

## TUSDAC - Colin Potter Notes – July 2021

The TUSDAC meeting in February was a round table meeting and included some of the officials from the Green Jobs Taskforce. These officials provided more details of the work of the Green Jobs Taskforce and how it was set up to deliver the government's 10-point plan to tackle the climate emergency. The government hoped that the Green Jobs Taskforce would help to support the delivery of 90,000 green jobs across the UK in the short term and 250,000 green jobs across the UK by 2030. The government had announced a £5 billion support package to help kickstart a green economic recovery, with the hope that this would encourage further investment from industry and investors to the sum of a further £12 billion.

One transition that was discussed in the February meeting was that of the oil and gas sector. It was recognised that the transition in the oil and gas sector required the production of more windfarms and the better maintenance of existing windfarms. Windfarms are designed to last between 20 and 25 years. Between now and 2050 all existing windfarms, and some of the yet to be installed windfarms, will need replacing and expanding. It was also noted that there would continue to be jobs on oil rigs to monitor the storage of CO<sub>2</sub> from Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) pipelines and to produce hydrogen using deep sea windfarms.

In the TUSDAC meeting in March 2021, the topic of discussion was on emerging themes from the Green Jobs Taskforce, together with the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) priorities for COP26. This included the pre- COP "Bonn" talks that were occurring in late May /Early June.

The May 2021 meeting included discussions on COP 26 preparation updates. The discussions highlighted the possibility of the event becoming a virtual event, with the UK Government considering making it an open event for all those interested in attending. Members of TUSDAC were informed that IndustriAll had suggested that they would have very limited numbers available to attend the event due to the pandemic and capacity restrictions at the venue. Quarantining requirements would be a major headache for some nations. These nations had already said that they were unable to attend as they could not afford to enter Scotland and quarantine for two weeks before the event started, as the event itself lasted for 2-3 weeks.

It was reported that Francis O'Grady will be speaking at the opening plenary session of the Bonn Pre Cop Talks. There was some more discussion about the work of the Green Jobs Taskforce, especially regarding union reps, activists, and members engagement on the climate emergency and Just Transition.

Each member of TUSDAC was asked to give a preview of the work we are doing within our organisation. Unite (Jim Mowatt and I) presented a video and an update on the work of the Unite Environmental Taskforce, with details of our plans for a portfolio of education courses on the Environment. Similar verbal updates were provided from the UCU, FDA and the TUC.