

## OPEN LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

To the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves MP,

Ahead of the Autumn Budget, **we write to you as climate organisations - with the support of trade unions** - to urge you to show bold new leadership on climate action, by providing a ring-fenced funding package to support North Sea oil and gas workers and their communities through the transition away from fossil fuels.

For too long successive Governments have relied on the market and industry bosses to deliver the energy transition. Shareholder profits are prioritised over affordable energy, adequate public investment and job creation. The ongoing closures of Grangemouth Oil Refinery and Port Talbot steelworks without plans to transition workers into secure green energy or green steel jobs are a damning indictment of this failed approach.

As a result, workers and communities are yet to benefit from the first steps of the transition to renewable energy. The rapid growth of the offshore wind industry has not created an equivalent growth in jobs - [because the manufacturing work is being done abroad](#). Meanwhile, the training regime is not fit for purpose: it is not standardised across energy industries, so workers cannot easily move between industries and face the burden of completing multiple overlapping trainings, at extraordinary cost. Those that have found work in offshore wind face poor conditions, with the lack of industry specific safety legislation resulting in [3-4 times](#) worse injury rate statistics to comparable industries.

### **We need a new strategy.**

Your government now has the opportunity to deliver a just energy transition in line with climate limits that protects workers and communities. Great British Energy, the National Wealth Fund, and the British Jobs Bonus - the Government's flagship energy transition policies - have the potential to create good quality, secure, unionised jobs across the country, whilst lowering household bills. But to deliver on these commitments, the Government must fund a UK-wide industrial strategy - which prioritises public investment in domestic renewables manufacturing and skills, and expands publicly-owned energy production.<sup>1</sup>

As your government builds towards its 2030 Clean Power target, you must take immediate steps to ensure affected workers and communities not only survive the transition, but benefit from the opportunities that it provides.

As key stakeholders in a just and equitable energy transition, **we are calling for a ring-fenced funding package of £1.9 billion further funding every year until 2030**. This includes:

- **£1.1 billion per year to develop permanent, local jobs in public and community-owned wind manufacturing**, as Unite the Union are calling for. The manufacturing and assembly of wind turbines is where the majority of job opportunities in wind are found, rather than the maintenance of wind farms. The government needs to invest in UK manufacturing capacity so that the rollout of wind that the Labour government has promised is done with UK content and results in secure, well-paid jobs.<sup>2</sup>
- **£440 million of further investment each year for ports**, on top of the £1.8 billion already committed through the National Wealth Fund. This would meet the £4 billion in total needed to upgrade ports to ease the pressure on supply chain bottlenecks and must include the Government taking equity stakes in port upgrades as critical national infrastructure.
- **£355 million per year to develop a dedicated training fund for offshore oil and gas workers**. This should be met with an additional £355 million from industry, through a Training

Levy on employers, totalling £710 million. This would ensure retraining opportunities are accessible to every offshore worker, and funding is available for paid time off to retrain.

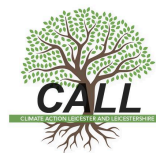
To put this in perspective, a £1.9 billion further funding package is just a fraction of the nearly £40 billion post-tax profits that oil and gas companies made in the UK in 2022 and 2023. The TUC have shown that a [modest tax on wealth](#) in the UK could bring in £10 billion in revenue for the UK, and [Oil Change International](#) have shown that rich countries could generate \$5tn a year from a combination of wealth and corporate taxes, and a crackdown on fossil fuel companies. Energy companies have raked in billions in profits for too long, and their CEOs continue to take home millions in bonuses while others struggle to pay energy bills. The funds needed to deliver a just energy transition exist, but are currently not in the right hands.

This couldn't be more urgent. The transition away from oil and gas in the North Sea is already happening. It is a mature basin and, after 50 years of drilling, its reserves are in decline. Jobs supported by the oil and gas industry in the UK have more than [halved](#) over the past decade, with some 227,000 jobs lost since 2013. It is clear that the political strategy of letting industry set the terms of the transition has not worked to protect the workforce.

Without a strategy to deliver a just transition, and the public investment to back it up, the government is risking the future of workers, communities and the planet.

**This Budget is your Government's opportunity to turn the tide and deliver a just energy transition.**





### **Full list of signatories:**

Greenpeace UK  
Friends of the Earth Scotland  
Platform  
Oil Change International  
Uplift  
Extinction Rebellion UK  
Climate Justice Coalition  
350.org  
Friends of the Earth EWN  
Green New Deal Rising  
Tipping Point UK  
#StopRosebank  
Make My Money Matter  
Stamp Out Poverty  
Global Justice Now  
Tax Justice UK  
Fuel Poverty Action  
Global Witness  
War on Want  
Possible  
Common Wealth  
Coal Action Network  
Campaign against Climate  
Change  
Fossil Free London

Parents For Future Scotland  
Parents For Future UK  
Unite Grassroots Climate Justice  
Caucus  
Greener Jobs Alliance  
Christian Climate Action  
Mothers Rise Up  
Oceana UK  
Women's Environmental Network  
Save Our Green Spaces  
Power In Our Hands  
Climate Emergency UK  
Future Economy Scotland  
The Working Class Climate  
Alliance  
Fossil Free Parliament  
Transition Together  
Faith for the Climate  
Safe Landing  
Climate Action Leicester and  
Leicestershire  
Cardigan XR Aberteifi  
Birkbeck Climate Action Network  
Solidarity IT  
Fossil Free West Yorkshire

South West Action on Pensions  
Aberdeen Climate Action  
Extinction Rebellion Glasgow  
Scottish Communities Climate  
Action Network  
North East Scotland Climate  
Action Network  
Wellbeing Economy Alliance  
Scotland  
Stop Rosebank NE  
Derbyshire Pensioners Action  
Group  
Divest Derbyshire  
Ecosocialist.scot  
Transition Walthamstow  
WACG  
North East Climate Justice  
Coalition  
North Herts & Stevenage Friends  
of the Earth  
Suffolk UNITE Community  
Divest Hackney  
New Forest Friends of the Earth  
Lymington transition  
LSE Divest

### **Endorsed by:**

Unite the Union  
National Union of Rail and Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)  
The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)  
The Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC)  
Aberdeen Trades Union Council  
Moray Trades Union Council

Notes:

*[1] One vehicle outlined by Labour for supply chain manufacturing is Great British Energy, but in order to move away from the current model of privatisation and marketisation, we require a new mode of investment decision making – not mimicking private developers' approaches. This includes certainty of demand via a long-term pipeline of projects, coordination of resources, and the public developer not seeking lower per unit prices through unsustainably low margins in their supply chain, exploitative labour practices, and defaulting to overseas procurement (as happens currently).*

*[2] The government has pledged £500 million for the British Jobs Bonus, which has the potential to contribute to this funding, but we are waiting for clarity on the structure and regulations tied to these promised funds. With this first iteration of BJB, we are concerned by the primary goal being to incentivise businesses. Furthermore, BJB is only set to come into effect in 2026 and last for three years, which does not account for the speed or amount of funding we believe is required. Similarly, Great British Energy has the potential to deliver on manufacturing jobs, but requires significant market reform intervention to be successful.*