Just Transition and divestment – assisting in the fair movement of workers into green energy

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Just Transition – local jobs – invest and divest
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Global Warming of 1.5°C

An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

Urgent changes needed to cut risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, says IPCC

Overwhelmed by climate change? Here’s what you can do

▲ A firefighter battles a fire in California. The world is currently 1°C warmer than pre-industrial levels. Photograph: Ringo Hw Chiu/AP
Just Transition – local jobs – invest and divest
WHAT IS A JUST TRANSITION?

An economy-wide process that produces the plans, policies and investments that lead to a future where all jobs are green and decent, emissions are at net zero, and communities are thriving and resilient.

A just transition brings together workers, employers and governments in social dialogue to develop concrete plans, policies and investments for a fast and fair transformation to environmental sustainability.
Just Transition – local jobs – invest and divest
A trade union concept - 5 pillars promoted by ITUC:
• Social Dialogue
• Education and training
• Planning: anticipation and investment
• Strong social protection
• Respect rights of workers

Preamble of Paris Agreement: "Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities"

Recognized by 196 countries – UN, ILO - must be part of National Plan
SCOTLAND’S JUST TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

“It’s time for a Just Transition in Scotland, moving to a modern low-carbon economy in ways which protect workers’ livelihoods, create a new industrial base and deliver a fairer Scotland. The need for action is urgent in order to avert the environmental and economic costs of climate change and to rebalance the economy to one which provides enough decent jobs making things in clean ways.”

Friends of the Earth Scotland, Scottish Trade Union Congress, UNITE, UNISON, PCS Scotland, Communication Workers Union, UCU Scotland, WWF Scotland

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The Asks of the Just Transition Partnership

• The Climate Change Plan as an industrial plan
• A Just Transition Commission set up to oversee plans
• Sectoral planning and investment programmes
• The principles that: livelihoods will be maintained; training and re-training will be funded; measures to tackle disadvantage included
• Public and community ownership e.g. government-owned and municipal energy companies
• Creation of local supply chains, community benefit clauses and local ownership
• Skills planning to anticipate of industrial transformation.
• Participation of employees, their unions and communities
• Access to funding sources e.g. SNIB
• Public procurement used to foster a just transition
LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTIONS ON JUST TRANSITION

The what? and how? of meeting emissions reductions targets

JUST TRANSITION =
CCP/SEAP + DELIVERY PLANS + JUSTICE + ENGAGEMENT + INVESTMENT

How can going zero carbon can make the city a better and more equal place?

How going zero carbon can engage workers and communities and be popular?
Just Transition – local jobs – invest and divest

A few examples:-
• Solar panels on public and private buildings.
• Heat networks can reduce fuel costs and fuel poverty.
• Electric vehicles are quieter, cleaner and healthier.
• LED lighting is cleaner and cheaper in the long run

Some key areas of local authority action:-
• LA operations – emissions reductions plans
• Regulation, funding and procurement
• Economic development
• Local leadership

Councils should give leadership to all other sectors around a transformational sustainable energy plan, creating positive partnership.

And divest from fossil fuels ……
To tackle climate change we need to take action against fossil fuel companies

We need to stop them from:

• Influencing government policy.
• Continuing to extract fossil fuels.
• Building new fossil fuel infrastructure that locks in yet more warming.

Divestment has the power to do this.
SCOTTISH COUNCIL PENSIONS ARE INVESTING IN COMPANIES DRIVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Data correct for 2017
Making the financial case

Scotland and the Carbon Bubble

A report for Scottish Environment LINK

One of the World's Most Powerful Central Bankers Is Worried About Climate Change

SPE. 30. 2016

A new speech about climate change is fascinating both for what it says and who said it.

Mark Carney, Bank of England

“‘We don’t need an army of actuaries to tell us that the catastrophic impacts of climate change will be felt beyond the traditional horizons of most actors — imposing a cost on future generations that the current generation has no direct incentive to fix,” he said. “In other words, once climate change becomes a defining issue for financial stability, it may already be too late.”

Investment Strategy

Green funds beat ‘black’ funds over 2 years

Chris Rea

Invest

Join the global movement accelerating the clean energy transition

Divest from the past. Invest in the future

Take your Next Step
BREAKING: WALTHAM FOREST DIVESTS!
FIRST UK PENSION FUND GOES FOSSIL FREE

Fossil Free UK @FossilFree_UK - Sep 23
BREAKING: Waltham Forest becomes first UK pension fund to commit to #divest from fossil fuels!
Amazing work from @DivestWFT #fossilfree
10 Scottish organisations have divested

Most recent: Stirling University and Edinburgh Science Festival!

Global Total

$8.72 TRILLION
APPROX. VALUE OF INSTITUTIONS DIVESTING
How is this number calculated?

1043 INSTITUTIONS DIVESTING

58,000+ INDIVIDUALS DIVESTING ABOUT $5.2 BILLION

What kinds of institutions are divesting?

- Faith-based Organization — 28%
- Philanthropic Foundation — 18%
- Educational Institution — 15%
- Government — 15%
- Pension fund — 14%
- For Profit Corporation — 4%
- NGO — 4%
- Healthcare Institution — 1%
- Cultural Institution — 0%
- Other — 0%
Scottish money is fuelling the climate crisis.

Divestment is about freeing our communities, institutions and government from the power of fossil fuel polluters.

Grassroots campaigning around the world has led to thousands of organisations worth over $8 trillion committing to divest from fossil fuels, including Glasgow University, the first in Europe to divest.

Ten organisations in Scotland have committed to go fossil free. This is a great start but there's much more to do to.