

When in a hole... stop drilling.

Despite scientists warning for decades that we must kick our fossil fuel addiction, corporate interests have kept us trapped. We now face:

Climate breakdown: Following a 40C heatwave in the UK in 2022, global heat records were shattered in 2023 driving drought, fires and floods around the world, affecting food production and hitting the poorest and most marginalised people hardest, including those labouring in high temperatures.

Soaring energy bills and inflation: the UK is still too far dependent on expensive fossil gas and has some of most draughty housing in Europe. Failure to invest in renewables and insulation has cost us all and comes on top of austerity cuts, rising inequality and underfunded public services.

Fossil fuel companies' obscene profits: corporations have made hundreds of billions from rising prices, directly from the pockets of ordinary people.

We won't solve this with more of the same

We can't have new oil and gas fields and avoid dangerous heating. This isn't a fringe view but the simple consequence of delaying action on climate change for decades. It's understood by the UN and the International Energy Agency, but derided by our government.

No one's saying turn off the gas tomorrow. This is an attempt to discredit climate activists, who, along with trade unions, are calling for a Just Transition. Which needs to be fast to stop us reaching climate tipping points, and needs to be fair to workers and communities.

But the government is recklessly pushing more pollution.

Granting new oil and gas licences to 'max out' production is a climate disaster, done despite admitting this can't help with our energy bills. Energy companies have also been offered massive tax relief on new oil and gas but not if they invested in renewables.



We demand a better future

A comprehensive **climate jobs programme** could ensure **warm, well-insulated homes** for all. We can create decent well-paid jobs in communities around the country, helping the local economy in all regions, improving public transport, getting clean air in cities and restoring our wildlife and green spaces.

Together with energy efficiency, a rapid transition to **cheap, reliable renewable energy** such as wind and solar can reduce our dependence on gas and cut energy bills permanently. Energy can be a public good, not just a source of profit for shareholders. As North Sea production winds down, a just transition for oil workers and their communities is essential.

We have **real solutions**, to make a real difference. However fossil fuel companies are pushing business as usual through unproven technologies like carbon capture and storage, and dangerous scams like offsetting. These are being used to delay the transition.

Tackling the climate crisis and tackling the cost of living, poverty and inequality go together. But half measures and delay will only repeat the failures of the past, leaving us trapped in fossil fuel dependence, reliant on inadequate infrastructure, underfunded public services and outdated industries, in a world of climate breakdown.

The Campaign against Climate Change campaigns for the urgent action we need to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown, and for a just transformation of our economy which puts people and planet before profit. Find out more at campaigncc.org

Our trade union group is supported by many national unions and local branches, campaigning on climate breakdown as a crisis of social justice and inequality and for effective solutions as set out in *Climate Jobs: Building a workforce for the climate emergency*. Find out more at cacctu.org.uk

