifying the district's bus fleet and providing electric vehicle charging stations at all schools. [Full report and interview with CTU VP Jackson Potter here.](#)

# Trade Union Round Up



Solar Trade Association flickr.com/photos/126337375@N05/

## **Bridging the Green Gap: the UK must urgently invest in skills for a net-zero future**

The recently released Green Gap report by SOS UK, commissioned by the University and College Union, shines a spotlight on the growing shortfall in skills funding that threatens to derail the UK's green transition. Its findings are a wake-up call for the government: without urgent and coordinated investment in training, the workforce needed to deliver the country's clean energy ambitions will not exist.

The report assesses the UK's preparedness to equip workers with the technical qualifications required to achieve net zero by 2030. It concludes that the nation is not currently on track, identifying a shortfall of at least £1.7 billion in training costs across just two key sectors, energy and construction, between 2025 and 2030.

Across the economy, the scale of demand is stark. The energy sector alone will need around 130,000 new workers by the end of the decade, many qualified to levels 3 to 5 in technical disciplines such as electrical engineering, renewable power generation, and carbon storage. The construction industry, a key enabler of every clean energy project, must expand by more than 180,000 workers, many skilled in retrofit, low-carbon heat and sustainable building design. Yet, Further Education colleges, the backbone of technical training, report severe recruitment challenges, outdated facilities and limited access to capital funding.

The report makes clear that underpaid educators, often earning less than their industry counterparts, are struggling to deliver the scale of training required. Colleges particularly face acute shortages of instructors in areas such as electrical installation, engineering and green construction, precisely the disciplines most critical to net zero delivery.

Regional disparities compound the problem. Training provision remains patchy and uneven, leaving some parts of the UK with little to no access to technical qualification in core green sectors. However, the report also highlights a path forward: across the country, local partnerships between colleges, councils and employers – from Essex to East Devon, York to the North East of Scotland – are proving effective models for delivering targeted, place-based green skills programmes. These partnerships demonstrate what is possible when local expertise and national ambition align. Most, however, remain short-term and dependent on fragmented funding.

The report's central message is simple yet urgent: without decisive government action to coordinate and fund the development of green skills, labour shortages will deepen, infrastructure projects will stall, and climate goals will slip out of reach.

**Pierric Roger SOSUK**

# REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

There is a popular confusion on “the costs of climate targets” which has been deliberately stoked by misinformation in the media and from high places. A **recent survey by Hope not Hate** showed that while six in 10 think the climate crisis will threaten their families’ futures, and 51% say hitting Net Zero by 2050 is essential for life on Earth; nearly half of voters think it is too expensive – and want to reduce climate targets. Leaving aside the obvious cognitive dissonance in this, in this section we show how the transition, far from being an economic burden, is already making life better and reducing pressure on the cost of living.

## Renewable deployment cuts global fossil fuel import costs, and transport emissions

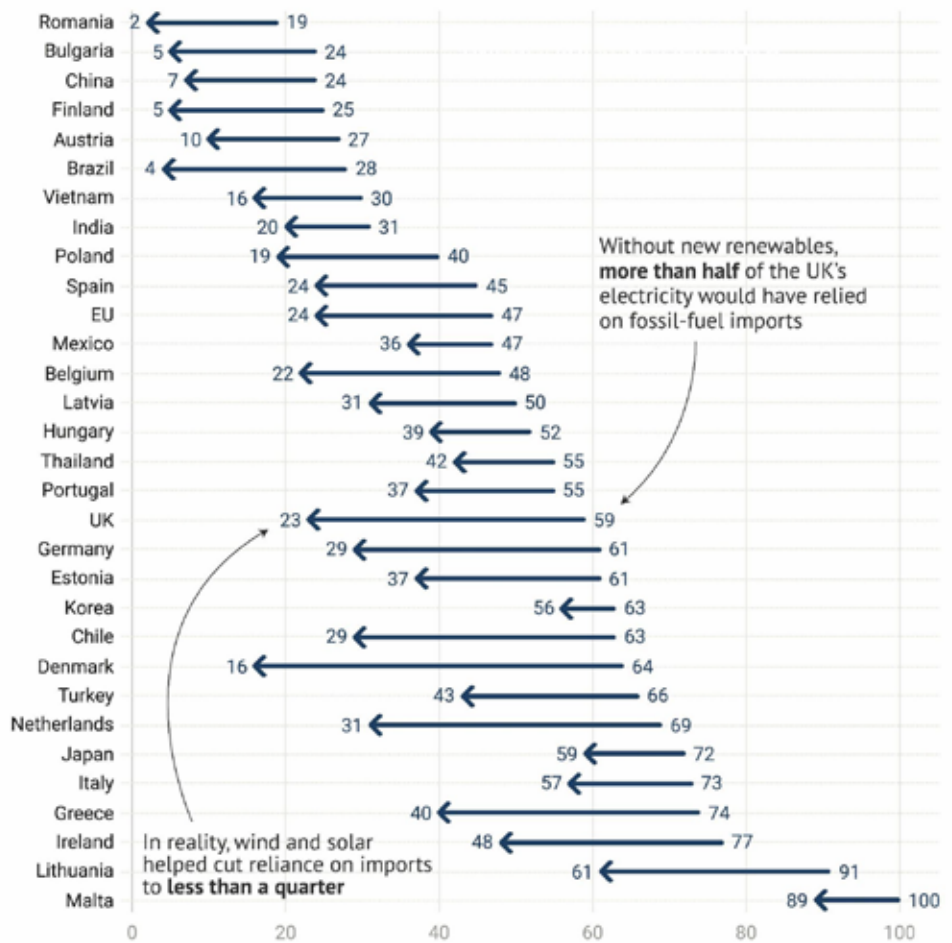
The deployment of renewables has already reduced fuel import needs significantly in many countries, enhancing energy diversification and security. Since 2010, the world added around 2 500 GW of non-hydro renewable power capacity, about 80% of which was installed in countries that rely on fossil fuel imports.

Without these renewable additions, cumulative global imports of coal and natural gas in these countries would have been 45% higher in 2023. As a result, countries have reduced coal imports by 700 million tonnes and natural gas imports by 400 billion cubic metres, saving an estimated \$1.3 trillion since 2010. **From the latest IEA Renewable Energy Report**

In **the case of the UK**, this has cut fossil fuel import dependence from a potential 59% to an actual 23% by 2023. And this has cut prices, as we can see from the graph below. Something for “patriotic petrolheads” to ponder. Ed

## Many countries have significantly cut their reliance on fossil-fuel imports by building renewables

Fossil-fuel import dependence of electricity supply, actual and in IEA 'low renewables' scenario (%)



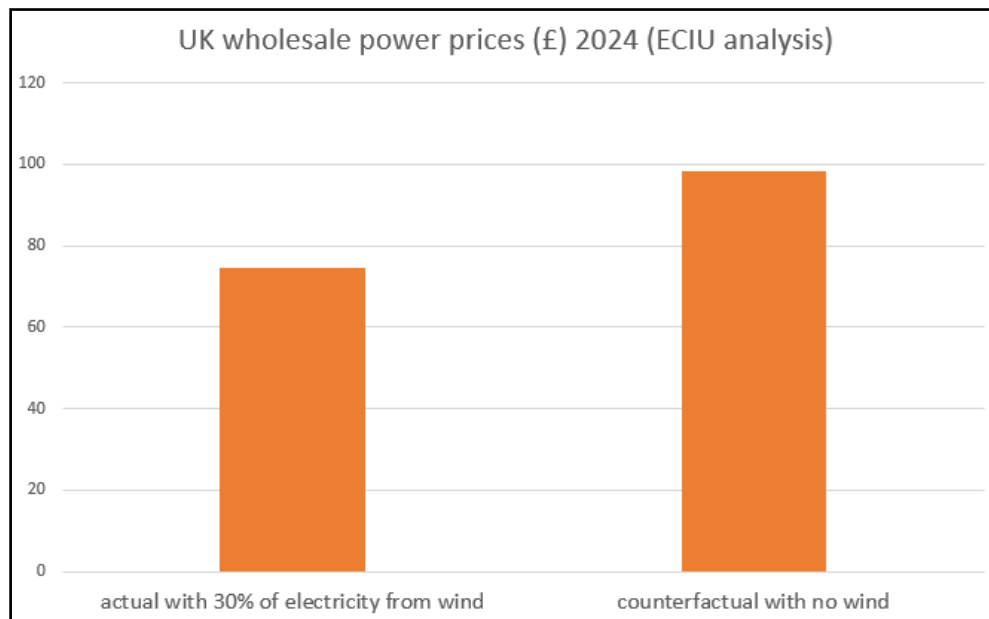
Source: IEA

CarbonBrief

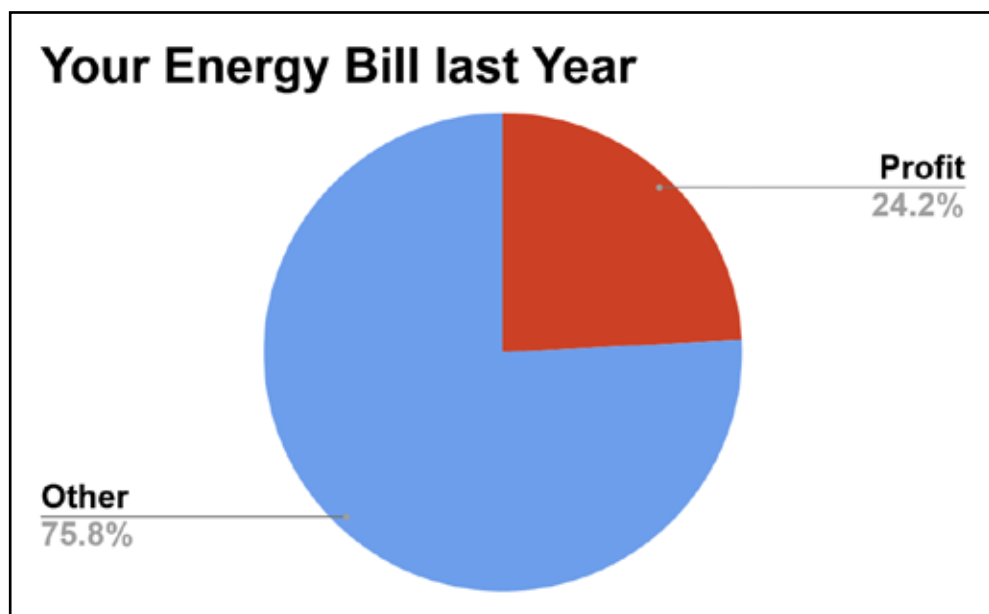
This graph also shows why the Tories and Reform are onto such a loser in wanting to slow this progress down; and how absurd Kemi Badenoch’s jibe is about being the only country in the race. Looks like everyone is in it, a lot of countries are ahead, and many are moving faster and the prize for winning is cheaper energy.

# REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

## Wind power cuts UK wholesale electricity prices by almost a third



Analysis by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) shows that in 2024 UK wholesale electricity prices would have been over 30 per cent higher if there had been no wind power generated in the UK. In 2024 the wholesale power price averaged at around £75 per MWh. But without any wind power the price would have been around £99 per MWh. This reduces average (retail) energy consumer bills by an average of roughly £65 a year based on a typical household consumption. [Full assessment here](#) by David Toke.



At the same time 24.2% of UK energy bills were skimmed off in profits, according to the [Who Owns Britain project](#) analysis from Common Wealth. So, if we want to cut bills...

## AI: Forever blowing bubbles?

**Pressure from the US** for the UK to commit to building large numbers of data centres, and power them with gas fired electricity could leave the country high and dry if and when the financial bubble that AI is inflating bursts.

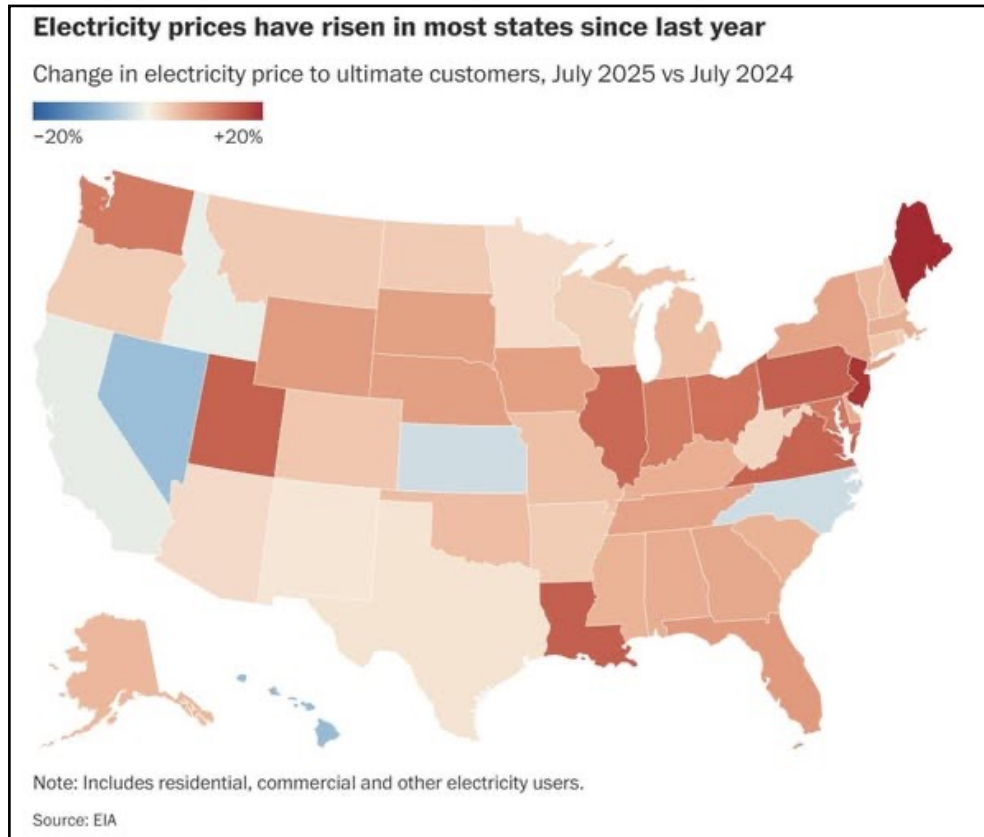
AI expenditures are contributing a staggering 40% of US GDP growth; being generated by capital expenditure on AI infrastructure projected to surpass \$3 trillion in the next three years, according to [Morgan Stanley](#). The biggest tech companies are borrowing vast sums to finance this, betting that “AI will drive explosive economic growth, and hence demand for computing power, within a matter of years”, according to [The Economist](#).

But this looks deluded. A recent study by Model Evaluation and Threat Research (METR) compared software developers performing coding tasks with and without AI assistance, and found they completed tasks *20% more slowly* using AI than when working without it. Interviewed afterwards, the coders themselves estimated that AI had made them 20% faster!

According to management consulting firm Bain & Company, “AI won’t be able to generate enough revenue to sustain the computing power it needs to build”; so how the AI companies could ever get the revenue they need to repay the loans they are taking out to finance their massive investments is not clear; which implies the bubble will burst and “*most of the proposed U.S. data centres will not get built.*” So, what price those in the UK?

# REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

## The cost of continued fossil fuel reliance in the United States



A recent [poll of UK businesses](#) showed that they want to be able to generate their own renewable energy at source, so they can avoid high gas based grid costs.

Renewable energy capacity worldwide will grow 2.6- to 2.8-fold from 2022 levels by 2030, according to the [IEAs Renewables 2025 Report](#), falling short of the [tripling that countries promised](#) at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, but *“this target can still be brought within reach if countries adopt enhanced policies to bridge gaps in both ambition and implementation.”*

## The size of India

The annual [“state of wildfires” report](#) finds that fires burned at least 3.7m square kilometres of land between March 2024 and February 2025, an area larger than the whole of India. This contributed to the record rise in CO<sub>2</sub> levels to 423.9 ppm over the last year. The last time the planet experienced a comparable concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> was between three and five million years ago according to [New Scientist](#).



## Paris Agreement slows the rush to disaster

Greenhouse gases grew by 0.32% per year from 2015 to 2024, down from 1.7% annually between 2005 and 2014. Carbon dioxide emissions grew by 1.17% through the entire decade, compared to 18.4% in the decade before 2015. So, down to a fifth of its previous level.

But in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [concluded](#) that global GHG emissions would have to fall 45% by 2030 to limit average global warming to 1.5°C, or 20% to stay on course for 2.0°C warming.

Despite the conscious regression in the United States, we could nevertheless be [on the verge of a tipping point](#).

## LNG The Guilty Three

An impending glut of LNG supply, with almost 300 billion cubic metres of new capacity expected to come online between 2025 and 2030 is being [driven by just three countries](#), the USA, Qatar and Canada; which are responsible for 80% of it between them. With gas demand falling, this adds to projections of a [global gas glut](#) that is likely to make investment in LNG unprofitable: hence the frantic efforts of the [Trump administration](#) to strongarm other countries into committing to buy it.

A current oil glut has similarly cut prices by 25% since the start of the year, making FFs cheaper, but less profitable.

# REALITY CHECKS >>>>>>>>>>

## Capitalism will eat itself

In the US, more than a third of people impacted by a disaster report experiencing fraud, according to a [survey commissioned by the American Institute of CPAs](#).

About 8% said they experienced contractor fraud, and another 10% reported vendor fraud, which involves improper payments to real or fictitious businesses. Post-disaster scams come in many forms. In some cases, contractors ask for money up front and then disappear. In others, they may tear down walls damaged by floodwaters or fires, collect a portion of their fees, and never return to rebuild the home. But in the case of more sophisticated actors, they use insurance companies and the legal system to put homeowners in a bind.

### From Energy Mix



## Retrofit in the UK – a case study in how NOT to do it

The publication of the National Audit Office report [‘Energy efficiency installations under the Energy Company Obligation’](#) makes grim reading.

A survey by the NAO found 98% of homes fitted with external wall insulation through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 and Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) [will need remediation work to fix “major issues” including damp and mould](#). The report also uncovered evidence of widespread suspected fraud, including falsified claims for installations in up to 16,500 homes and the use of installation claims to facilitate “wider criminal activity”.

The GJA has argued for many years that successive governments have failed to tackle the need for a systematic approach led by the public sector and delivered by a skilled-up direct labour force. Instead, we have had a shambolic employer-led mess based on sub-contracting out to dodgy companies with unskilled workers. This view has been confirmed by the report:

*Possible explanations why so many installations have been carried out to such a poor standard include an under-skilled workforce, with work being subcontracted to individuals and firms who are not competent or certified; uncertainty over which standards apply to which jobs; and businesses ‘cutting corners’ when undertaking design and installation work.*

This is bad enough but of course it feeds into the anti-net-zero narrative of politicians and others who want to abandon climate policies. Inevitably it will also have knock-on effects in terms of public support. Already we have seen the [latest poll which indicates that support for net-zero actions is falling](#).

We can’t afford any more failures. All future schemes must learn the lessons and be based on a licensed scheme run through public sector delivery programmes. The GJA will be monitoring the new Warm Homes Local Grant to see how far the Government and Local Authorities are committed to not reproducing the mistakes of the past.

*Graham Petersen*

## Diet Takeaways - Green your eats

A report by the [EAT-Lancet commission](#) shows that a global shift towards healthier diets could cut non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, from agriculture by 15% by 2050; as [one-third](#) of all greenhouse gas emissions come from the global food system.

This diet would require producing more fruit, vegetables and nuts, and fewer livestock. The first edition of this report in 2019 faced a [“massive online backlash”](#) against some of its findings, particularly on cutting meat consumption, “stoked by a PR firm that represents the meat and dairy sector”. And this approach is back in full swing now. Instead of having a grown up discussion about how we can make our diets healthier, for ourselves and the planet, we have headlines like [“Ed Miliband’s mad plot to switch Britons from meat to insects”](#) in the Daily Express and elsewhere.

*While this infantile, kneejerk stuff is primarily a distraction from the need to shift to a healthier plant based diet, having tried termite on a visit to South Africa, I can confirm that, like everything else, it tastes like chicken. Ed*

# Party Conference Round Up

## Green Party of England and Wales

The October 2025 annual conference of the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) might be described in terms of landslides, tidal waves etc, if the social media of its leaders, and of some political commentators, is to be believed.

To a veteran of GPEW conferences, there were some superficial indications that the Party was changing. A bigger and younger attendance, as well as the presence of political refugees from a rigidly centrist Labour Party and new left 'Your Party'; whose first act seemed to be attempted political suicide.

Also, GPEW had just overwhelmingly elected a new leadership, of Zack Polanski with deputy leaders Rachel Millward and Mothin Ali. Each of these gave the impression in their election campaigns, and in interviews during the conference, that they intend to move GPEW leftwards; and there seems to be a new style of Green political presentation associated with this. ZP has styled this 'ecopopulism' and has embarked

on a media/social media offensive, including starting his own 'Bold Politics' channel. The aim appears to be to create a prominent public opposition and alternative to the right-wing populism of Reform.

These outward facing changes in GPEW do not entirely come out of the blue. Last year GPEW got four new MP's elected, after over a decade of only having one; and it has steadily been building up an active presence in local government.

GPEW's central concern is politically responding to human caused climate change and that has been partly contained by a perception of it as a cranky fringe movement.

Is 'ecopopulism' enough to change this and build a movement that could bring about serious political changes? The potential may be there. Contrary to some detractors, GPEW has never been exclusively middle class nor hostile to organised labour as its longstanding Trade Union group and network of Trade Union Liaison Officers so far shows.

However new changes may be creating problems and tensions which were apparent in some debates and discussions at the conference. Many think that GPEW needs to increase its focus on electoral campaigning and building an organisational machine needed to enact it. But does this have to be opposed to campaigning on 'older green issues', most importantly, human caused climate change?

'Eco populism' could attract more support to GPEW and make it much more politically effective, but will it be enough to overcome the promoters of capitalist ecogenocide?

- [Zack Polanski interview with Novara media](#)
- [Rachel Millward interview with Novara media](#)
- [Mothin Ali interview with Novara media](#)

**Pete Murry**

## Conservatives

"Javier Milei is the template," **Kemi Badenoch** told the *Financial Times*. In their pursuit of electoral oblivion, the Conservative pledge to scrap the Climate Change Act, while accepting that climate change is real. This stance is neatly summed up by Claire Coutinho as "Decarbonisation is not a bad thing", but "we don't have a target".

This has come in for a barrage of criticism from inside the Party.

- In the Times, William Hague wrote: "Repeal of the Climate Change Act must go with a good alternative plan that reduces emissions through innovation, for the 'climate denial' that has spread on the right of politics will soon seem like the greatest incompetence of all."
- Lord Heseltine warned that the "threat from global warming must not be ignored in the hope that it may not happen or because there is a backlash against the cost"
- In the FT John Gummer wrote that the Climate Change Act was "neither a left-wing conceit nor a green crusade, but a cross-party recognition of a simple truth: climate change threatens us all".

In the FT, Stephen Bush writes "Badenoch's 'climate gamble doesn't add up. Tackling climate change comes with costs, but so too does not tackling it. The big hole in Badenoch's approach is that she seems to envisage a world in which Britain stops spending money on decarbonisation, but does

not have to spend any cash on mitigation and adaptation. This world does not exist."

Writing in the Daily Telegraph, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard criticises the "surreal timing" of the Conservatives "doubling down on gas" when the waiting list for heavy-duty gas turbines is more than seven-years long; noting that "even if Britain were able to extract much more gas from the North Sea at a globally viable cost – which it cannot because the field is heavily depleted – it would have to pay an arm and a leg to get anybody to build a new fleet of combined-cycle gas plants."

Badenoch's call for a "proper strategy" for tackling climate change, without spelling one out, is reminiscent of King Lear. "I shall do such things! What they are, I know not..."

# We do not negotiate with the executioners of Mother Earth!

*In early October, as the US started threatening Venezuela with invasion, the World Congress in defence of Mother Earth met in Caracas and issued the following declaration (slightly shortened). Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, which are relatively cheap and easy to extract, as well as significant deposits of rare earths. As oil demand falls it will be one of the last places in the world able to meet that shrinking demand profitably - as the big oil companies dependent on more marginal and expensive reserves eat each other during the collapse - which is why the US government is seeking to take control of those reserves on their behalf as part of their programme for "US global energy dominance". War is a very real danger. Ed.*



## Congreso Mundial en Defensa de la Madre Tierra

Caracas, 09 al 10 de Octubre

The more than 3 thousand national and international delegates from 63 countries around the world gathered in Caracas, Venezuela, on October 9 and 10, 2025, at the World Congress in Defense of Mother Earth declared that COP30 in Belém will be where we will demand historic climate justice.

We denounce the Capitalocene—that system that commodifies life—that is generating an irreversible metabolic fracture, turning rivers, forests and living beings into commodities.

In the face of this civilizational crisis, we do not come to ask for crumbs from those responsible or capitalist climate collapse, but to impose our alternatives.

Our horizon is Ecosocialism: a model that subordinates the economy to the cycles of the nature, recognises the Rights of Mother Earth and the criminalisation of ecocide—and prioritises regeneration over capitalist sustainability. We demand the payment of the historical ecological debt by the Global North, not as charity, but as mandatory reparation.

### We will take a specific agenda to Belém:

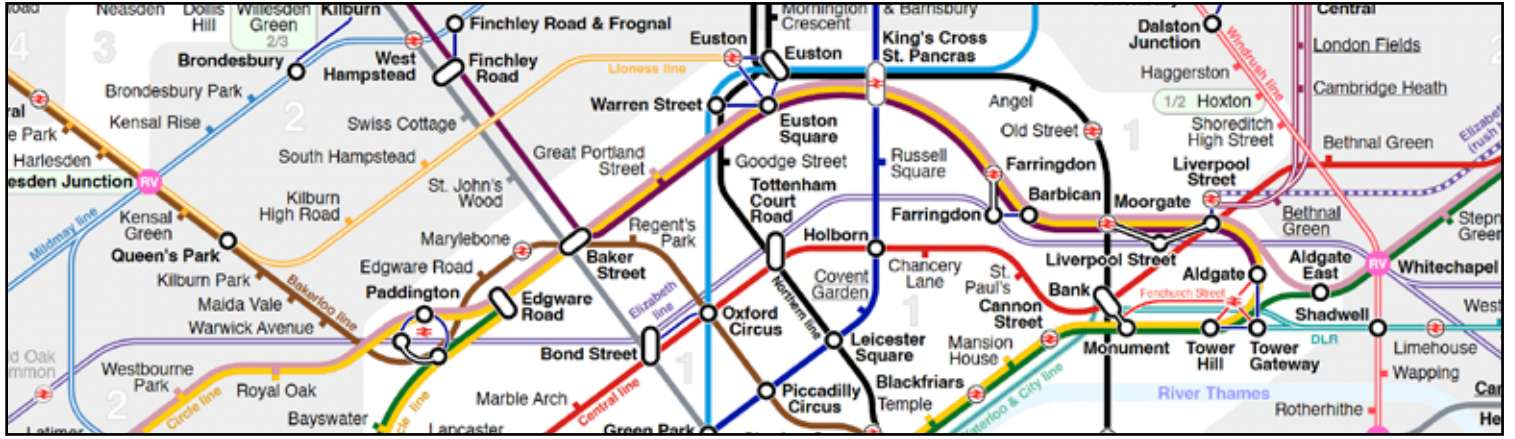
1. Promote the strategic alliance between ancestral knowledge and critical science to protect the biodiversity, ecosystems, practicing agroecology, implementing warning systems, early community education, the creation of nurseries, intensive reforestation. For *"the defense of scientific truth and to raise our voices in defense of science and oppose the delusions that postpone crucial decisions."*
2. Promote a decolonising education through youth brigades, intercultural lectures, and social media campaigns for the climate struggle.
3. Create an International People's Movement in defense of peace, humanity, and Mother Earth, uniting the Global South and demanding the penalization of predatory transnational corporations and building concrete actions from grassroots organizations.

The solution lies not in carbon markets or greenwashing. It lies in ongoing popular mobilization, which is already sowing the future in the communities, defending territories from extractivism, and forging a new metabolic relationship with Mother Earth.

**Mother Earth is not for sale, it must be defended!**  
**For Peace and the Sovereignty of the Peoples**  
**Until victory always!**

For more information [see VSC](#)  
For full information about the [Congress see here.](#)

# High fares exacerbate social isolation



High public transport fares obstruct access to employment opportunities, education and reasonable living standards, [a briefing published by Fare Free London](#) shows.

Working Londoners spend many extra hours commuting; avoiding expensive trains and using cheaper but slower buses. Students make trade-offs between housing costs, which are lower outside the capital, and travel costs that are much higher.

London's tube and train fares are among the world's highest. They exacerbate social isolation and mental illness among the most vulnerable. They obstruct people's ability to socialise, to take their children places, and to access London's cultural treats.

[Fares Unfair: London public transport and the cost of living crisis](#), is based on the results of a survey conducted over the summer "focused on how the cost of public transport affects lower-income households. *"Nearly half of our respondents said they worry about costs every time they use public transport. More than half said they use cheaper modes of transport because better ones are too expensive. This often meant people taking long journeys by bus instead of tube."*

Respondents' quotes show the gap between London's wealthiest and poorest households.

- One takes a journey from Lewisham to the Royal Docks using three buses and the Woolwich Ferry, *"to save the money I would have to spend if I took the Underground or the DLR"*.
- Another takes an hour's journey to school by bus, double the time it would take by train
- One man with a cleaning job in Zone 1 starting at 7 am, has to catch a bus from SE18 at 5.am, get off in Zone 2 and walk the rest of the way
- A single mother of two daughters takes three buses to work, from SE9 to Piccadilly; describing herself as *"struggling to make ends meet – doing a balancing act"*, and having to limit her daughters' weekend outings due to travel costs
- Another said: *"Every time I step out of the house, I spend more money on travel than even groceries. It disconnects me from seeing my family as well as my friends."*

The briefing urges the Greater London Authority to consider the impact of high fares on policy goals in the Mayor's Transport Strategy and on tackling social inequality and are included in discussions about the funding basis of Transport for London, to *"consider how this can be changed, to reduce and eventually abolish reliance on fares income"*.

More information at [farefreelondon.org](https://farefreelondon.org).

**Free public transport is all the rage in the USA** ... thanks to Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic candidate for mayor of New York, who has made it an election pledge. Voting is next month. Here's **a podcast about it**. **Free bus travel for all has been adopted as policy by the Scottish Greens**. High time that other politicians caught up.

# Reasons to be *cheerful*...

## Stricter climate targets



**Der Spiegel** reports that **Hamburg citizens have voted for stricter climate targets** in a referendum, moving the city's climate neutrality goal forward to 2040, with annual interim targets to monitor progress.

A **Paris court** has found that TotalEnergies misled the public with greenwashing advertising, by claiming itself to be a '*major player in the energy transition*', despite continuing to promote and sell more fossil fuels. This is the first time ever that a Court has found a major fossil fuel company to be misleading the public by '*greening*' its image. Shell next? [Full story here](#)

On Sunday 21 September, **Oxford Street was closed to traffic** from 12.00pm until 8.00pm to see what a pedestrianised Oxford Street could look like. [It looks like this!](#)

- Footfall was up by nearly 50%
- The number of passengers at tube stations around Oxford Street jumped by a quarter.
- Nearly 70% of stores that were surveyed reported similar or higher sales than usual on a Sunday.

Nearly **two dozen US states** are suing the US federal government over its cancellation of the '*solar for all*' grant programme, which is "*aimed at expanding solar energy in low-income communities*", while electric vehicles compromised **11% of all new car sales in the US** in the third quarter of 2025.

## Cuba's Solar Turn

In partnership with China, Cuba is rebuilding its energy grid, planning to build 55 solar parks in 2025, and another 37 by 2028. By the end of this year, these projects are expected to fully cover Cuba's daytime energy shortfall — and two-thirds of all demand in just three years. At the same time, Russia has partnered with the Cuban government to build the "*Cayo Digital*" — a major tech city on Cuba's Isle of Youth that will house 15,000 people, including 12,000 specialists and 3,000 students. The project aims at boosting Cuba's technological sovereignty, developing equipment and software for the entirety of Latin America. [From Progressive International](#)

**Reuters** says that "*China's curbs on coal production could tighten further toward the end of 2025, making a rebound in output...unlikely*".

# Events



## National Emergency Briefing

on the climate & nature crisis

Nov 27th · Westminster Central Hall

Has your MP  
confirmed yet?

Invitation-only

On 27 November, eight of the UK's most respected experts will gather in Westminster's Central Hall for the **National Emergency Briefing**; to provide MPs and other national leaders with the clearest possible account of the escalating risks to our food, health, security and economy.

They will set out credible, science-based pathways to tackle the crisis, cutting through confusion and vested interests.

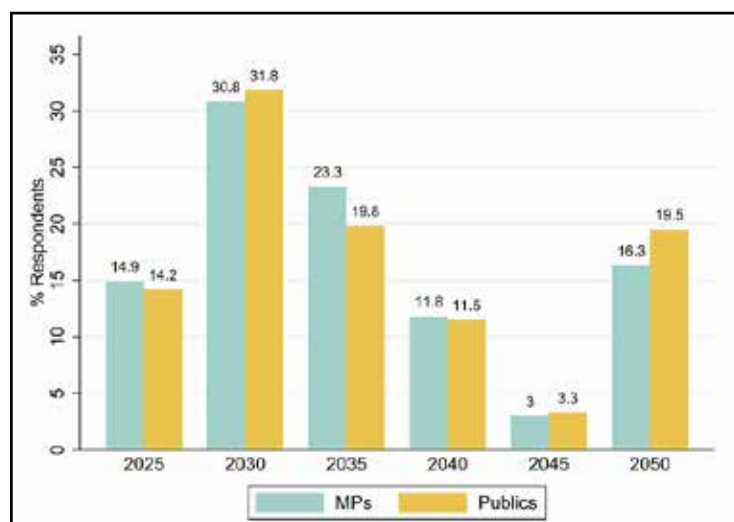
This will be followed by a major campaign to put pressure on MPs at constituency level, with a documentary to be screened around the UK early next year; aiming to create a tipping point towards genuine emergency action; breaking out of our failing business-as-usual.

It has wide support, from Wildlife Trusts and the Church of England to Greenpeace and Avaaz. But this is an invitation-only event, and it needs MPs to show up to maximise impact.

Please visit [www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org) to check whether your MP has committed to attend. If they haven't, please email them directly through the site: and share this with friends, family and colleagues. A few minutes of your time could make the difference.

The graph below from [a survey in Nature](#) provides a breakdown of the percentage of responses provided by MPs (blue bar) and public (gold bar) across a range of six response options for when global greenhouse gases must peak to limit global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level.

As the correct answer is **2025**, i.e. NOW, just over 85% of both MPs and the public think we have far more slack and far more time than we do. This befuddled complacency underlines the lack of urgency and priority given to tackling this threat; and underlines why the **National Climate Emergency Briefing** should be attended by all MPs. [Write to your MP to appeal for them to go here.](#)



# Green Bites

**79%**

of people in the UK [support their pensions being invested in renewable energy](#). This includes 53% of Reform UK voters and 73% of Conservative voters. Only 10% of respondents felt some degree of opposition to their pension being invested in renewable energy, with just 4% strongly opposed.

**\$80 billion**

Value of oil and gas exports by the United States in July. In the same month China exported \$120 billion in Green technology [according to Bloomberg](#).

**750,000 tonnes**

Of concrete is needed to build a single nuclear power station.

**3%**

Expected [decline in UK gas demand](#) this year as more renewable energy sources come onstream and battery storage increases.

**8GW**

Quantity of [new renewable energy generation](#) needed from current (AR7) contracts for difference bids to be on track for 95% renewable electricity generation in the UK by 2030. We should know if this has been met by February.

**£35 million**

The amount that the UK government has pledged for global nature conservation projects over the next five years. That's £7 million a year; or 7% of the cost of a single F35 fighter bomber. Priorities, priorities...

**£400,000 a year**

What [loss making channel GB News](#) pays Nigel Farage to host a show four nights a week. Who is paying for that and why?

**1.2 million**

People took part in the UK's Big Green Week 2025, joining nearly 6,000 local events - from repair cafés and tree plantings to nature walks and community orchards.

**880%**

Increase in the [sales of BYD electric cars](#) in the UK between September 2024 and September 2025, while sales of pure Battery Electric Vehicles of all makes grew by almost a third in September, and plug in hybrids even faster, so, combined, these made up more than 50% of all new car sales last month.

**£437 billion**

Profits made by the world's biggest oil, gas and coal companies in 2024. And they are asking for tax relief in the North Sea...

## New on the Blog

[Constructing a Feminist Climate Emergency response](#)

# FIGHT THE FOSSIL FOOLS!



**LET'S BUILD A STRONG MOVEMENT**

**ACROSS ALL OUR UNIONS**

Sign up for Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletters for a monthly digest of the news, facts, arguments, stats, information and action alerts you need ...

and an occasional joke.

## 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](https://greenerjobsalliance.co.uk)

