
Cop Out 26 – A response from the Global South

The dominant narrative put out by the Global North is that capitalism will bring global prosperity. If our communities and nature (which we depend on) are to survive, then we have to liberate our minds from that dominant narrative, because it is a lie.

The capitalism of the Global North has brought the Earth to the brink climate catastrophe and biodiversity collapse. That is the physical reality that Glasgow COP was supposed to address. We are in a climate emergency and it is caused by greenhouse gas pollution. Humans must stop burning fossil fuels now, not tomorrow. But what came of Glasgow?

The Global North decided to continue with business as usual. Glasgow was an utter failure. The Glasgow climate pact allows countries to keep on burning fossil fuels. It merely calls to phase down coal and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

The single biggest delegation at COP 26 was from the fossil fuel sector. COP 26 was a victory for them.

COP 26 was a failure

Boris Johnson, the British Prime Minister, has welcomed what he calls the historic climate agreement reached at COP 26 in Glasgow which, he says, keeps the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C in reach, provided countries continue to take ambitious action over the next decade. What a grossly self-serving and irresponsible statement. COP 26 was a failure.

So what does COP 26 mean for the Global South? It means death and destruction. Aminath Shauna, the Maldives Minister of Environment, said that either we kill oil or oil will kill us. Rising sea levels will swamp, low lying countries.

Guyana's capital city and agriculture are already below sea level. The little seawall is not going to keep out the mighty Atlantic. And what about our sisters and brothers in the small island states?

The Glasgow Climate Pact talks about Mother Earth, then proceeds to choke her to death with greenhouse gas emissions.

The Glasgow Climate Pact acknowledges that climate change has already caused loss and death, but it doesn't acknowledge that the dam-

age was caused by the Global North and not the Global South. And it does not acknowledge that the Global North must repair the harm and compensate for suffering. It decides to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.

In other words, the Global North offers to talk, while the Global South pays the price. Climate justice and climate reparations are missing. Of course the Global North should compensate with Global South, but more importantly, the Global North should remove that greenhouse gas pollution from the atmosphere and let us all breathe.

The extraordinarily hot and cold temperatures that are becoming more common as climate change accelerates are responsible for 5 million deaths globally. Every year, 2.6 million deaths in Asia. 1.2 million deaths in Africa. These lives matter.

Decolonization

The safe limit for CO₂ in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million. We're now at 450. This is the highest concentration at any time in the last 2 million years. Nevertheless the Global North has continued to burn fossil fuels, to go to war for oil and to lend money to the Global South, to lock our energy systems into fossil fuels.

The Global North economies are built on fossil fuels. They will protect their economies, even if it means killing the Earth. And they using the international law to do it. International law is not a neutral entity. It comes out of the conflict between colonizing European powers and the colonized. International law justified the conquest, enslavement, torture and killing of non-Europeans and the theft of lands and natural resources. Decolonization has not removed the economic structures of colonization. It has merely disguised them using international law. International law serves global capital.

The idea is that the Global South, the so-called developing countries, must catch up with the developed countries of the Global North that have built their wealth on the destruction of the earth.

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However, the Global North relies on people in the Global South to keep the structures of exploitation and extractivism that serve the economies of the Global North. Colonialism has been replaced by Neocolonialism. And Neocolonialism is the worst form of imperialism. For those who practice it, it means power without responsibility. And for those who suffer from it, it means exploitation without redress. The agents and accomplices of Neocolonialism in the Global South, are the governments who run cap in hand to the former colonial countries to ask for money. At Glasgow, these governments were asking for money to adapt to climate change when they should have been challenging and stopping the system that is destroying the earth.

Extinction

Why beg for money to adapt to climate change? You cannot adapt to extinction.

India and China have produced some of the oldest civilizations on the planet, but at COP 26, India, backed by China, called for nations to phase down rather than phase out coal, which is the dirtiest fossil. Fourteen of the most polluted cities on earth are in India. More than a million Indians die each year from air pollution, but prime minister Modi will keep India on the path to human suffering and ecological devastation, and people will die for the sake of economic development.

In Guyana, the government is looking to increase fossil fuel production through a deal with Exxon Mobil. Yet Guyana's forests remove more greenhouse gas than the country emits every year. Guyana is a world leader. If every country became a carbon sink like Guyana, we could reverse climate change. But that would require the developed countries to accept that they are the problem, not the solution.

Article 36 of Guyana's constitution says that the wellbeing of the nation depends upon preserving cleaner, fertile soils, pure water, and the rich biodiversity of plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Domination of Oil

Yet the once rich fishing grounds offshore Guyana are now seeing empty catches and some fishermen are putting up their boats. Guyana is importing fish. The fishermen blame the oil drilling and pollution.

The domination of oil is facilitated by the other agents of neocolonialism. The World Bank is lending Guyana millions of dollars to do oil and gas instead of renewables. Global Witness, a British NGO, has been all over the international and national press claiming the Guyana would get \$168 billion from the oil deal with Exxon Mobil.

Global Witness lied.

We've made them withdraw their report. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis has shown that Guyana is racking up massive debts and liabilities for the future, while getting environmental damage and stranded assets in return. Long-term debt from oil is making Guyana poorer, not richer.

We in the Caribbean, in Africa, in the Pacific, are on the front line of the harm caused by burning fossil fuel. Public investment in green energy offers higher returns with benefits for the whole economy. We have to pivot our economies, whether the politicians like it or not. The jobs of the future are in renewable energy. The economies of the future are based on renewable energy.

You don't pay the sun to shine. The Caribbean is blessed with endless sunshine and we can have cheap unlimited electricity. Now is the time for the Caribbean's people to have cheap, renewable energy with zero emissions. The Global North will resist it. They don't want the Global South to have energy freedom.

We must believe in ourselves. It's up to us to liberate our minds and to save our people and our planet.

By **Melinda Janki**, an international environmental lawyer fighting for justice for Guyana.

Having spent the last 25 years working to make environmental damage illegal and save our planet, Melinda is now helping Guyana stand up to multinational oil giants to save one of South America's most beautiful countries from a carbon bomb disaster.

<https://melindajanki.org/>



Edmonton Incinerator Update

A report from *Real Media*

Five people were arrested after protesters used bamboo structures and lock-ons to blockade three gates at the North London Edmonton incinerator last week, shutting down work at the plant for the day.

Plans to hugely expand the Enfield plant came to a head last Thursday, when six of the seven London councils in the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) voted to approve the scheme, despite a long campaign of protests, lobbies and petitions. They gave the contract to the Spanish based corporation Acciona (which has faced controversy and problems with corruption and safety).

Acciona CEO José Manuel Entrecanales was caught on video at COP26 admitting that the proposed development is massively oversized, and an All Parliamentary Committee on Air Pollution has just released a report recommending that all incinerator expansions be halted immediately to protect human health and cut carbon emissions.

The week before, in a vote at Islington council, Green councillor Caroline Russell complained that her motion to pause the expansion had been controversially re-written by Labour councillors before the full council meeting began and their “amendment” recommended a vote FOR the expansion instead.

Haringey

Despite the lobbying campaign, Haringey was the only council to express concern, calling for a ‘Pause and Review’. They voted against the project at the final meeting on 16th December in Camden.

The Edmonton incinerator is situated in a poor area with a higher than average percentage of people of colour (around 65%). According to a study by Imperial College, deprived communities like those around Edmonton are already hit hardest by air pollution, causing health and especially respiratory and cardiovascular problems, and yet waste incinerators are three times more likely to be built in these areas, compounding the issues. Edmonton’s ambient air pollution levels already exceed EU limits, but the UK has actively lobbied the EU against higher air pollution standards.

A group of local doctors want the plans halted on the basis of the precautionary principle, citing

health concerns, and the campaign has brought together diverse groups including Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, Unite the Union, and many others.

Hidden Emissions

Proponents of the scheme claim that particulates will be managed by a selective catalytic reduction system, but a study by ZeroWasteEurope showed that even state-of-the-art technology produces hidden emissions, and some experts believe this will increase carbon emissions.

They also promise that in the future carbon emissions will be controlled through carbon capture technology, but carbon capture technology is currently too expensive and unworkable, and a recent report by the National Infrastructure Commission warns that carbon targets are at risk because of the increase in incineration.

Although the NLWA claim that the plant will improve sorting and recycling rates, a government inquiry into recycling heard evidence that local authorities with incinerators have lower rates of recycling and in general, recycling rates have actually been plateaued or even falling over many years.

At Thursday’s vote, protesters took to the street and blocked traffic outside the meeting. Although the result comes as a blow to many, the campaign continues, with warnings of further direct action and grassroots resistance to this unwelcome project.

More info and future protests at

stop-edmonton-incinerator.org



Georgia Elliott-Smith is a sustainability consultant, waste engineer, former UNESCO Special Junior Envoy for Youth & Environment, environmental activist, Chartered Environmentalist, MIEMA (Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment), WELL AP. Member of Extinction Rebellion.

This is a transcription of a talk organised by the London Hazards Centre, December 2021.

Incineration is almost a self fulfilling prophecy. The more that you build, the more waste needs to be generated to feed into the incinerators to keep it burning.

DEFRA statistics in the UK show that where incineration capacity increases, recycling rates correspondingly decrease because of the economics of waste. Waste incinerator contracts are set up with a local authority for 25 years. The waste is relatively cheap to dispose of and they are locked into waste quantities over a period of time. Conversely, a recycling contract with a local authority is only two or three years.

So a financial proposition to an investor for a fixed 25 year contract is far more attractive than a fluctuating two year contract where the investment is risky. And so when you look at incineration in that sort of economic backdrop, you understand why incinerators get built and why recycling is, year upon year, decade upon decade, under invested in, and the poor cousin of waste management.

Science

The science of fluid dynamics, the way that particulates behave, tells us that even the most modern filters do not capture the finest particles and these ultra fine particles are the ones which are the most harmful to human health. They are

produced in high numbers. They are not captured by filters because they behave as a gas, not as a solid particle. And so they bypass even the most sophisticated filter technology.

In 2015, when the environmental studies were conducted in advance of the authorities receiving development consent, the models and the projections for waste volumes and quantities were just predictions. Over the last few years, since development consent was received, we have seen a divergence between the projected waste quantities and actual waste quantities.

They projected significantly more waste than we're currently producing. And they also did not factor in the new environment tax and the resources and waste strategy, which has been now published by the government. That will result in even further reducing waste quantities. And so what we know is that the waste projections by the NLWC are significantly higher than what we now predict. When confronted with this information, they say they will just dial down the incinerator, just burn less. That is ridiculous. They are investing our money in this capital equipment. So the cost of building it, the cost of buying it, the cost of running and maintaining it is proportionate to its initial sizing.

They are building something far too large for our needs

When you borrow money to build something, you have to create a financial business case for the decades following that demonstrates the amount of waste that will be going in.

The way that a business case works for an incinerator is that every truck that comes in pays a gate fee, if you're taking less waste, then you're getting less money and you cannot then pay back the loan that you've taken from government and from the banks.

The financial model does not stack up.

They are linking this incinerator to a heat network serving the Meridian Water housing development. It is uncertain whether that heat network will function, if the amount of waste

continued overleaf



*Not just Edmonton -
Birmingham does not want an incinerator at Tyseley*

Georgia Elliott-Smith *continued*

going into the incinerator is significantly less than projected. Potentially locking in the residents of Meridian Water to a heat network that does not work.

We will get to a point where Meridian Water is linked to the heat network and then NLWC will simply say that they cannot produce the heat required without buying in additional waste from further afield. Why would you build it so large if you're not going to use the capacity? This is storing up problems for the future where the NLWC start accepting waste from further and further afield in order to make the financial case stack up.

This will lock Edmonton into being the dumping ground of the UK. Because once that capacity is built, it then becomes a self fulfilling prophecy that it has to continue to be used at its maximum capacity.

The landscape has changed significantly since 2015, we had reports about the UK emissions trading scheme, which is the tax in the UK for industrial carbon emissions. There are reports now from Westminster that ministers favour

bringing waste incineration into this carbon pricing scheme next year. Now we don't know that for certain, but it is a high likelihood that that will happen, which will add 25 million pounds a year, increasing the financial liability of this incinerator, which so far hasn't been priced.

The committee on climate change has recommended that all incinerators, either remain unbuilt or have carbon capture and storage technology added to them. Our incinerator here in Edmonton has not priced for that.

This incinerator doesn't need to be built at all. Once this incinerator is built, London will have almost 1 million tonnes a year over capacity of incineration in London. It could remain entirely unbuilt and we would still have excess capacity in London.

And imagine what we could do with that land, we could turn it into a proper recycling centre, a full recycling processing centre that's fit for the future. We could return it to Parkland.

We could give the people of Edmonton, some lungs again.

However, not everyone is opposed to the Edmonton Incinerator. The GMB union is in favour. In the interests of debate, we reprint their statement.

GMB Union welcomes a decision by the North London Waste Authority to approve a new incinerator plant in Edmonton.

The project had looked in jeopardy when Haringey Council call for a pause in the plans after pressure from campaigners.

But in a meeting yesterday [Thursday 16 December] the seven councils [Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest] forming the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) approved the contract for Acciona and Hitachi Zosen to build the new incinerator.

Michael Ainsley, GMB Organiser, said:

“GMB has been at the forefront in securing a structured national agreement for the building of the plant via the National joint Agreement Engineering Construction Industry (NAECI) agreement.

“Our union welcomes the opportunity for well-paid skilled jobs and apprenticeships that the scheme will provide in an area of London that has higher unemployment than the London average.

“Ultimately the new incinerator will be cleaner for the environment than the existing one and will also turn waste into energy, serving many homes and businesses with heat and power.

“GMB is committed to a cleaner, safer environment for all to enjoy, safeguarding the climate for the future in balance with real, well-paid sustainable jobs.

“The alternative to incineration is landfill, contaminating nature, land, rivers and oceans. The real offenders in the waste issue are manufacturers and suppliers who chose non-recyclable packaging of consumables simply because it is cheaper.”



Stop The Edmonton Incinerator Now



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The UK government is striving for net zero carbon emissions by 2050

The incinerator would generate 700,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year for decades



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The incinerator is in one of London's most deprived neighbourhoods

Burning waste releases toxic particulates - a public health risk



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The new incinerator would undermine recycling by creating demand for waste

We should invest these public funds in waste reduction & recycling solutions

PROJECT STATUS

The rebuild received approval in 2017 with little public consultation

Since then scientists & gov't bodies have come out against incineration

Much of the waste from the 7 boroughs is recyclable

Climate & recycling laws may make the incinerator obsolete

TAKE ACTION

WRITE to the national government & local councillors - templates on our website

JOIN our direct actions at the rebuild site near the Tottenham IKEA

MOBILISE your local community & environmental groups



SIMILAR INCINERATOR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN STOPPED - WE CAN DO THIS!

WWW.STOP-EDMONTON-INCINERATOR.ORG

Walthamstow Mall towers too tall to be green

Huge towers being built in Walthamstow 'will likely use twice the energy the same flats would in shorter buildings'

The enormous towers being built at Walthamstow's shopping centre are likely to use twice the energy the same number of flats would in five or six storey buildings.

Philip Steadman, Professor of urban and built form at University College London, spoke at a meeting of the Save Our Square campaign opposing plans to build 34 and 27-storey apartment blocks over part of the Walthamstow Town Square.

After studying more than 600 existing buildings, Professor Steadman found those of 20 or more stories use 40% more fossil fuels, 100% more carbon and 135% more electricity than their low-rise equivalents.

He said: "These findings were a big surprise, I think many in the industry didn't believe them or didn't want to believe them. Strangely studies like this haven't been done in the past."

An explanation for the higher energy use is the extra heating and cooling needed.

He said: *"In summer tall buildings are more exposed to the sun, and in the winter they are more exposed to lower air temperatures and faster winds, above the level of most roofs in the city."*

"Glass is not as good insulation material as concrete or brick and cladding glass can lose or gain more heat through the walls."

Industry professionals usually rely on computer models to estimate energy use for tall buildings.

He added: *"I have increasingly come to suspect that these models are not capable of calculating energy use, or they aren't being correctly used. I have seen studies predicting 15% increase in tall storeys."*

According to Professor Steadman, similar numbers of homes can be built in shorter buildings, resulting in far lower energy use.

He said: *"Much energy could thus be saved and carbon emissions reduced by building lower, without sacrificing density."*

An Australian study found that high-rise buildings use 60% more energy in their construction than low-rise.

*Thanks to the
Waltham Forest Echo*



Artists impression of
the proposed new
towers



QUESTIONS FOR WALTHAM FOREST COUNCILLORS ON THE TOWN SQUARE PLANS



A third of the open green space in the Town Square would be taken out of public use and given over to private property developers to make profits.

Is this moral?

Less than 50% of the remaining space will be usable as part is taken up by the avenue of trees and playgrounds so no space left to relax in.

The children's playground would be moved nearer the bus station.

Is this advisable given the dangers of air pollution and asthma in children?

The Mall would be enlarged.

Is this appropriate at a time of shops, big and small, going under as shopping habits change to online?

A new access tunnel would be built to the tube, which might have been a positive development. Originally TFL were to pay for this, but they are claiming they have no money in the coffers.

Is this massive aspect of the project even financially feasible?

Two enormous tower blocks of 34 and 26 storeys would be built providing over 500 flats to be rented and managed by a single company. There are 10,000 households on the WF housing list in desperate need, yet only about 50 are designated for social housing.

What is the point of these buildings except for private profit of the property companies? Wouldn't council housing at council rents be preferable and more useful? What workers have a £60,000 income to afford these rents?

The flats would be put up by modular construction, prefabricated elsewhere and put together on site.

Are these safe given that 2 low rise modular-constructed buildings in Shetland went up in smoke and the fire service had no time to save them? Questions about potential cavities in this type of construction, which could act like a chimney, have emerged. Could these towers be a new and even bigger Grenfell in our midst?

The London Fire Brigade say there are 1,000 blocks in London that are unsafe. How can this have happened if the Building Regulations were adequate? We must not build high blocks until the regulations ensure they are safe.

The towers would be so tall they would need more heating in the winter and more cooling in the summer.

Is this good for the environment?

YOU CAN HELP

stop this development by emailing Waltham Forest councillors, the Mayor Sadiq Khan and our GLA members with any of these questions and others, along with your own opinions, and demand that the plans be paused and reviewed. [See over for addresses and info](#)

AN ALTERNATIVE
PEOPLE'S PLAN NEEDS
TO BE CONSIDERED.

Redevelopment of the Holloway Prison Site

Peabody has submitted plans to Islington council for its controversial 980-home redevelopment of the former Holloway women's prison in Islington, north London. Fourteen buildings up to 14 storeys in height are expected to be constructed, underwritten by public funds from the Mayor of London.

We want the site developed for social housing for families and key workers, community resources and green space.

Local residents have made objections, including:

Density of the build and limited amount of social housing units allocated. Increased density, blamed on campaigners wanting social housing, community resources and public green space, has resulted in both significant height increases throughout the pre planning stage and reduction in the quality and area of surrounding green space in a Borough with the lowest amount of green space per resident in London.

We say: families in Islington need low rise family homes not tower blocks.

Well-being of Islington residents. Documented research shows that pushing families into cramped spaces is not good for children and has an adverse effect on the social and mental well being of parents and carers. Studies into transmission of COVID variants, other viral and bacterial infections show that overcrowding, use of lifts in high rise buildings and 'sick building syndrome' are established public health risks. No weight was given to this in the phoney consultations, despite consistent concerns. The development design and density have been revised to increase density and height on the spurious reasoning of making the overall development 'more affordable' and because local residents are asking for too many community benefits.

We say: this has been ignored to the detriment of all local people and will set yet another precedent for public assets being subverted into 'over development for profit'

Local education and health resources – There are already very limited health resources in the area, particularly NHS GP practices, and the local schools and nurseries will not be able to absorb the numbers of children and young people who will be living in the estate.



We say: these local resources need to be taken into account in the density of the build.

Scale – The height and position of the buildings will result in 'no sunlight' areas both on the estate itself and significant overshadowing of neighbouring homes. Children and adults all need Vitamin D from natural sunlight. Some units are compromised because of lack of dual ventilation requiring cooling systems.

We say: this is poor design and it's evident that the units affected are those designated for 'affordable social housing'.

Sewerage, water drains, potential flooding – No one has answered questions about how this local infrastructure will manage the huge volume of inflow and outflow.

We say: this is an important consideration for the well-being and health of all people living in this development as well as residents living nearby.

continued overleaf

Impact on the surrounding area.- The density of the build will increase traffic volumes and flow in the surrounding streets where there are two schools, throughout and beyond the build period. Both local tube stations and buses already struggle with passenger numbers throughout the day.

We say: Peabody thinks this is not relevant to the density of the development and it is someone else's problem.

Noise, building dust, HGV pollution – All three are serious health hazards. Peabody admits that there are serious knowledge gaps about the duration and cost of the demolition stage together with lack of data about hazardous material, such as asbestos, on the site. As costs are unlikely to be 'contained', it is probable that the developer will ask for a revision of the build plan to mitigate losses, leading to the reduction of units of social housing, a well established pattern of large scale for profit housing development.

We say: people have the right to know this and to be confident that risks will be minimised for both workers on the site and nearby residents.

Green credentials are sadly a sham and risible- The Sustainable Design and Construction Statement" admits that the proposal does not meet the LETI [London Energy Transformation Initiative] or RIBA [Royal Institute of British Architects] 2030 criteria for new building. Councillors and planners should consider, for example, research and findings of Philip Steadman, Emeritus Professor of Urban and Built Form Studies, Energy Institute, Bartlett School of Energy, Environment and Resources, University College London. He has researched the illusory 'green credentials' and the long term adverse environmental impact of high rise builds and their future sustainability.

We say: stop insulting us with a pretence that this is a green development when it does not meet even minimal standards.

Green spaces – The development is not consistent with the London Borough of Islington Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 -2025 and its commitment to 'green the public realm'. The site offered the opportunity to provide a much needed local park, with innovative low rise social housing, including homes for disabled and elderly residents, consistent in height and design with neighbouring recent developments, alongside much needed community resources accessible to all residents in the area. The well known heritage of the site is completely disregarded and the need for green space, open sports and play areas will be permanently lost from the 'public assets bank'.

We say: children and young people and all residents need open spaces not wind corridors: stop making green washing statements and address the health needs of people in the Borough.

Financial analysis and sustainability – The Council has responsibility for ensuring that residents are not saddled with huge and unmanageable future debt. Due diligence analysis must be transparent and cannot hide behind commercial confidentiality. Financial analysis of the spend to date, the sources of financing and the future financial demands to sustain the development have not been made clear to local residents. Local people who will end up taking responsibility for private development debt as has happened elsewhere – similar to the Carillion scandal. The involvement of the Mayor of London in both financing and deciding a 'with profit' development is not transparent.

We say: public asset stripping for profit is unacceptable and this is an opportunity to provide 'green homes' together with a community space.

And finally we say: don't be fooled by the computer generated visuals: the developer always comes back to go up and squeeze in more.

Green Jobs and Skills in London

by Graham Petersen

A report was published in October 2021 commissioned by the London boroughs that are organised in 4 hubs. The research was conducted by WPI and IES. Green Jobs and Skills in London: cross-London report - WPI Economics:

<http://wpieconomics.com/publications/green-jobs-and-skills-in-london-cross-london-report/>

The 4 hubs are:

Central London Forward – 12 central London boroughs partnership.

South London Partnership – 5 boroughs.

West London Alliance – 7 boroughs.

Local London (North East and East) – 8 boroughs.

Green Jobs in London 2020 – 234,000 (4.4% of total employment). 3 sectors represent 82% of this total:

1. Green Finance – 50,700 (22%)
2. Home and buildings – 58,200 (25%)
3. Power – 82,900 (35%)

Trade unions are not mentioned in the 115 page report which given the references to just transition is problematic. Despite this the executive summary concludes “*London is one of the most inequitable places in the UK, with huge inequalities in pay, qualifications, health and outcomes such as poverty and deprivation. The changes that we are about to see through the shift to green sectors provides an opportunity to turn those around. With the right skills provision, and support both for those needing to transition from non-green jobs and those not currently in work, the green sectors identified in this report could provide the higher-skilled, more productive, stable and better paid work that many families in London need to be able to make ends meet. By doing so, as well as driving a just transition, these green jobs could also drive inclusive growth and tackle the underlying inequalities that have existed in London for decades. We hope that this*

report provides at least part of the evidence base that is needed to build an understanding of how this might happen.’ (Page 8)

JT reference – ‘*London is a hub for green jobs across the UK and delivering a just transition and inclusive growth in London is a prerequisite and driver for doing the same across the UK*’ (P. 4)

Definition of green jobs – ‘*Green jobs are those jobs that facilitate meeting net-zero and broader environmental goals*’

11 sectors identified

Central London has a far higher number of green finance.

The 11 sectors accounted for £42 billion of sales in 2020/21

Most jobs are high level, managerial, professional or skilled crafts. Skilled crafts are 19% cf to 6% in total.

Diversity – Less women and ethnically diverse than the overall labour market. Women only 1 in 3 cf to 46%, BAME only 30% cf to 36%.

FE – 22,000 learners in 2018/19 studying courses related to the green sector at Level 2 or above.

HE – high number of graduates given the number of HEIs in London.

Job growth - Growth identified in 3 scenarios – Low, Central and High.

Central – 234,000 increasing to 505,000 in 2030 and 1 million in 2050.

By 2050 88% of jobs will be in 4 sectors:

1. Green Finance (387,000 / 37%)
2. Power (232,500 / 22%)
3. Houses and buildings (151,700 / 15%)
4. Low Carbon Transport (147,000 / 14%)

Not additional jobs as some will be lost. Overall increase – 50,000 in 2030 / 20,000?? in 2050 (should it be 200,000) Page 6.

INSULATION SPECIAL EDITION



1. Editorial: Building a Retrofit Campaign as a matter of urgency

At its recent annual conference, the Labour Party announced that, if elected, it would undertake a £60 billion programme of home retrofit including insulation and heating. At the recent SERA AGM Shadow Energy Minister Alan Whitehead MP explained how this would be “180 degrees different” from the Conservatives two failed attempts to grapple with this since 2010.

- It will be done collectively on an area basis and managed by local authorities with FE Colleges involved in local training.
- Neighbourhoods will be designated as low carbon/ efficiency zones.
- Each of these will contain a mix of tenures. Home owners will get 0% loans. Private sector landlords will be required to meet the standard before being allowed to rent out. Social housing would be done through direct grants to LAs.
- This should get all homes up to standard before 2035.

This programme, especially if carried out by local authority direct labour and/ or a national retrofit task force has the prospect of both getting the job done and generating electoral support for any Party that campaigns for it.

The Great Homes Upgrade campaign (see below) has already gained significant support from Metro Mayors and local authorities and aims to build local task forces involving councils, unions, NGOs, universities and colleges to campaign and organise what can be done now and push for that to be expanded. Its worth signing up to this to join in campaigning in the New Year.

The Scottish TUCs Our Climate, Our Homes campaign (see below) is trying to organise this on all Scotland level and we need a similar breadth of campaigning South of the Border too; as this is an issue that can unite the entire movement, so we should make sure that it does.

The Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union group has, in its Climate Jobs booklet, laid out a comprehensive retrofit plan, which lays out in detail how this might be done, as eloquently described by Wolfgang Kuchler below.

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Quote of the Month

the climate action army, led by young people, is unstoppable.

They are larger. They are louder. And, I assure you, they are not going away.

*UN Secretary General
António Guterres*

Unions in Yorkshire and the Humber – partners in the climate transition?

The *Yorkshire and Humber Just Transition taskforce* was set up by TUC in the region in 2016 following a report on the high-carbon industries that anchor the regional economy. Whilst 28,000 jobs were identified directly in these industries, wider threats are apparent from the low levels of investment typical in northern England, and the continued offshoring of the manufacturing base, which plays a strong role in this region. There are opportunities for jobs, investment and skills in the climate transition, but many are in new or restructured sectors where union representation is not strong, for example, offshore wind, green hydrogen and housing retrofit. The TUC and its taskforce have acted as a key partner in setting up the *Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission* (YHCC) and since its launch in March 2021. In two main phases of YHCC work to date, the JT Taskforce and the TUC JT Officer (in post, externally funded, since July) have contributed to the region-wide Climate Action Plan and to the development of its Future Economy Panel.

Climate Action Plan

The YHCC *Climate Action Plan* (Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan (yorksand-humberclimate.org.uk) identifies, at a high-level, opportunities for green investment and transition, backed by a qualitative and quantitative evidence base and consulted with key stakeholders from all sectors. Trade unions from the JT Taskforce provided input to all the stakeholder events, supported by the TUC JT officer and the Regional Secretary in his role as Climate Commissioner.

Active trade union participation in the Climate Commission has ensured that Just Transition is one of the main four themes of the YHCC Climate Action Plan. A key action of the CAP is to improve skills and create jobs, developing policy recommendations for metro-mayors and local authorities and pressing Westminster for policy support to enable this transition. The green investment, job creation and reskilling opportunities aspects of the YHCC Climate Action Plan will be taken forward by its Future Economy

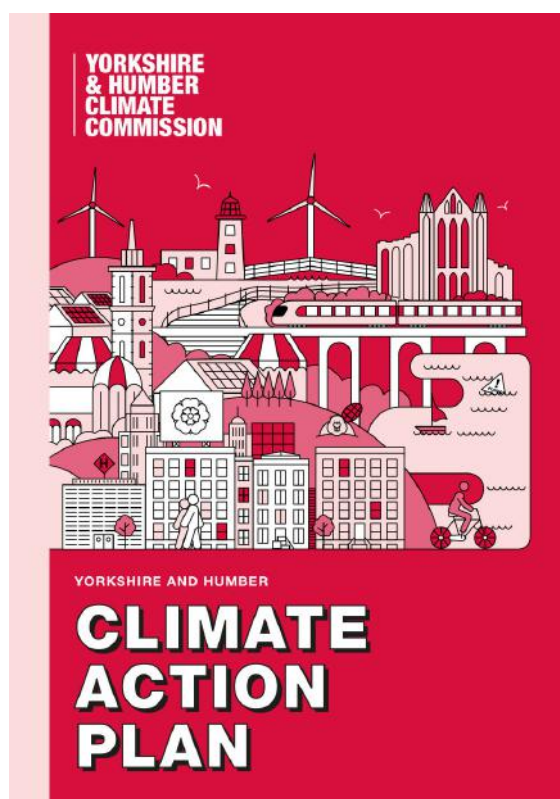
Panel, which is to be co-chaired by the TUC Regional Secretary (with the CBI). The JT Taskforce is currently helping to set its remit and will help take forward its drive to achieve climate transition plans in the 50 most significant employers in the region. Research support from NGOs such as New Economics Foundation and Greener Jobs Alliance has been invaluable.

Real people in Real jobs

Alongside this policy-level work, the role of workplace reps and union FTOs is essential to get climate issues onto bargaining agendas, and to translate the issues in ways that make sense to “real people in real jobs” – the workforce and union membership. A good example of this is at the bus-builder, Alexander Dennis, in North Yorkshire, where opportunities to secure jobs through building electric buses are threatened by lack of the promised government funding and the deregulated state of the bus industry. Here, Unite and TUC are working to unblock the issues and ensure that public money is used to support good, local employment in a future-proofed industry.

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Greenwash: Oil industry promotes carbon capture fantasy

by June Sekera and Neva Goodwin

First published in *The Conversation*, 23 November 2020 as "Why the oil industry's pivot to carbon capture and storage – while it keeps on drilling – isn't a climate change solution"

After decades of sowing doubt about climate change and its causes, the fossil fuel industry is now shifting to a new strategy: repositioning itself as a “carbon management industry.”

The future, in their view, would be powered by the fuels they supply and technologies they could deploy to remove the planet-warming carbon dioxide their products emit.

But how effective are these solutions, and what are their consequences?

Mechanical carbon capture methods struggle to demonstrate success, despite U.S. government investments of over US\$7 billion in direct spending and at least a billion more in tax credits. Meanwhile, proven biological solutions with multiple benefits have received far less attention.

Carbon capture and storage

Carbon capture and storage aims to capture carbon dioxide as it emerges from smokestacks either at power plants or from industrial sources. So far, this has been a failure.

Seven large-scale Carbon capture and storage projects have been attempted at power plants in the USA, each with hundreds of millions of dollars of government subsidies, but these projects were either cancelled before they reached commercial operation or were shut down after they started due to financial or mechanical troubles. There is only one commercial-scale carbon capture and storage power plant in operation anywhere in the world, in Canada, and its captured carbon dioxide is used to extract more oil from wells – a process called “enhanced oil recovery.”

This expensive oil extraction technique has been described as “climate mitigation” because the oil companies are now using carbon dioxide. But a modelling study of the full life cycle of this process at coal-fired power plants found it puts 3.7 to 4.7 times as much carbon dioxide into the air as it removes.

Direct Removal

Another method would directly remove carbon dioxide from the air. Oil companies like Occidental Petroleum and ExxonMobil are seeking government subsidies to develop and deploy such “direct air capture” systems. However, one widely recognized problem with

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Greenwash

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these systems is their immense energy requirements, particularly if operating at a climate-significant scale, meaning removing at least 1 gigaton – 1 billion tons – of carbon dioxide per year.

That's about 3% of annual global carbon dioxide emissions. The U.S. National Academies of Sciences projects a need to remove 10 gigatons per year by 2050, and 20 gigatons per year by century's end if decarbonization efforts fall short.

The only type of direct air capture system in relatively large-scale development right now must be powered by a fossil fuel to attain the extremely high heat for the thermal process.

Spending the same amount of money on clean energy to replace fossil fuels is more effective at reducing emissions, air pollution and other costs.

The cost of scaling up

Bill Gates is backing a direct air capture company called Carbon Engineering which, it is estimated, would cost \$5.1 trillion every year to operate at climate-significant scale. Much of the cost would be borne by governments [tax-payers] because there is no customer for burying waste underground.

The captured carbon dioxide must be transported somewhere for use or storage. A 2020 study from Princeton estimated that 66,000 miles of carbon dioxide pipelines would have to be built by 2050 to begin to approach 1 gigaton per year of transport and burial.

The issues with burying highly pressurised CO₂ underground will be analogous to the problems that have faced nuclear waste disposal, but at enormously larger quantities. Transportation, injection and storage of carbon dioxide bring health and environmental hazards, such as the risk of pipeline ruptures, groundwater contamination and the release of toxins, all of which particularly threaten the disadvantaged communities historically most victimised by pollution.

Bringing direct air capture to a scale that would have climate-significant impact would mean diverting taxpayer funding, private investment, technological innovation, scientists' attention, public support and difficult-to-muster political action away from the essential work of transitioning to non-carbon energy sources.

A proven method: trees, plants and soil

Rather than relying on expensive mechanical methods that have a troubled track record and require decades of development, there are ways to sequester carbon that build upon the system we already know works: biological sequestration.

Improved management of existing forests and urban trees, without using any additional land, could increase this enormously. With the addition of reforestation, billions of tons of carbon dioxide could be sequestered every year. Restoring wetlands and grasslands and better agricultural practises could absorb even more.

Per ton of carbon dioxide sequestered, biological sequestration costs about one-tenth as much as current mechanical methods. And it offers valuable side-benefits by reducing soil erosion and air pollution, and urban heat; increasing water security, biodiversity and energy conservation; and improving watershed protection, human nutrition and health.

Not a solution

To be clear, no carbon removal approach, neither mechanical nor biological, will solve the climate crisis without an immediate transition away from fossil fuels. But relying on the fossil fuel industry for "carbon management" will only further delay that transition.

Stop the Silvertown Tunnel

Greenwich Council's regeneration, culture and scrutiny panel have recommended the building of the tunnel be halted.

They also called for Greenwich to work with other town halls on challenging a loophole in the legislation approving the tunnel which could see a future mayor drop the planned tolls on the crossing – potentially swamping the borough in traffic.

Campaigner and climate writer Simon Pirani told the panel: *"The GLA (Greater London Authority) now tell us that the project is too expensive to cancel. We have no doubt that it would be more expensive not to cancel"*.

"This all comes at a time when the Mayor is warning of draconian cuts to public transport due to financial constraints".

"The costs to the health of school children and others in terms of air pollution – can that be measured in money terms?"

Labour councillor John Fahy said: *"Is it simply just arrogance or a failure to understand the scientific evidence which encouraged you [TfL] to recommend to the Mayor that this tunnel should be built? The argument is totally against you."*

"Post-pandemic and the crisis that TfL are in, I would've thought the last thing on your mind ought to be this bloody tunnel, frankly."

The tunnel will run from the Royal Docks to meet the A102 on the Greenwich Peninsula, just south of the Blackwall Tunnel exit. Both tunnels will be tolled. The tunnel is being built by a private contractor, Riverlinx, which will then be paid back by the tolls.

TfL's senior lead sponsor of the project, Andrew Lunt, said: *"It would be quite difficult for us to cancel it at this point, ... it would cost more to cancel than it would save in financial terms."*

For the campaigners, Simon Pirani said cancelling the scheme would be *"the wise thing to do. It's difficult, but life is difficult, and it'll get more difficult if this tunnel is built."*

While opposition to the tunnel was originally based around congestion and air quality, opposition to the scheme has grown with the growing awareness of the climate emergency, with opponents declaring that the scheme is incompatible with London's commitments to cut carbon.



Report thanks to
East London and West Essex
Guardian
and
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more details of the campaign
from:
[https://](https://stopsilvertowntn.com/)
stopsilvertowntn.com/

COP26 - One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Schoolgirl Greta Thunberg first demanded world leaders make plans to rapidly reduce ocean pollution and temperatures in 2019, when she first confronted the UN Climate Action Summit on behalf of her pre-university generation with her famous “How dare you?” speech. Now, after 2 years of spiralling pandemic deaths, pollution and ocean temperatures, world (and local) leaders are still conspicuously refusing to do what is necessary to prevent our premature extinction.

As every eco-savvy activist on earth can understand, centuries of scientifically unjustifiable university-justified patriarchy, wars, racism, mercenary abuse of workers and unsustainable pollution of earth’s ecosystem have impaired human immunity to viruses, and that premature deaths will continue rising out of control until the temperature and toxicity of our oceans are rigorously rapidly reduced.

As the father of scientific enlightenment Kant first analysed in 1755, universities were still teaching their exclusively male white wealthy students to believe that they may use their scholarship to their mercenary advantage with impunity, uncritically following the scientifically unenlightened practices of exclusively male slave-owning warmongering ancient Greek and Roman emperors. The crux of Kant’s 1781 Critique of Pure Reason is that no social creature on earth has the right to use their natural abilities selfishly, and that unless universities use self-critical ‘dialectical’ reasoning to repudiate mercenary selfishness, the natural material needed for human recreation to continue on earth will cease to exist prematurely.

In their 1846 *The German Ideology*, Marx and Engels assessed the apocalyptic implications of most university professors in Germany justifying Bismarck’s claim that, because the more enlightened German republic deserved better access to -colonial resources than the despotic British Empire permitted, the republic needed a more powerful professional army and navy to get what it deserved.

According to their 1848 Manifesto “The essential condition for the existence, and for the sway of the bourgeois class, is the formation and augmentation of capital; the condition for capital is wage-labour. Wage-labour rests exclusively on competition between the labourers. The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association. The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts

from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.” Although the development of modern industry continues to produce a copious supply of capitalism’s grave-diggers, their victory is still pending because the global working-class unity needed to end university-justified mercenary selfishness and wars has yet to be achieved.

After the Bolsheviks overthrew the despotic Russian Empire, they sued for peace with Germany and began building the democratic Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. However, the only Socialist/Second International leaders outside the USSR who defended its right to exist and repudiated war against it were Luxemburg and Liebknecht, but they were both assassinated in the chaotic aftermath of the collapse of the German Imperial Army. This wretched betrayal of the moral principle of global working-class solidarity was contrived by Socialist International leader Kautsky, who had uncritically supported Übermensch German nationalism and slavery in Africa, and later voted to finance a cataclysmic war over colonial resources whilst calling himself a follower of Marx. The ensuing unresolved “crisis of working-class leadership” is the political cause of today’s environmental crisis.

The hopelessly corrupt USSR broke up into mutually-antagonistic anti-communist fiefdoms because university-educated predominantly male white Soviet state bureaucrats believed they were entitled to enjoy economic, social and political privileges with the same presumptuous arrogance as war criminal Sir Tony Blair and the Eton dunces currently running the Westminster government.

Greta may not have studied Kant, but she knows that our survival is predicated on repudiating the university-institutionalised nonsense that men are more intelligent than women, that white people are more intelligent than non-white people, and that the rich are entitled to use their wealth selfishly.

In 3 years, Greta has done more to achieve the working-class unity needed to change the course of history than all the mutually-antagonistic men claiming to be followers of Marx put together.

Students and trade unionists of the world unite - there is no planet B!

In Wet'suwet'en territory, Indigenous land defenders and their supporters are fighting to save their ancestral land from the Coastal GasLink natural gas pipeline

Protests over the Canadian *Coastal GasLink* (CGL) natural gas pipeline have led to dozens of arrests, building occupations and train cancellations. The \$6.6bn liquified natural gas pipeline will run for 670km across northern British Columbia (BC). Approximately 193km of which stretches through unceded Wet'suwet'en territory - land that was never legally signed over to the Crown or to Canada. The camp was established to stop CGL's plans to drill a tunnel for the pipeline under the *Wedzin Kwa*, a river so pure people can drink directly from it.

Protesters have taken to the streets, railways and ports, paralysing parts of the country's transportation sector, to stand in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders. Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs were not properly consulted on the *Coastal GasLink* pipeline. The company says it reached agreements with 20 "band councils". The band councils are part of a system established by Canada's *Indian Act*, a racist law imposed more than 100 years ago to try to dictate every aspect of the political, economic, infrastructure and community development of the First Nations. But many First Nations reject this colonial institution and instead look to their hereditary chiefs, part of a traditional system of governance that has been in place since time immemorial, for leadership.

When *TC Energy*, the parent company of CGL, and the provincial and federal governments signed deals with the band council leadership, they circumvented the hereditary chiefs.

Members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation have set up camps and checkpoints along the forestry road near the town of Houston, BC to try to stop the pipeline from being built on their traditional territories. In December 2020, the BC Supreme Court granted *Coastal GasLink* an injunction to continue work on the pipeline. The court also issued an enforcement order for the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police* (RCMP) to clear the area. The RCMP brought dogs, helicopters, assault rifles and chainsaws when

they moved in like an army of occupation.

It set off an uprising of Indigenous peoples and their allies across Canada and beyond, inspiring many to stand in solidarity and uphold their own rights and oppose industry being given precedence over human rights. Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, says in part that "*Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent.*"

Rallies, sit-ins and blockades have been organised in provinces from coast to coast to demand that RCMP officers leave Wet'suwet'en territory and that both the federal and BC provincial governments respect Indigenous sovereignty and rights. South of Montreal in the province of Quebec, a *Canadian Pacific Railway* line has also been forced to stop operating after people from the *Kahnawake Mohawk* First Nation set up a blockade on their territory in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en land defenders.

In BC, people blocked access to the Port of Vancouver and police arrested 43 people when they refused to clear the area. Traffic has also been temporarily halted in downtown Vancouver and on a bridge leading into the city, while protestors blocked access into the provincial legislature in Victoria on Tuesday.

"It's incredibly inspiring and powerful to watch because this is the greatest display of sovereignty since *Standing Rock*," said Catie Galbraith, a Wet'suwet'en land defender.

Thanks *The Narwhal*, *Vice News* and *Al Jazeera*

