



The world in our hands. Demonstrating in Belem. Photo: Jenny Cooper

Future COPs. Fail Again - Fail Better

COPs are structurally set up to fall short of what is needed. Decision making by consensus means that any country has a veto. That means that any agreed global position can go no faster than Saudi Arabia and other petro states will permit; even though the US government, the world's leading petro state, was **very audibly absent**.

Hence there was no agreement to even include the words *"fossil fuels"* in the declaration, let alone planning a road map away from them. However, the tectonic energy plates are shifting. Even Saudi Arabia, while very keen to maintain its oil exports, is investing massively in solar energy for domestic consumption and over 60% of countries are already beyond their fossil fuel peak.

The commercial, as well as environmental, logic is becoming remorseless. As Clyde Russel, the Asia commodities and energy columnist for **Reuters** put it, *"If China can maintain, or even lower prices for its clean-energy products it will be hard for the fossil-fuel exporters to compete."* There is an element of panic in the US about this, with Elon Musk noting *'Just with solar alone, China can, in 18 months, produce enough solar panels to power all the electricity of the United States'* which underlines the contrary desperation of Trump's baseless bluster at the UN that green energy is *'scam that will make your country fail'*. The rest of the world knows better...and is moving on.

Future COPs will find themselves in a race between that economic and social tipping point and the **environmental tipping points** being driven by emissions that are now beginning to plateau, when we need them to come down very fast.

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This COP, partly because of its failings, nevertheless provided a forum to rehearse and establish coalitions of the willing to move faster and further. Although blocs of more than 80 countries, including major fossil fuel producers like Norway and Brazil, had supported a road map to phase out fossil fuels, and 93 had supported a move to “**reverse deforestation,**” they were unable to get clear commitments into the main text. But, in response, Columbia and the Netherlands, with the support of other countries, have taken the initiative to convene a phase out **road map global conference this April**, indicating a virtuous spiral of accelerated ambition beyond global agreements. Jumping well over the low bar set by the global agreements is vital now, and no one should be allowed to try to limbo dance beneath it.

The agreement to triple development finance by 2030 is welcome, but undermined by the concerted retreat from Overseas Development Aid to finance arms spending that is now epidemic in the Global North, as Trump tries to stall its wagons into a tight, selfish, tooled up circle, fighting to the death as the world burns around us. It was as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change met last June in Germany to set the stage for COP30, that Trump pushed NATO countries to increase their military spending. This sucked the air out of discussions to increase public climate financing, a key agenda item in Belém.

This contradiction between the drive to war and global cooperation to save ourselves from climate breakdown is becoming ever more stark and should be a central plank of the upcoming year of trade union climate action.

Paul Atkin Ed



BAM! Union delegates at COP 30.

The breakthrough issue at COP30 was getting a just transition for workers and communities built into the COP process through the Belem Action Mechanism (BAM).

This was driven by the tireless determination of civil society, trade unions, youth, and people from all around the world. We will explore how this strengthens union campaigning here and elsewhere in future issues.

National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature



*The panel at the NEB. Professor Hayley Fowler **Weather**, Professor Natalie Seddon **Nature**, Professor Tim Lenton **Tipping Points**, Professor Tim Berners Lee **Chair**, Professor Paul Behrens **Food Security**, Professor Kevin Anderson **Climate/Energy**, Professor Hugh Montgomery **Health Impacts**, Lt General Richard Nugee **National Security**, Professor Angela Francis **Economics**, Tessa Khan (Uplift) **Energy Transition***

At the end of November, over 1,200 people gathered at Westminster Central Hall, including around 150 Parliamentarians, senior civil servants, business leaders, faith voices, trade unionists, cultural and sport figures and community leaders.

This was the first ever official-style National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature - of the sort that the government itself should be doing to implement Article 12 of the Paris agreement. The expert panel together presented a powerful account of the interconnected threats facing the country (and world) alongside the actions that science suggests are necessary.

The aim now is to ensure every community and every household can access the same trusted, unfiltered evidence without delay or distortion.

What can we do now?

1. Sign the NEB letter calling for a televised emergency briefing. Please [sign and share](#).
2. Get on social media - Please visit [Post NEB Content Pack](#) - with content ready to share to help turn this moment into a national turning point.

There will soon be short films of each of the nine expert talks, combining footage of the speakers with slides from their presentations. These will appear on the NEB [YouTube channel](#) in the coming days. Please subscribe today, which will help build momentum around the content.

Once the talks are uploaded, the film of the full event will be ready in early spring next year and aim for it to be seen by communities and households nationwide over the course of 2026.

These will be held in unconventional venues, like cathedrals, and we should make sure that there is a trade union mobilisation for them and perspective put, linking them up with the trade union year of climate action. Ed



Trade Union Round Up

New TUC Year of Trade Union Climate Action Hub



Islington Trades Unionists and climate campaigners building support for the Year of Trade Union Climate Action outside Highbury and Islington station on November 14th. Photo Linda Clarke.

2025-26 has been declared the Year of Trade Union Climate Action. To celebrate the amazing union work already happening, help unions increase their impact and scope, and to centralise activity nationwide, the TUC has created a [new online Trade Union Climate Action Hub](#). It's packed full of all the resources, links, events, case studies, and networks you need to make this a massive year of impactful climate action for your workplace, your industry, and workers everywhere

The site also includes an [events page](#) which you're all invited to contribute to! Add on all the demos, training, webinars, CPD, or other actions you're involved in over the year to promote them to our whole movement (union-specific and general invite items equally welcome)

And, if you've got great resources, case studies, reports, training material, or similar that could be useful to comrades, please do share them with [Sam Perry at the TUC](#) to be added on!

Sam Perry

In India, tens of thousands of Amazon workers are rallying across twenty cities - from New Delhi to Kolkata - demanding

- protection from lethal heatwaves that turn warehouses into furnaces
- better pay (₹26,000, approximately \$310 USD, per month)
- and the right to dignity.



Unite's Energy Profiteering Report

Unite's research reveals that the average household pays £500 a year in energy profits at a time when household energy bills have increased by 42 per cent since Winter 2021.

Unite sets out several measures to end corporate profiteering of the energy sector including:

- Public ownership, through renationalisation at a book value total cost of £90 billion, beginning with the Grid (both transmission and distribution networks)
- A significant pay rise for energy workers so they directly benefit from the profits they are producing
- A truly just transition for North Sea workers as the UK moves to net zero
- Properly fund GB Energy to allow it to fully invest in new generation projects
- Maintain a public stake in green energy projects so that the UK directly benefits from future projects.

[Read the full report here.](#)



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

Research from the World Economic Forum has found that the global green transition is expected to generate a net gain of 9.6 million jobs by 2030 as against the loss of 2.4 million roles in higher-carbon industries. This underlines research from **Bloomberg Economics** that *“if the world collectively retreated from green policies, the global economy would shrink”*.

If the current exponential growth of electrotech technology holds for five more years, *“global fossil demand will fall off its plateau”* according to **new analysis from Ember**. Fossil fuels can't compete with electrotech's energy efficiency, its potential for driving down costs, and its improved security for countries able to generate their own electricity. *“This is the decisive decade. Surf the electrotech wave or be dragged under.”*

Investors in **Canadian oil and gas will face serious financial risk**—and provincial revenues from the industry could fall 82% - as the global energy transition unfolds through the 2030

Build Baby Build?

The **UK Government's plans** to exempt smaller developments from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) rules, which compel developers to improve nature, would jeopardise an improved BNG market supporting £250 million in annual economic activity and sustaining over 2,450 full-time jobs; mostly in rural areas.

At the same time a survey by **More in Common** found that most people don't lay the blame for the housing crisis on environmental protections and are more concerned about new houses being of shoddy quality, lacking important infrastructure like GP surgeries and schools, and being marketed as *“luxury”* and therefore overpriced. Overall, people value environmental standards and think that developers are skirting them, lament about newer developments lacking in green spaces and access to wildlife, which they link to poorer mental health and a sense of deprivation which shouldn't be associated with something as aspirational as buying (or renting) a home.

In this context it is disturbing that the UN-backed **Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention** found that the UK lacks a consistent system for consulting citizens on new laws with significant environmental implications, and even more disturbing that the government has tried to brass it out by rejecting the findings rather than involving the public.

Business walking to climate disaster with eyes wide shut

The EY Global Action Barometer examines the views of more than 850 companies, across 50 countries and 13 sectors, that have been identified as climate leaders, and looks at the steps they are taking and where they are falling short.

It finds that, while two-thirds of businesses (64%) have 'net-zero' transition plans in place and even though they recognise that inaction on climate risks could cost businesses up to 15% of annual revenue

- Less than half (48%) have kept their targets in line with scientific guidance on how to mitigate against the worst effects of global warming.
- Almost two-thirds of the companies that do have net-zero targets (63%) rely on carbon credits – meaning that they are simply offsetting their emissions rather than actively decarbonizing. This is especially high in financial services (78%) and transportation (69%) – sectors which are struggling to decarbonise.

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

Up in the Air

A new **Report from the New Economics Foundation** on the relationship between expanding airports and economic growth has found that for countries like the UK, where business air travel demand has declined, and where tourism spending is in a net deficit (ie more tourists go out than come in) increasing air connectivity delivers diminishing, and potentially even negative returns.

UK can't afford to delay its green energy transition

The chair of Great British Energy, Juergen Maier, argues that stalling the transition of the electricity grid will “*only harm the environment, raise costs and risk jobs*”. He notes that energy policy has now become a “*major fault line*” and is at the “*frontline of a misinformation battle*”. He adds that overhauling the UK’s energy system is a “*major undertaking*”, as it was built years ago for a system designed around coal power. As such, the system needed overhauling anyway, so we “*might as well*” design it for the future. Electrification is already saving around £2bn a year and could reach an “*astonishing*” £33bn annually by 2050. “*The task ahead is immense, but so is the opportunity. The time for ‘maybe later’ has passed. The future will be built by those who build now.*”

A New York Times editorial lays out the role that the Trump administration’s anti-renewables policies are having on US energy bills: explaining that solar and wind are now often cheaper than fossil fuels and Trump’s “war on solar and wind power” means that US electricity prices have surged, and concludes that Republicans “*have become the party that stands in the way of lower energy prices for American households*”.

Ember has noted that: “*The world generated almost a third more solar power in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2024, meeting 83% of the global increase in electricity demand. Wind power grew by just over 7%, allowing renewables to displace fossil fuels for the first time...China and India were largely responsible for the surge in renewables, in contrast with the US and Europe, which relied more heavily on fossil fuels.*”

Bloomberg reports that 5,500 employees across three plants have been told they will be laid off “*at least temporarily*” by General Motors “*as the carmaker reassesses electric vehicle production in the wake of President Donald Trump’s move to eliminate crucial tax credits*”.



Photo: Wayne S. Grazio flickr.com/photos/fotograzio/

Trump’s policies are costing drivers more

As Trump relaxes efficiency targets, car buyers are being stuck with cars that cost more to operate.

Energy Innovation found that **repealing** tailpipe standards could cost households an extra \$310 billion by 2050, mainly through more spending on petrol. Undoing the standards would also increase air pollution and shrink the job market for US electric vehicle manufacturing due to lower demand.

The Trump administration’s **own analysis** of the effects of undoing the EPA’s greenhouse gas emissions regulations found that these moves would drive up gasoline prices due to more fuel consumption from less efficient vehicles. “*Repealing these standards in particular would set America back decades.*”

Sara Baldwin, senior director for electrification at Energy Innovation.



Photo: flickr.com/photos/thomashawk/

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

Did they really say that out loud?

A UK government review has concluded that "overly complex" bureaucracy makes the UK the most expensive country in the world to build nuclear power plants. The report, from the "nuclear regulatory taskforce" set up by the PM, recommends restructuring the nuclear industry's regulatory bodies into a single commission for nuclear regulation and that "nuclear plants should be built closer to urban areas and should be allowed to harm the local environment" (as reported in **The Times** with our emphasis).

Rather alarming for the urban areas they want to build them close to. And that the UK had excessively risk-averse policies in place, including "overly conservative" rules on radiation exposure levels for workers. Uh hu?

Image by Catalonia Catalino from Pixabay

UK Councils must do more to speed up climate action

The Local Climate Report: State of UK Council Climate Action - based on data in the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards shows that councils have improved across the board when it comes to mitigation and preparedness, but this is not happening fast enough.

The assessment found that

- 90% of authorities have now reduced mowing schedules or created wildflower habitat to support biodiversity.
- 70% have now published an annual climate report – up from 63% in 2023.
- 18% have introduced policies to build net zero homes.
- The same number of councils included climate on the Corporate Risk Register in 2025 as did in 2023 (34%).
- 62% of planning authorities have now set the highest benchmark for water efficiency in new build developments,
- 96% are providing residents with retrofit funding.

However, there are a number of areas in which progress was considered to have stalled or decreased. Compared with 2023,

- the same number of councils (60%) offer kerbside food recycling programmes as did in 2023.
- 8% fewer authorities have a renewable energy tariff or generate renewable energy equal to 20% of their own energy use.
- 35% have lobbied Downing Street or devolved powers for more support with climate action, down from 43%.

Isaac Beevor, from Climate Emergency UK which authored the report commented. *'We need councils to embed climate action across every area of the council from their decision making to their transport plans and projects to support residents retrofitting their homes'*.

TUCAN

On 26 November, TUCAN joined a Healthy Air Coalition delegation that met with the Greater London Authority. We spoke with Mete Coban and Seb Dance, Deputy Mayors for the Environment and Transport about occupational health risks.

It was agreed that union engagement on climate risks was essential and that we should identify opportunities to promote this in GLA sectors of employment.

Graham Petersen



Reasons to be cheerful...

The world is expected to build more renewable energy projects **in the next five years** than it has over the past 40, according to **a new report** from the International Energy Agency.

In the **first US elections of Trump's second term**, in races from New York to Georgia to Washington, voters backed funding renewables, reining in energy costs, and building out mass transit—and the people promising to deliver those policies. On the whole, the results suggest Americans are pushing back against President Donald Trump's efforts to roll back climate action.

Massachusetts may double the number of cities and towns allowed to ban fossil fuels in new construction, with a bill under discussion that would add up to 10 communities to an ongoing pilot program that is already reducing emissions, making homes healthier, and lowering energy bills - all without stifling the development of new housing.

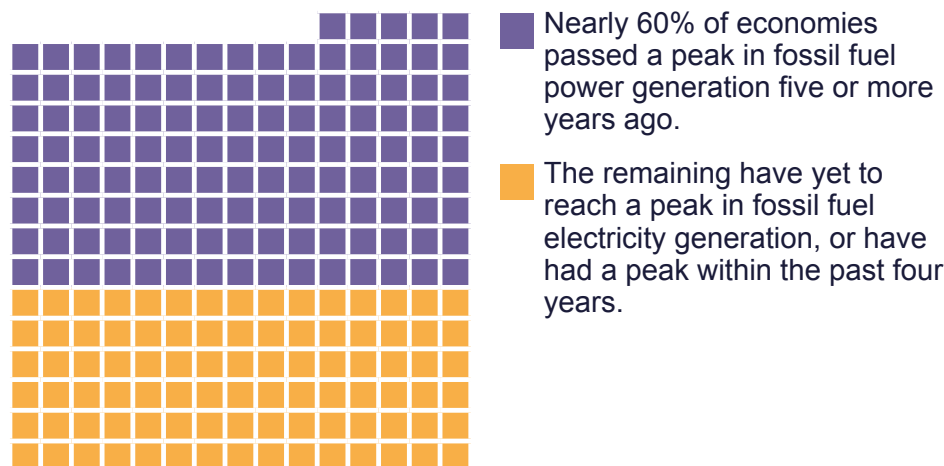
Scottish Power Renewables has completed the repowering of Scotland's first commercial wind farm, boosting its generation capacity five-fold whilst also cutting the number of turbines almost in half.

In **Australia** the federal government is proposing a new scheme for up to three hours of free electricity each day to use the huge amounts of solar power generated in the middle of the day that currently go to waste, as most people aren't home to use it and there aren't enough batteries to store it. So the idea is to encourage people to use this free electricity window to run their air conditioners, washing machines or dishwashers while the grid is overflowing with solar energy.

Germany will allow utilities to close down local gas grids where demand is declining, as 90% of its current grid will have to be phased out as it nears its 2045 deadline for net zero.

More than half of the world's economies have reached peak fossil fuel power generation

Economies are considered to have passed peak fossil fuel power generation if their maximum electricity generation from fossil fuels was five or more years ago.



South Korea is joining the Powering Past Coal Alliance - the group of 60 nations and 120 sub-national governments, businesses and organisations which have pledged to phase out coal. South Korea's minister of climate, energy and environment, Kim Sung-hwan, says: *"The shift from coal to clean power is not only essential for the climate. It will also help both the Republic of Korea and all other countries increase our energy security, boost the competitiveness of our businesses, and create thousands of jobs."* This commits Korea to retiring 62 coal plants, 40 of which already have confirmed closure dates." South Korea has the world's seventh-largest coal power fleet and is the world's fourth-largest thermal coal importer behind China, India and Japan, responsible for about 8% of global trade."

Despite its role in arguing against phasing out fossil fuel use internationally, **Saudi Arabia** has pledged to generate 50% of its energy from renewable energy by 2030 and looks like fulfilling it as it is installing solar power and batteries at a staggering rate. In 2020, the country had next to no renewables. By the end of this year, it's predicted to have 12 gigawatts of solar as its rate of installation has more than doubled.

The **UK Government** has expanded its Boiler Upgrade Scheme to offer a £2,500 discount on the installation of air-to-air heat pumps, a technology which provides heat in winter and keeps houses cool in the summer.

Regulated rail fares in England - including season tickets and off-peak returns - are being frozen until March 2027. This is the first such fare freeze for 30 years.

China's green bond market has overtaken those in the West, with a record US\$70.3 billion of bonds issued in 2025 taking up the slack as the United States and Europe slow down while **sales of electric trucks in China** are forecasted to reach nearly 46% of total sales this year and 60% next year.

A **meta-analysis of 373 studies** shows that integrating **nature-based solutions** into urban planning could reduce daytime temperatures by 2C during hot periods.

Events

No 3rd Runway Coalition Campaign

Meeting Tuesday 9 December, from 6-8pm, in Committee Room 17 in the House of Commons. The room is sponsored by Sarah Olney MP.

The Government this week backed Heathrow's £49bn plan for a third runway. The response of the No 3rd Runway Coalition is included [here](#).



Photo: Stay Grounded flickr.com/photos/164860673@N04/

How to Make a Just Transition Possible

Thursday 11 December 2025 at 7.30 Committee room 5 Islington Town Hall

A study by researchers at the University of Essex, UCL and the Basque Centre for Climate shows that it's possible to phase out fossil fuels without losing electoral support - even in coal-mining regions.

The Spanish government, led by the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE), achieved a landmark Just Transition Agreement to support workers and communities affected by the closure of 28 coal mines in Asturias, Teruel, and León.

- **Diane Bolet** and **Fergus Green**, two of the authors, will outline their research and discuss what lessons the UK can draw for a fair and inclusive transition away from fossil fuels.
- **Rosemary Harris** from Oil Change International - who has worked with North Sea offshore oil and gas workers and their unions to produce ten worker-led demands for a just energy Transition - will talk about the current state of transition in the UK oil and gas industry, outline the key barriers and concerns, and potential solutions.

Islington Environment Forum

What should a just transition for fossil fuel workers look like?

12.30 - 13.30 pm Wednesday 10 December 2025
Online - [register here](#)

Speakers:

- John Boland, North East of Scotland Organiser, Unite the Union
- Laurie Macfarlane, Future Economy Scotland
- Chris Hamilton, Unite convenor, Petrolneos, Grangemouth
- Catrina Randall, Just Transition Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Scotland
- Francis Stuart, Scottish Trade Union Congress

Instead of real progress on just transition, so far in Scotland we have had just empty words from government, not backed up by results. Redundancies in fossil fuel sectors have not been met with the creation of clear pathways into new jobs in renewable energy.

We will hear about the frustration rising among workers and communities most affected and the outlines of what a just transition should feel like for the workforce will be presented.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

JUST TRANSITION
PARTNERSHIP



Green Bites

**1.3
million**

The additional number of people who could die from “*temperature-related*” causes due to the “*extra greenhouse gases released in the next decade*” **due to the Trump administration’s policies**. The “*vast majority*” of these will occur outside the US, particularly in the African continent and south Asia.

**8
months**

The time that **China’s carbon emissions** have been flat or falling, but steeper reductions are needed to hit the country’s 2030 carbon intensity goal. Huang Runqiu, head of China’s **Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)**, commented that for most developed countries, the time span between reaching their emissions peak and achieving noticeable reductions ranges from 20 to 50 years, much longer than China’s planned decline of around five years after peaking.

**£183
billion**

The cost to the UK economy of dependency on fossil fuels in the last four years according to **research from E3G and the ECIU**. The direct impact of the fossil fuel price spikes on average household energy bills has been an extra £2,160 over four years, leading to **domestic energy debt and arrears being up 150% since late 2021**.

267%

The increase in COP related disinformation in the run-up to this year’s summit. From a **report by Climate Action Against Disinformation**. The COP saw the launch of the **Declaration on Information Integrity on Climate Change**, with the support of a dozen countries, including Brazil, France and Germany. Speaking of which, this year The Daily Telegraph has **been forced to issue** more than 100 corrections and clarifications – nearly three times as many as the BBC, including on a range of climate issues.

85%

The increase in Lime e-bike use in London in the last year. Cycling is at a record high in London with 1.3 million daily journeys, roughly a third of all Tube trips, and in the City, bikes now outnumber cars. **Analysis by transport consultancy Steer** using Department for Transport modelling found that if shared e-bikes were expanded across the UK, they could enable hundreds of millions of extra trips every year, generating over £550 million in health, environmental and economic benefits.

2.8C

Of **global heating projected by 2100** on the trajectory of current policies. This is down from over 4C before the Paris Agreement and is 0.3C lower than projections from 2024. If the pledges in new NDCs are met we are looking at 2.3 - 2.5C. Every tenth of a degree has to be fought for. As Antonio Gutierrez puts it. “*Every fraction of a degree means more hunger, displacement and loss, especially for those least responsible. This is moral failure and deadly negligence*”.

203,125

Number of solar rooftop installations in the UK by the beginning of November in 2025. This is already above the previous record year of 2011. The fall in the meantime is a testament to how much damage the Cameron government did when it “*cut the green crap*”, and how long this has lasted.

**44
million**

Investment in “*clean energy*” as part of the government’s £55 billion pledge to support Research and Development up to 2030 by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. So, less than 1,000th of the total and even this is framed as “*to put technologies like AI and engineering biology to work, to make manufacturing cleaner, less wasteful, and less reliant on fossil fuels*”. Politics, and economics, is the language of priorities.

10%

Drop in labour capacity due to heat stress in “*rural to urban migration hotspots*” in India

FIGHT THE FOSSIL FOOLS!



GET YOUR TRUTH BOOTS ON!

"A LIE CAN TRAVEL HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD WHILE THE TRUTH IS STILL PUTTING ON ITS SHOES" MARK TWAIN

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.

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