How do we address the climate backlash taking place in industrial communities?

And what is the positive offer for the future?

The promise of jobs

Plan for a retrofit revolution: how more than two million new jobs would boost levelling-up and also tackle energy crisis

There is potential for the Net Zero transition to create more jobs than will be lost. Between 135,000 and 725,000 net new jobs could be created by 2030 in low-carbon sectors, such as buildings retrofit, renewable energy generation and the manufacture of electric vehicles.*

fact, Greenpeace has estimated that the UK government alone could help create 1.8 million jobs by investing in a green economic recovery after Coronavirus.

The promise that green jobs = good jobs

Migrants building £2.6bn windfarm paid fraction of minimum wage

Surrounded by windfarms but out of work: the reality of the green jobs boom on England's east coast

The government hails the 'green revolution' as a solution to economic decline, but some young jobseekers say the rhetoric does not match their experience

Oil and gas workers are being put off renewable jobs by huge training costs

Extortionate costs, a lack of support and a dearth of opportunities in the renewable sector have left many unemployed or pushed back into unstable, polluting jobs.

Backdrop of deindustrialisation

Grangemouth refinery stops processing crude oil



Jobs to go as UK's largest fibreglass factory shuts



Production at Vauxhall in Luton comes to an end



EYEWITNESS

Port Talbot: How steel town is grappling with 'life-changing' loss of more than 2,000 jobs

Six months since Port Talbot's last blast furnace was closed as part of Tata's green transition, talks are ongoing to save the blast furnaces at Scunthorpe.

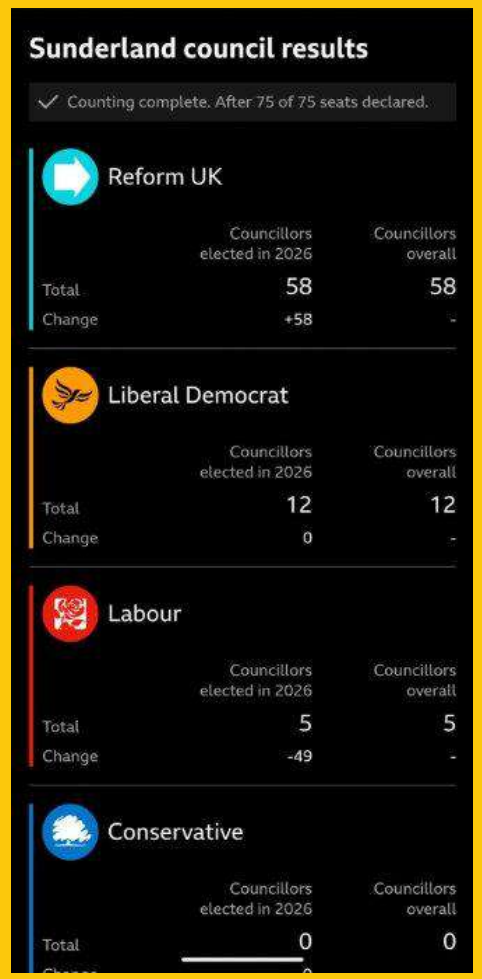
“This is a **catastrophe in the community interest**. We saw the **devastation in the coal-mining communities in the 1980s**; I still hear people talk about that. That was absolutely devastating. The oil and gas industry is under huge threat at the moment because of net zero, which is again devastating. **There is a huge loss of the multiplier effect, skills are disappearing and families are concerned**.

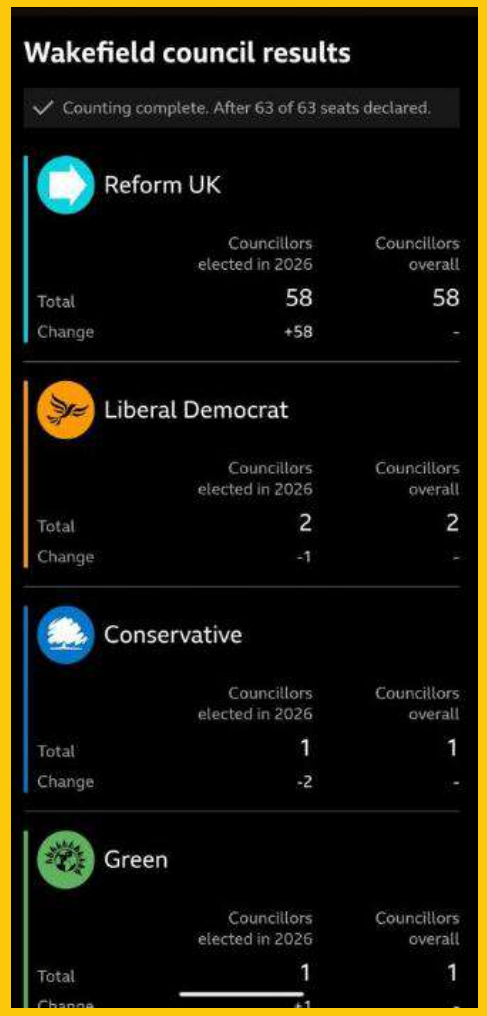
In Port Talbot and Scunthorpe, there are not thousands but **tens of thousands of jobs directly and indirectly dependent on this industry**, which could disappear within 12 months. **It is not just the jobs; it is the families**, the partners, the spouses, the wives, the children. That makes hundreds of thousands of people devastated by this. **These are seriously well paid jobs**: the average value of a steel job is about 50% more than the average salary in the local area.

It is all very well saying that people can retrain, but if someone earning up there retrains and all of a sudden is earning down there, I do not call that progress—I call that going backwards. The truth is that this issue will have a **devastating impact on those communities.** I feel that the unions have let down their members and betrayed them.”

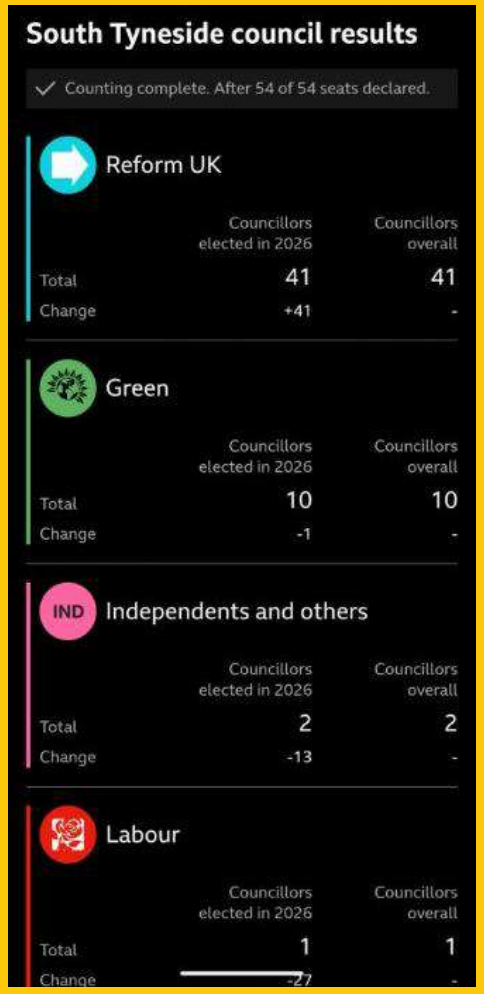
- Richard Tice, Westminster Hall Debate on Steel, October 2024

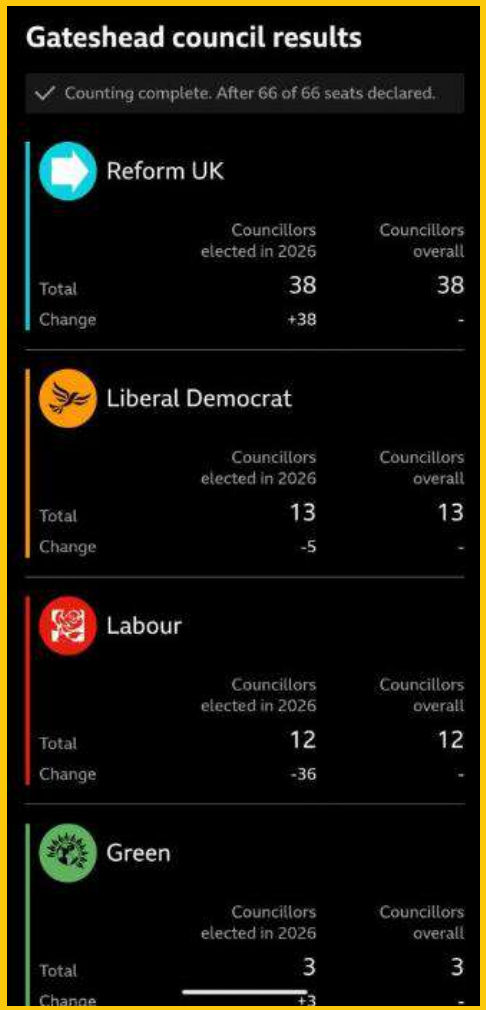
Electoral gains









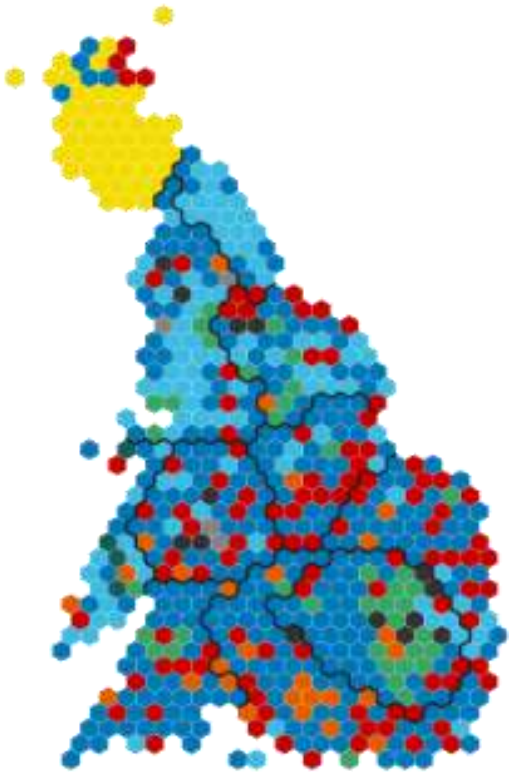


Labour Conservative Lib Dem Reform SNP Green Plaid Cymru Independent
Other/Speaker

Winning party



Second party





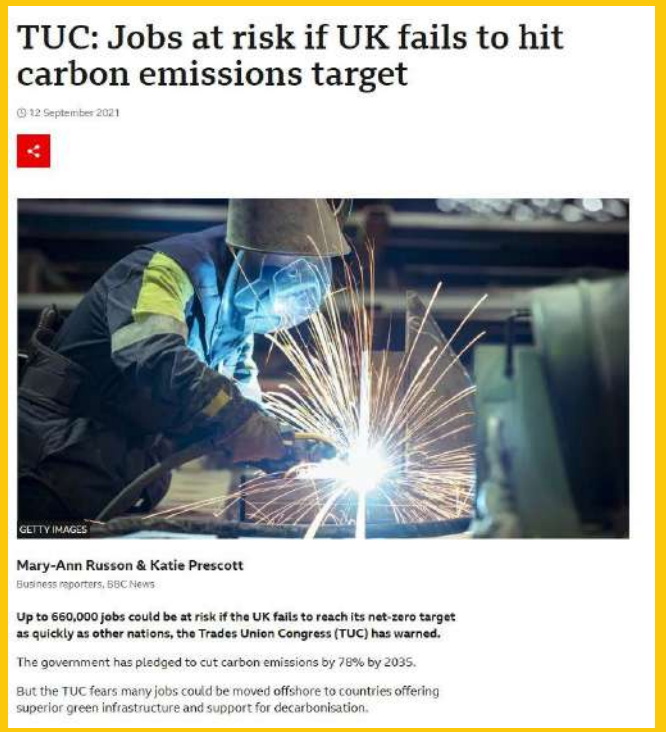
Guardian graphic. Source: 2024 results provided by PA Media. Note: Northern Ireland not shown

What can we do?

Flip the Focus:

~~climate vs jobs~~

Futureproof Industry



TUC: Jobs at risk if UK fails to hit carbon emissions target

12 September 2021

GETTY IMAGES

Mary-Ann Russon & Katie Prescott

Business reporters, BBC News

Up to 660,000 jobs could be at risk if the UK fails to reach its net-zero target as quickly as other nations, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) has warned.

The government has pledged to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035.

But the TUC fears many jobs could be moved offshore to countries offering superior green infrastructure and support for decarbonisation.



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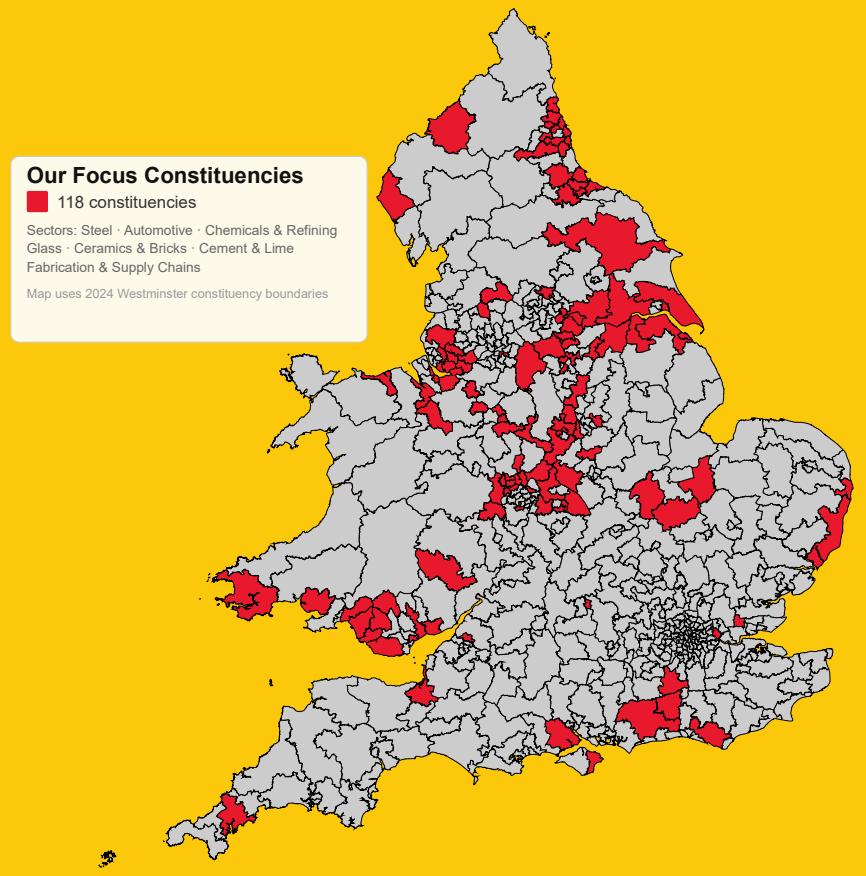
Futureproofing Manufacturing

Our project works with affiliated unions in manufacturing, to assist reps and members to advocate for, develop and negotiate future proofing plans. This includes protecting jobs on affected sites, and developing plans so that any workers who are affected have a job-to-job transition.

If you want to be kept informed with resources, support and training from the TUC on climate change and winning a just transition, get in touch at futureproofing@tuc.org.uk or join our mailing list

We are on the ground working with union reps to futureproof & upgrade their plants and factories in these sectors:

Steel
Chemicals & Plastics
Automotive
Ceramics & Bricks
Glass
Cement
Oil & Gas (supply chains)





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H > News > Hull & East Yorkshire News > Skills And Apprenticeships

World-first £37m electric kiln starts construction in East Yorkshire

'We are investing significantly in our site workforce, creating development opportunities as we upskill teams'





UK to build the world's first commercial-scale hydrogen-fired brick kiln plant

Project retrofits two kilns, replacing 224 gas burners with hydrogen systems, plus new supply and control upgrades.

Building the Repower British Industry network



What we do

01

Big organising tactics

-> Poster campaigns, union trainings, in-person & digital campaigns at workplace level

02

Focus on industrial heartlands

-> Merseyside, Tyneside, Flintshire, Teesside -- Red Wall seats, overwhelmingly Leave

03

Built on existing union infrastructure

-> Futureproofing Industry networks across North, Midlands & Wales; building on 2025 Save Welsh Industry launch

Have the tough conversations



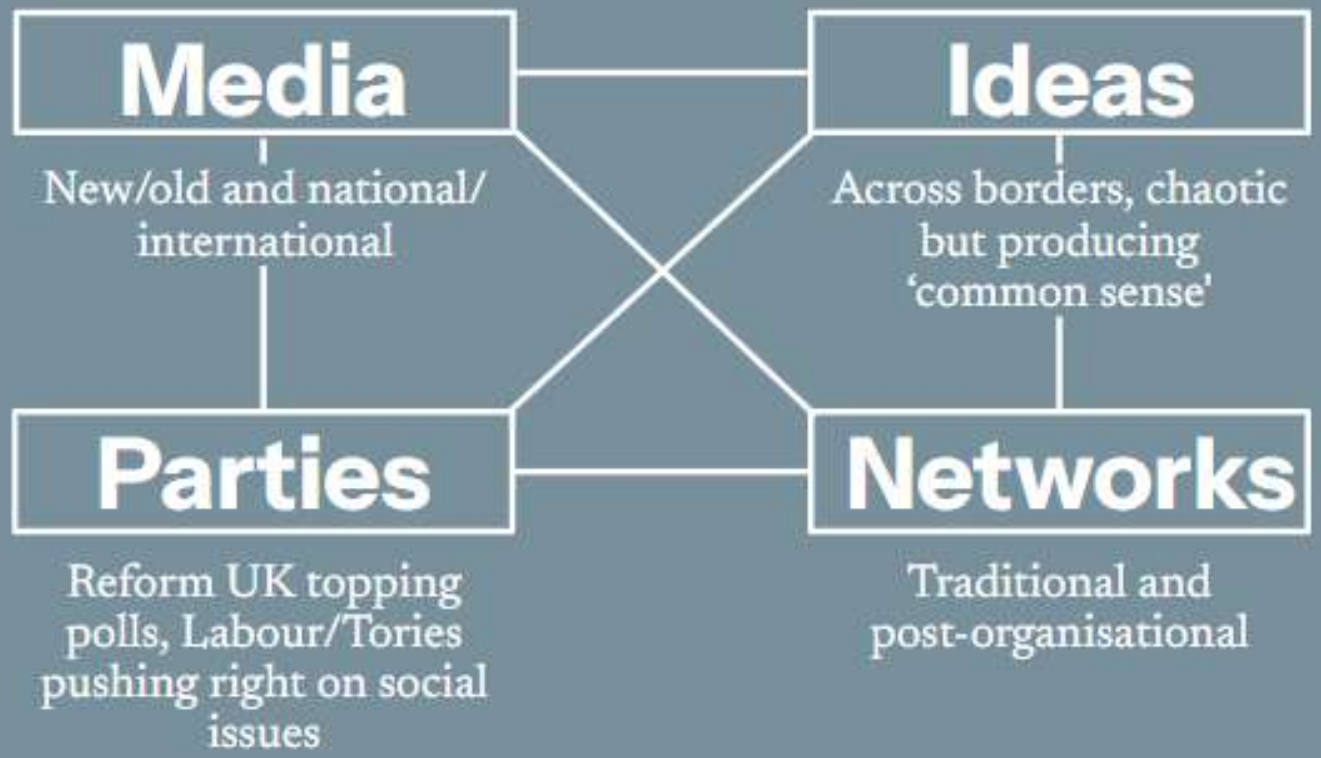
Visible solidarity







Far-right as an ecosystem



Platforming voices from industrial communities







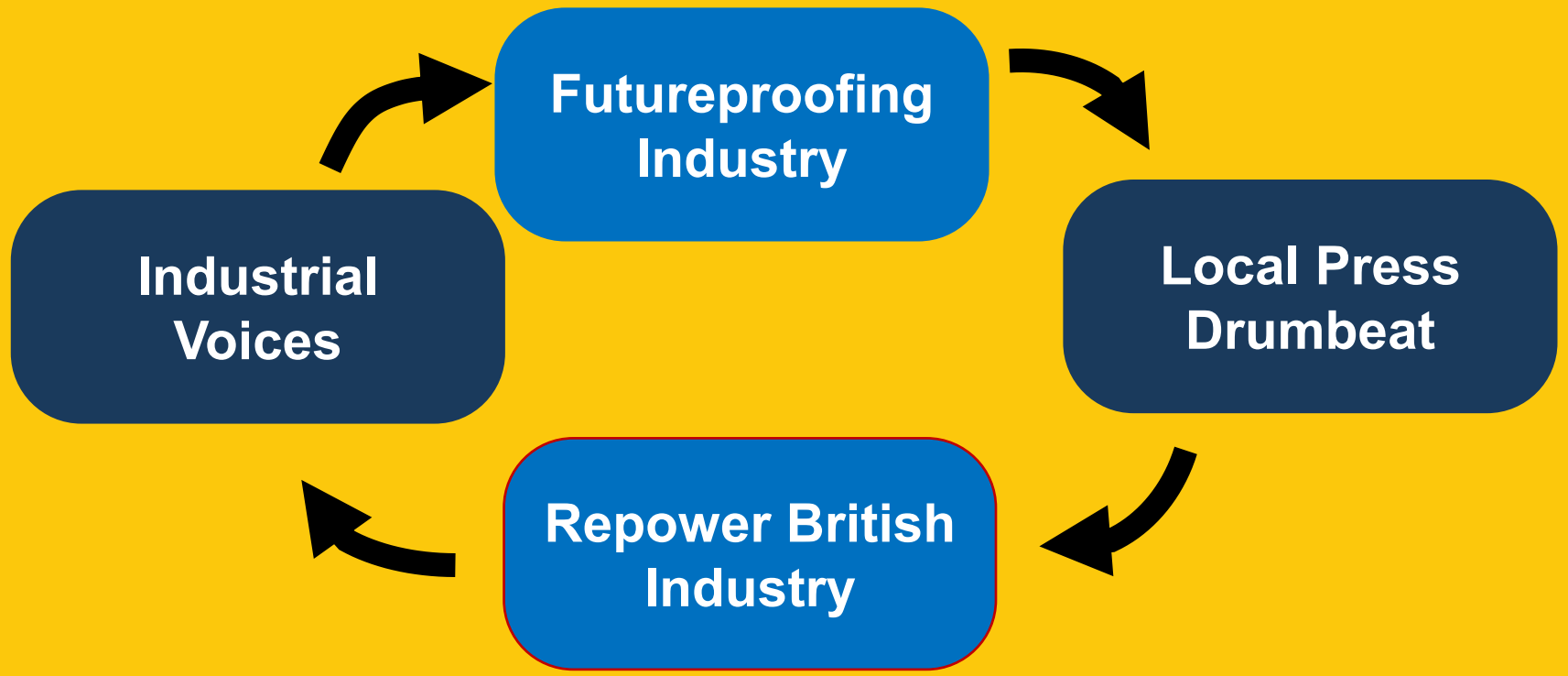


Become the content machine





The virtuous cycle



Want to get your reps + workplace involved?

