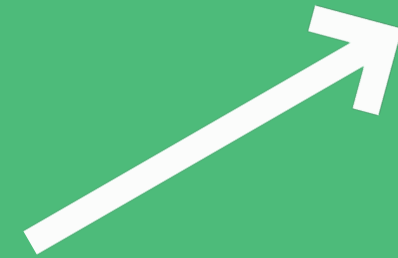


LABOUR FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL 2022 CONFERENCE: JUST TRANSITIONS IN ACTION

Introduction:

With the UK among many carbon-dependent countries pledging to legal targets that seek to reach carbon neutrality, it is inevitable that the economy will need to undergo a drastic restructuring of economic and resourcing frameworks. Our current economic model is an extractive one which prioritises dictates of the market and profit over worker rights, sustainability and environmental impact. It is essential that as we undertake a 'green industrial revolution', that workers are engaged to enact bottom up democratic change which sees our economy transition to a regenerative model which redresses these injustices. LGND has collated the experiences of unions, NGOs and networks enacting just transitions across the UK for this conference.



Science/Innovation and Manufacturing Industries (RR Combine):

In the face of up to 9000 job losses worldwide at Rolls-Royce in the engineering of engine components for air travel, workers across the three British sites have taken inspiration from the Lucas Plan, planning workshops to utilise their existing skills or reskill to instead develop alternative necessary products e.g. making products for the growing renewable energy sector. The combine network includes workers from Unite, GMB, Coventry LGND and has the backing of Labour MP Zarah Sultana.

Energy (PttPG, Platform, JTP, GLI, FOES):

Energy is perhaps the most obvious industry with a need for just transition, with Platform and Global Labour Institute (GLI) both engaging with workers around job and resource insecurity in the field. Platform has devised the Energy Democracy Project, which seeks to identify at-risk jobs and audit the companies involved to best map the transition from carbon-intensive roles to green jobs.

In Scotland, various efforts are being made to organise around transition in the energy sector, with local campaign groups such as Power to the People Glasgow making efforts to link together the cost of power in homes to the need for practical solidarity with workers in the industry. A collaboration between Platform, FOES, and STUC has led from surveying north sea workers for transition needs into a collaborative process of formulating demands for a 'skill passport'. This aims to allow workers to build 'cross industry' careers and transfer similar skills from their current work into renewable energy work. This could be enabled by a new framework that aligns standards across gas, offshore wind, hydrogen and CCUS, allowing cross-industry recognition of qualifications within these passports, replacing a system where workers pay for expensive retraining out of pocket despite already being certified for overlapping skill sets.



Construction (TUC):

The TUC is uniquely situated across multiple unions to address common issues in the built industry and therefore workplaces of many workers in the UK. An important programme they are undertaking entails online courses and worker discussions regarding dealing with heat waves and extreme temperature in the workplace. Potentially this would help form the basis for implementing retrofitting schemes, which is known to make buildings more energy efficient, climate resistant and contribute to decarbonising the built sector in the UK. Some training has been implemented by the Green Jobs Alliance, where focus is put on actively encouraging and supporting trade unions to approach their local authorities with proposals around issues such as retrofitting.