

THE
**TRADE UNION
CO-ORDINATING
GROUP**

 www.TUCG.org.uk

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The Trade Union Co-ordinating Group (TUCG) brings together eleven national unions (BFAWU, Equity, FBU, NAPO, NEU, NUJ, PCS, POA, RMT, UCU and URTU) to co-ordinate campaigning activities in Parliament and beyond



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**Demand better
on climate
and jobs**

**UPDATE
2023**

Ahead of the COP26 UN climate change conference in Glasgow in 2021, the 11 trade unions which comprise the Trade Union Coordinating Group (TUCG) united in calling for “radical, urgent and far-reaching action to cut dangerous greenhouse gas emissions”. As the climate and ecological crisis deepens, so do the cost of living and energy crises. At the same time, we have seen continued erosion of pay, terms and conditions, and job security across every sector.

TUCG member unions believe that the climate crisis is not just an environmental problem, and the roots of the solutions are the same as those which would ensure fair pay and work for our members along with democratic accountability. As such, it is a problem of justice – social, economic, and environmental – and a fundamental working class issue. We are clear that pressure for the necessary action must be maintained not least

because of the hugely disappointing outcomes of the United Nations COP process.

Geo-political instability presents an additional challenge to achieving a worker-centred just transition to a fairer, greener social and economic system. Against the background of war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis, we recognise that workers and their families are anxious about rising energy bills and that there are renewed fears around energy security. Now more than ever we need to combat corporate interests seeking to profit from the energy crisis, by making



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Climate Camp

the collective case for a massive expansion in publicly owned renewable energy and domestic manufacturing capacity. Sector-wide agreements in offshore wind and new, developing sectors of sustainable/green energy production and manufacturing, are central to a just transition that guarantees re-employment and protection of pay and conditions and other forms

of support to all workers, particularly those in supply chain roles. Such changes are necessary to combat the catastrophic, life-threatening impact of man-made climate change.

The 11 TUCG unions stand united in maintaining their call for a radical agenda based around public ownership of the big energy providers and key sectors such as transport, redirecting funds from paying out lucrative shareholder dividends to subsidising energy bills for low- and modest-income households, and a significant programme of public investment for the future, through developing renewable energy sources and new green technologies. We not only need to create a new generation of good quality, high-skilled and well-paid jobs but, for a genuinely Just Transition, we also need wider economic and social transformations that address the inherent inequalities of neo-liberal economic and social systems.

The trade union movement and our allies must ensure that the voice of workers, nationally and internationally, is at the centre of debates over the shape of the transition towards a net zero economy, and the TUCG unions are united in calling for maximum solidarity and practical action to ensure that we deliver the systemic change necessary to protect our lives and livelihoods together with those of generations to come. Consequently, the TUCG unions pledge to work together on a permanent basis around climate change issues and will explore the possibility of holding annual conferences in conjunction with progressive movements to set out clear campaigning goals for the year ahead.

TUCG unions remain committed to the changes we called for in the run-up to COP26 in 2021:

- 1** Green jobs must be skilled, well paid, safe, and secure jobs – not “greenwash” – this will require investment and training to support yet-to-be developed sectors and technologies. Workers should be guaranteed retraining and a new, unionised job on equivalent terms and conditions.
- 2** Public ownership and investment must play a central role in sectors such as energy and transport, as well as in supporting the transition across other sectors to progress adaptation to climate change.
- 3** Education and training must be universal and central to developing and enhancing learning and skills to support workers through the changes required by the climate crisis.
- 4** The commitment to sustainability and the net zero transition requires deep change across every aspect of our lives, beginning with the way we educate our children. Sustainability and environmental education must be embedded throughout the curriculum and must focus beyond simply transferring knowledge. Young people should feel confident about what they have learned in school to help bring about change, with educators free to support the widest and most open discussions.
- 5** Workers themselves must have direct involvement in decisions about changes to production and services, and in processes to determine what a genuinely *Just Transition* looks like.