

**The Green Jobs Task Force is reporting as we go to press. We will have a thorough review of its proposals in the next issue.**

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### 1. Editorial: Mind the Gap

**The popularity of a Green New Deal and Just Transition is driven by the prospect of millions of new jobs: their necessity by the terrifying reality of climate change impacts that are becoming more intense with every day that passes.**

This month the heat dome in the US and Canadian North West should have put paid to any lingering idea that the climate will break down - or “warm” - with a gentle Fabian gradualism that we might either be able to get used to; or tackle with softly, softly adaptations that don't ruffle anyone's feathers. Less well reported heat waves of over 40C in India and Pakistan and parts of Siberia reaching 48C at the same time show this is a global phenomenon.

Even as roads were buckling, power lines melting, hundreds of people dying of heat stroke and a



Photo: Joe Chung <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jo3design/>

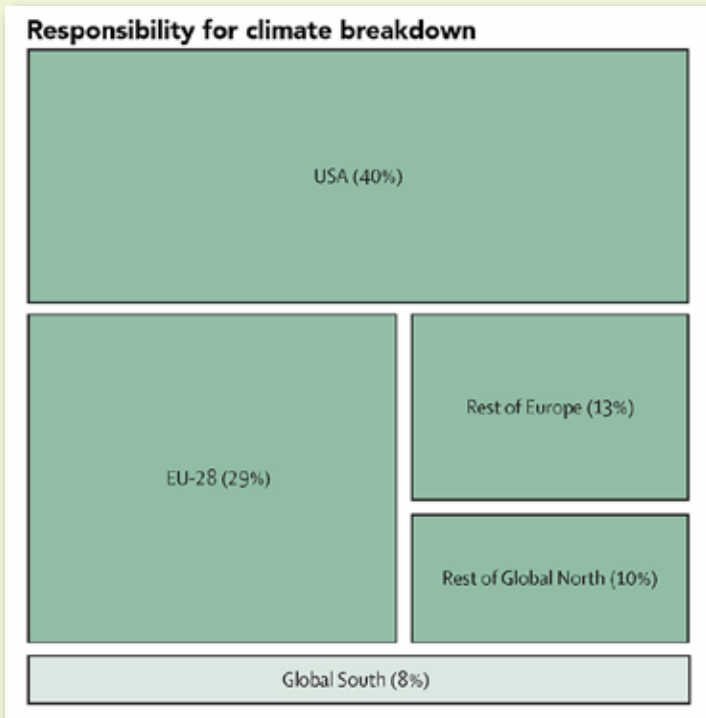


Photo: <https://unsplash.com/@markusspiske>

whole town burst into flames in a matter of minutes; the US Senate was gutting the already insufficient green transformative elements of President Biden's infrastructure plan. The funding for electric vehicles has been cut from \$174 billion to just £15 billion, and the retrofitting of housing, schools and hospitals from \$350 billion to 0. The Republican Party is a political embodiment of the fossil fuel sector's effort to keep things as they are until they burn around us. Appeasing them in the interests of “bipartisanship” puts us all at risk (wherever we live in the world).

The G7 similarly showed that if you want to claim global leadership, you actually have to lead. They didn't, so can't claim it. The Global North - Europe, North America, Australasia and Japan - is responsible for 92% of greenhouse gas emissions to date. The UK alone is responsible for 7%, only 1% below the total for the entire Global South - the whole of Latin America, Africa and Asia including China and India. The failure to stump up the minimum \$100 billion transfer to the developing world required to mitigate existing climate impacts and allow development without reliance on fossil fuels - is a failure of responsibility and leadership. The Emperors have no clothes, and the whole world is watching. A common response from the majority world is “you made this mess. You clear it up.”

Even domestically, none of the G7 powers is planning to invest on the scale needed to keep to 1.5C or below. Boris Johnson, who chaired the G7, cut Overseas Aid in the run up to it and arrived by plane, is a personal embodiment of this. He will no more “level up” here than he will globally; and no illusions should be pedalled that he might.



Quantifying national responsibility for climate breakdown: an equality-based attribution approach for carbon dioxide emissions in excess of the planetary boundary - ScienceDirect

In the run up to the COP we will be hit by a tsunami of red, white and blue tinted greenwash to lull us into a false sense of security from government and business that everything is in hand; even as they fall further and further behind their own inadequate targets. We don't have the time to indulge this. A Global Just Transition will need an alignment between the developing world and the labour movements in the Global North to push for a Global Green New Deal and Ecological civilisation; and make it happen at every level and in any structure where we have any leverage. This poses some strategic issues for the movement which we will explore in forthcoming issues. The campaign #G7payup launched by the GJA - which reached over 2 million people as the G7 opened - was an attempt to set the sort of framework within which this could happen.

Paul Atkin (Editor)

Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/fotdmike/



## 2. Climate Proof your workplace

On September 22, the ITUC is holding the biggest global conversation about our future: the Global Day of Action to Climate and Employment Proof our Work. #CEPOW

We know that jobs and employment are serious concerns for people, that's why we need to have the conversation with employers about both climate and employment.

Workers around the world have been inviting their employers to share a conversation to discuss the plans for resilience and sustainable business — safety, jobs, emissions, a secure pathway for the future.

Hundreds of workplaces have already taken part in #CEPOW from Bangladesh, Colombia, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Somalia and New Zealand and had conversations with their employers on how to secure jobs and run sustainable business. And you can too!

**Sign up to join the conversation in 2021. Check in on progress from your last meeting with your employer, or ask for your first meeting with your boss.**

This year we've teamed up with the ITUC's Global Organising Academy who are holding CEPOW activist training.

**Sign up to take part in the activist training.**

This training is for you if:

1. You want to know how to negotiate with your employer on behalf of your workmates.
2. You've never asked your employer for anything before on behalf of yourself and your workmates – and want to know where to start.
3. You want your employer to do more to stop the dangerous effects of climate change and protect your job and you want to get your workmates to act together.

Wendy Verheyden will host training for Europe/Africa/Americas regions in English Monday 23 August 2021 at 13:00 - 15:00 Brussels.

**Registration is essential, sign up for the activist training now and get ready for #CEPOW 2021.**

Sharan Burrow  
(General Secretary  
ITUC)



### 3. Climate Change Committee Report

#### UK Government failures highlighted in latest CCC Report

The latest report from the All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Committee - on how prepared the UK is to combat anticipated climate change impacts - delivers a withering assessment of the last 5 years of Conservative Government.

The report warns *'the UK will face significant further changes in climate to 2050 and beyond, even if the world is on a Paris-aligned emissions trajectory. By 2050 the heatwave summer of 2018 will be a typical summer, summer rainfall could fall by as much as 24% and winter rainfall increase by as much as 16%, changes that will impact our well-being, the natural environment, and the economy'*. That means, action is needed not just for emissions reductions but also adapting to future risks that are already baked in.

These assessments are required every 5 years under the Climate Change Act. The 2021 report identifies 61 risks and opportunities, fundamental to every aspect of life in the UK – our natural environment, our health, our homes, the infrastructure on which we rely, and the economy. The clear message that emerges is that the UK is falling behind at an alarming rate. Only 4 of the 61 risks are being managed sufficiently. In 2016, 36% of the risks and opportunities in the Technical Report were classed as urgent. That has now risen to 56%.

#### What's missing in the report?

- **Workplaces.** One of the 8 priority risks is 'risks to human health, wellbeing, and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings.' Workplaces count as 'other buildings' but there is no clear reference to locations where people are employed. Workers are in the front line for a range of climate-related risks. Heat exposure is one of many 'adaptation risks' that union reps have to address.
- **Air pollution** is a huge occupational health risk often linked to the burning of fossil fuels and yet this is only mentioned in passing - with only 2 references in the final section on the wider benefits of climate adaptation:
- **Improved ventilation** in buildings. As well as aiding the night-time cooling of buildings during hot weather, adequate ventilation is also critical for maintaining good standards of indoor air quality and
- **Increasing green infrastructure**, setting greenspace targets and monitoring uptake of green infrastructure, which can reduce urban temperatures and deliver other benefits on air pollution, flood alleviation and increased biodiversity.

This is a missed opportunity. TUCAN and other air quality campaign organisations are pressing for enhanced standards for pollution exposure in the proposed Environment Bill. The CCC needed to clearly identify air pollution as an adaptation risk rather than simply a by-product of other risks. A killer responsible for contributing to the deaths of over 40,000 UK citizens per year requires a much clearer reference in the report.

#### Inequalities and Just Transition

The report has inequalities as one of its' themes. 'The UK Government should address the unequal impacts of climate change as part of its levelling up agenda so that no community is left behind.' It also includes a reference to just transition. 'There is increasing public demand to ensure a just transition as the climate changes, and growing activism and awareness for climate justice.' This is a timely reminder that trade unions need to prioritise climate change adaptation as part of our interventions at workplace and community level.

*Graham Petersen*

**Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk -  
Climate Change Committee ([theccc.org.uk](https://theccc.org.uk))**

## 4. Green jobs for Scotland - feast or famine?

The **Green Jobs Report** commissioned by the STUC is the sort of document that should be being produced by government as a Green paper. It considers what changes are needed if Scotland is to meet its decarbonisation needs, what job opportunities are associated with this, and what policies need to be put in place to ensure that these jobs provide Fair Work and enable effective voice demonstrated by high levels of union recognition and influence.

The report estimates - with the right policies and funding in place - Scotland could see job creation in the region of 156,000 - 367,000 jobs. These ranges indicate the positive potential, depending on government leadership, investment levels and time periods for delivery. However, it is also possible for Scotland to decarbonise without significant domestic job creation - and that those jobs created could be primarily precarious and under-paid. For example, the same very ambitious roll-out of renewable energy could create a green jobs feast of up to 70,000 Scottish jobs - or less than 9,000. The difference depends on the policies put in place by government. Past experience would indicate the lower figure is a more likely outcome, with the latest figures showing that employment in Scotland's low-carbon and renewable

energy economy actually fell from 23,200 in 2014 to 21,400 in 2019.

Each section of the report looks in detail at current levels of greenhouse gas emissions, levels of current and potential employment and whereabouts the jobs are and could be, along with policy recommendations to maximise potential job creation and greenhouse gas cuts; both with immediate shovel ready initiatives and longer-term structural plans. The key point is that with state investment, and control, these jobs can be created. Without it, they won't be. This is a very useful campaigning manual and set of demands for the movement in Scotland. We could do with something similar for the rest of the country.

*Paul Atkin and Philip Pearson*



## 5. Scotland - Just Transition Tour

Just last week, Greenpeace UK, Friends of the Earth Scotland and Platform took a 13m wind turbine blade to Inverness, Aberdeen and Dundee to ask oil workers, local politicians and the general public to sign the blade calling for a Just Transition for Oil Workers.

It went exactly as hoped, giving us a really unique opportunity to speak to oil workers, hear their stories, explain exactly what a just transition is and ask what workers and communities want it to look like. We got great local press had some important chats with local politicians who signed the blade, and a really good reception from the general public.



Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/garryknight/

## 6. COP 26 Actions

As the days count down to the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, activity is ramping across the COP26 coalition. Plans are now in place for simultaneous demonstrations in Glasgow and London on 6th November. These will be supported with as many other decentralised protests it's possible to organise and meetings are being organised across the country to build for the biggest UK wide action on climate change yet. Trade unions are critical to getting members out to their nearest demo, and the COP26 coalition trade union caucus will be focussing its final four online meetings on this. The next one is on 20th July at 6.30pm with others to follow in early September and two in October. Sign up to get details at: [cop26-tradeunions-request@lists.riseup.net](mailto:cop26-tradeunions-request@lists.riseup.net)

Local hubs, replicating the coalition structure, are also being established and you can find details of these on the website at: [Local hubs - COP26 Coalition](#)

There has also been a call out for a global climate strike on 24th September which we will also use as an opportunity to mobilise trade unions. If workers are to be at the forefront of a Just Transition, then we need to be seen and heard - get involved!

*Sam Mason*

## SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

- Big Green Week Sept 18-24
- CEPOW Sept 22
- Climate Strike/Day of Action Sept 24





Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/garryknight/

## 7. Education International calls for global climate education

Education International, which represents 32.5 million educators in 178 countries has called for **Universal Climate Change Education** and called on all its members to get involved.

*“As the teaching profession and as a global union federation, we must do our part to avert climate catastrophe. Be it through lobbying our governments, sharing climate change education resources, greening our workplaces or calling out climate denial, our activism is sorely needed. There is no time to lose”.*

## 8. Education must ‘decarbonise and decolonise’ - UCU

**UCU Teach the Future, SOS-UK and the National Union of Students are calling on colleges and universities across the UK to do more to cut carbon emissions and embed climate education across the curriculum as part of wider calls for the education sector to decarbonise and decolonise by 2030.**

UCU is calling for institutions to better prepare students for the unfolding climate crisis and ecological emergency, as well as meeting the **United Nation’s Education for Sustainable Development goals** as students need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to question our carbon intense economic system and explore radical solutions rooted in social justice.

The campaign also recognises that decolonising education institutions is vital to achieving a just and sustainable education system.

Institutions are being urged to:

- embed the United Nations Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) goals across curricula by 2030
- consider ESD as it applies to different aspects of institutional practice including research, library and IT services
- establish a time-limited institutional decolonising commission with trade union, student union and local community involvement
- conduct a systematic review of representation across the institution to include staff, students and governance structures
- provide quality CPD and training for staff to prepare them for climate proofing and decolonising their courses.

## 9. Make November a Climate Themed Learning Month

The NEU, UCU, NUS, SOS-UK and Teach the Future are supporting educators, schools, colleges and universities to integrate activities and themes related to understanding the climate and ecological crisis into this particular month; and begin to embed them into our education system.

The aim is to give a glimpse of a curriculum in which students are informed about the urgency of the crisis and empowered to do something about it, as part of a wider continuation of the wider campaign for a review of the curriculum in response to the climate crisis. A set of downloadable climate and sustainability teaching resources and a specific CPD course is being developed.

### Frequent Flyer Levy

A **report** from New Economics Foundation and Possible finds that a frequent flyer levy would raise £5bn a year, help the UK reach its climate targets, and reduce the amount of flights taken by the richest by one third. The government is shortly to announce its Transport Plan. We will cover this in a forthcoming issue.

## 10. Building Capacity

### TUC Education: Climate action in the workplace

This timely new 15-minute online learning module is a guide to what you need to do to organise members and begin a dialogue with management.

It fits very well with the ITUCs **Climate and Employment Proof Our Workplace** (CEPOW) initiative setting September 22nd as a date to make a formal approach.

Alongside the course, there is short survey where reps and activists can tell the TUC what other training or support they'd like to see, to help determine what future courses it puts on. The wider the response, the more they'll be able to do.

You can spread the word about this on Twitter with these sample shares:

- Every workplace needs a Just Transition plan. A new 15-minute online course from @The\_TUC can help you get your workplace on the way [www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work](http://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work)
- 77% workers agree climate action is vital. But only 33% are confident their workplace is doing the right thing. Let's change this! Take the new 15-minute online course from @The\_TUC [www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work](http://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work)
- Union reps are key to the green industrial revolution. Find out how you can play your part: [www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work](http://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/its-time-talk-about-climate-leadership-work)

**UNITE** is delivering 20-30 minute introductory sessions on the environment at National Industrial Sector Committees (Summer / Autumn) and Regional Industrial Sector Committees (Autumn / Winter). 90 minute sessions have been undertaken in the South West, and with the officer population in the North East, Yorkshire & Humber and there are provisional plans for a 1 and 3 day Environment course in 2021 and a 5 day course in 2022.

### Online Courses from Greener Jobs Alliance

These can be done online personally at any time or collectively in meetings.

Explore here: [www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk)

#### A Trade Union Guide to Just Transition

- The meaning and history of the term just transition
- Why it should be a priority issue
- UK and international policies and case studies
- Ideas for developing an action plan

#### Climate Change Awareness

Module 1: Climate Change Explained Module  
Module 2: International Responses Module  
Module 3: Trade Union Responses Module  
Module 4: Getting Involved.

#### Air Quality – a trade union issue

Module 1: Causes & Health Impacts of Air Pollution  
Module 2: The Law and Government Policy  
Module 3: Trade Union Responses & Campaigns.

## 11. Statistics of the Month

44%

proportion of UK population that think the country's emissions have any impact on climate change.

4%

proportion of UK school students who think they know enough about climate change.

68%

proportion of UK school students who would like to learn more about it.

### Graphic of the month

The carbon footprint of the US military is slightly bigger than that of France (all of it).



Image: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

## 12. Building the Greener Jobs Alliance

In addition to all our campaigning activities, at the GJA we are also seeking to improve our communications and services. First, our currently creaking website is about to undergo a much needed overhaul, thanks to our website guru Wendy Mayes. Our plan, which we hope to implement by the autumn, should give us a much more flexible and responsive web presence, much more scope for updates and current news, and the ability to carry regular blogs from members or guests, while still carrying the course modules and newsletters that are the backbone of the website.

We've also produced a new GJA constitution which will be available on the new website, to update our membership, our purpose and aims, and how we operate independently of the policies of our constituent membership. It's also our aim to review our list of supporters and seek to engage more often and more directly so that we can build campaigns and alliances directly to support our primary objective of supporting the development of climate jobs for workers across the whole economy.

[Subscribe to the GJA Newsletter](#)

[Donate to the GJA](#)

### 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.