

## Climate Jobs – Manifesto for a Just Transition in Scotland

**Scot.E3 held a conference in Edinburgh on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018. During the day participants pooled ideas on how we can make a just transition to a zero carbon economy.**

The draft manifesto is work in progress. The version below is a synthesis of the discussion at the 17<sup>th</sup> November. It is far from the last word; however, we hope that union branches, community groups and environmental campaigns will discuss it, add to it and amend it. We hope that this process will be a catalyst for action and will contribute to building a mass campaign across the whole of Scotland.

### The Just Transition Manifesto

#### Background and context

##### Climate Jobs

Nearly a decade ago the Campaign Against Climate Change (CACC), working with trade unionists and environmental activists, developed a programme for the UK to transition to a low carbon economy. The full details are available on its website and an overview can be found in the 'One Million Climate Jobs' pamphlet.

This is what CACC has to say about 'Climate Jobs'.

*'Climate Jobs' are not the same as 'green jobs'. Some green jobs help the climate, but 'green jobs' can mean anything – park rangers, bird wardens, pollution control, or refuse workers. All these jobs are necessary, but they do not stop climate change.*

*Climate Jobs are jobs that lead directly to cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases, and so slow down climate change. For instance, workers who build wind farms replace power stations that burn coal or oil. Workers who insulate buildings reduce the oil and gas we burn. Bus drivers reduce the amount of oil we burn in cars.*

##### Just Transition

'Climate Jobs' are at the heart of this manifesto, how we tackle climate change and how we make the transition from an economy based on fossil fuels to one that is sustainable for the long-term future. Economic transitions are not new. Most of the coalmines in Scotland closed in a very short period of time. The impact this had on miners, their families and communities was anything but a just transition.

We believe that it's not enough just to say that new Climate Jobs will be created it is also necessary to support the workers who's current jobs are no longer needed. The transition has to be something that we all buy in to and the skills of workers in oil, gas and defence are a valuable resource. So a just transition is one that ensures no individual or community suffers economically or socially as old jobs end and new jobs are created.

##### Scotland at the crossroads

We can do something about jobs and fuel poverty right now. Averting catastrophic climate change requires global action, but in Scotland we have a unique set of circumstances; a

strong skills base; abundant resources for sustainable energy production and an opportunity to develop a strategy that puts jobs and environment at the heart of economic strategy. What we do locally could be an inspiration for action worldwide. So in this manifesto we take the framework and approach developed by CACC and think through what needs to be done in Scotland.

Some will argue that the steps set out in the manifesto are impossible; we disagree. After more than twenty years of international climate conferences carbon emissions are the highest they have ever been and rising. A radical transformation of the way we produce energy is required. What we propose is technically feasible and perfectly possible provided there is the political will.

For this plan to be implemented we need a mass movement to make it happen but in the course of building that movement we need to be crystal clear about what we want. This manifesto, its discussion, extension and revision is intended as a contribution to that process. This is our time and our chance to shape the future – let's take it.

### Scotland's Just Transition – what needs to be done

We note that:

Most emissions come from electricity production, transport, heating buildings actually is this true in Scotland – may need rewording.

Action needs to start now; time spent on business as usual makes the task harder.

Tackling climate change is a social justice issue.

Effective action requires:

- **A massive increase in public investment** – we are talking here about investment on the scale that was seen at the time of the first and second world wars. Both periods of conflict saw huge shifts in economic activity in short periods of time.
  - Investment can be financed by borrowing and by increased (and progressive) taxation
- **Openness, democracy and transparency**
  - An end to secret lobbying by the big hydrocarbon and defence corporations
  - Clear accessible public information – winning hearts and minds is important
  - Active role for unions and local communities
- **An integrated action plan** – that is national, regional and local with targets for 2030. The plan would include:
  - The creation of a national energy company that would be responsible for all aspects of energy production and delivery
  - The creation of a national investment bank
  - The creation of 100,000 new climate jobs

- Home Insulation – all residential and commercial buildings to be insulated to a high standard (this would have a big impact on fuel poverty)
  - Set an early date for all public transport to be electric. Expand provision of train and bus systems at a scale and prices that will shift most passenger journeys to the public system
  - Legislate on a timescale for the phasing out of petrol and diesel driven cars, vans and lorries. Large-scale provision of electric charging points in both rural and urban Scotland
  - Investment in offshore and onshore wind, wave, tidal and solar
  - Investment in energy storage
  - Investment in a new more efficient grid and a network to allow for export of excess capacity
  - Investment in further and higher education to providing training for the new climate jobs and to research, build on and develop appropriate sustainable technology
- **Phased and managed shut down of oil and gas production**
    - As this happens the workforce will be guaranteed the right to transfer to a new climate job with paid retraining as necessary
- **Defence Diversification.** Many of the skills we need for transition are currently employed in the arms industry. Scrap Trident and phase closure of other arms companies with the workforce guaranteed the right to transfer to a new climate job with paid retraining as necessary
- **No Fracking.** Replace the moratorium on fracking with a permanent legislative ban
- **Take INEOS into public ownership** – end imports of Shale Gas
- **Ensure that Climate jobs are secure jobs with good terms and conditions – end agency work and outsourcing**
- **During the transition tax carbon based fuels as a contribution to a sovereign wealth fund**
- **Close down Torness and Hunterston nuclear power stations. Both are past their design lifetime.**