

Climate Action Newtown Update

The newsletter of Climate Action Newtown

November 2021



Climate Action Newtown (CAN) is a Community Interest Company (CIC) based in Newtown and dedicated to helping people meet the challenges of the climate emergency. Anyone who lives or works in Newtown or the surrounding communities can become a member. Members receive regular updates and calls to action, as well as this monthly Newsletter. If you would like to become a member and be added to our mailing list, please go to our website at <https://climateactionnewtown.cymru> where you will be able to complete and submit a short membership application form. You will also find a lot of other useful and interesting information.

The best way for you to help us to reach more people would be to send a copy of this Newsletter to your friends and neighbours.

Thank you!

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COP26 and the Glasgow Climate Pact



Climate Action Newtown members present petitions to Craig Williams MP and Russell George MS on the COP26 Global Day of Action, November 6th (photo credit Jenny Brignell)

On November 13th, agreement was reached at COP26 – after a time extension and last-minute deal-making – and the resulting Glasgow Climate Pact was signed by all the 200+ countries attending. This in itself is a major achievement, and plaudits are due to Alok Sharma and his team for their diplomatic skills, commitment, and persistence.

Whether the Pact represents a success or not depends on your viewpoint – Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion have already pronounced it a failure, like all previous COPs. George Monbiot has called it a “suicide pact”.

Others take a more measured view and can point to some real achievements, as well as some weaknesses and omissions.

Achievements include:

- Mentioning the role of fossil fuels (for the first time at any COP) and calling time on the use of coal to generate electricity, although

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the commitment to phase out coal was weakened at the last minute (by India)

- Countries have agreed to re-visit and strengthen their 2030 targets for emissions reductions and meet again in a year's time (in Egypt)
- Developed countries pledged \$356m to the Adaptation Fund designed to help poor countries adapt to the impacts of climate change, with a promise to at least double this by 2025, and to define what a global goal on adaptation would look like
- Tighter rules to govern the global carbon market and bilateral carbon trading, to avoid double counting and greenwashing
- Agreement on a transparent framework to report greenhouse gas emissions reductions, to prevent cheating
- Agreement on rapid action to cut methane emissions

Weaknesses and omissions include:

- Wealthy countries' pledge to mobilise \$100bn a year to help poorer countries cut emissions and cope with climate impacts has still not been met, but will be by 2023. The new promise is to deliver \$500bn over the period 2021-2025
- A proposal by the G77 plus China to set up a fund to compensate those who lose their homes, lives and livelihoods as a result of global overheating was blocked by the USA and the EU
- Oil and gas exploration and extraction was once again let off the hook, with only a weak commitment to remove "inefficient subsidies"

Alok Sharma's main aim for the talk was to keep the Paris goal of 1.5C alive. Analysis by Climate Action Tracker suggests that current policies put us on course for a 2.7C world. The most optimistic reading of new national commitments made before and

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during COP26 suggests we could be heading for 1.8C. This leaves a gap which the Glasgow Climate Pact seeks to narrow by requesting another round of national climate plans next year, including more ambitious 2030 targets. At the Conference close, Alok Sharma summed up by saying “we can say with credibility that we have kept 1.5C within reach but its pulse is weak. It will only survive if we keep our promises, if we translate commitments into rapid action and if we deliver on the expectations set out in this Glasgow Climate Pact to increase ambition to 2030 and beyond”.

A further hopeful sign was the US-China Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020's, a bilateral agreement between the USA and China to work together on many areas including emissions reductions, renewable energy, and adaptation to climate change.

Source: Climate Action Newtown/Edie Newsroom

IEA: Rate of energy efficiency improvements needs to double to put world on track for net-zero

Globally, energy efficiency has improved in 2021 after a rocky 2020, according to a new analysis from the International Energy Agency (IEA). But the rate of progress will need to at least double to put the world on track for net-zero by 2050, the Agency is warning.



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Published on 19 November, the 2021 edition of the Agency's annual Energy Efficiency Report reveals that progress is now back on track as the world emerges from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2020 saw only a minor (0.5%) improvement to global energy intensity, amid falling energy demand, falling prices, and lower investment in the energy sector. Global energy intensity is on track to fall 1.9% in 2021, the analysis forecasts. This is a promising yet expected figure – the year-on-year fall was 2% in 2019.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full report go to

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/IEA--Rate-of-energy-efficiency-improvements-needs-to-double-to-put-world-on-track-for-net-zero/>

Report: Climate inaction from energy and automotive firms

A Report published on November 18th this week by the thinktank **2 Degrees Investing Initiative** and the University of Oxford's sustainable finance group has looked at the ways in which 598 publicly listed firms in the energy and automotive sectors are planning to decarbonise and improve climate adaptation. This Report shows that businesses in the coal, oil and gas, power generation and automotive sectors are failing to plan for an orderly net-zero transition, posing a sizeable risk to financial markets.

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The gap between what is required by climate-related legislation and by climate science, and what the companies are planning, was then assessed in terms of risk. The report takes into account credit risk as well as physical and transition-related changes. The main finding was that even if companies were to align with the necessary levels of adaptation and decarbonisation by 2026, the

transition would likely be disorderly, racking up costs of \$2.2trn for the financial sector through to 2035.

But, for every year the transition is delayed, additional annual costs of \$150bn are forecast by 2025, across all four sectors. By 2035, the additional annual costs across all four sectors would reach more than \$1.3trn if no action is taken. The bulk of this - \$800m – would sit within the oil and gas sector.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full Report go to

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Report--Climate-inaction-from-energy-and-automotive-firms-set-to-cost--150bn-each-year/>

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UK Government goes backwards after COP26

In the run up to COP26, Chancellor Rishi Sunak cut air passenger duty on domestic flights, a move which was criticised as sending the wrong message prior to the summit. Now, the UK Government has announced up to £4.3m to support flights between London and Newquay and London and Dundee. It will be allocated over a two-year period, through public service obligations (PSOs), with up to £1.8m going to Cornwall Council and up to £2.5m for Dundee City Council.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full report go to:

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-Government-unveils--4-3m-funding-for-domestic-flights--despite-green-backlash/>

NIC begins planning delivery of net-zero UK energy systems

There are few quick wins or cheap fixes, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has warned, outlining plans for addressing some of the UK's major barriers to net-zero through to 2023, pledging an increased focus on low-carbon heating and scaling up hydrogen.



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The NIC released its last major assessment in 2018, before the UK legislated for net-zero by 2050. On 15th November 2021 the Commission published a baseline report for its next major assessment, which is due in 2023. Today's report pinpoints areas in which policy and/or technology challenges are hampering progress towards what the Commission has determined are its key focus areas: reaching net-zero, minimising other environmental impacts, building climate resilience and levelling up.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full report go to:

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/-Few-quick-wins-or-cheap-fixes---National-Infrastructure-Commission-begins-plotting-delivery-of-net-zero-UK-energy-systems/>

Climate misinformation rampant on Facebook, report finds

Climate misinformation is "rampant" on Facebook, despite the platform's claims to the contrary, according to a new report.



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Research released this week by **Stop Funding Heat** and the **Real Facebook Oversight Board** found climate misinformation attracts between 818,000 and 1.36 million views on the platform each day. It also noted that the platform continues to underperform on fact-checking.

This is despite claims by the company that it stepped up efforts to tackle climate misinformation, most recently in the context of the ongoing COP26 summit. The claim had a ripple effect and saw other social media platforms announce measures to address the problematic spread of misinformation.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full Report go to:

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Climate-misinformation-running-high-on-Facebook--report-finds/>

To keep 1.5C alive, the super-rich must change their high carbon lifestyles

The richest 1% are using way more than their fair share of the 1.5C carbon budget. Tackling inequality and emissions must go together.



Amazon founder and billionaire Jeff Bezos is backing energy-intensive space tourism (Photo credit: Kim Shiflett/Nasa)

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As the excitement of Cop26 fades, governments are grappling with how to keep the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement alive.

To do so they must find a way to credibly close the gap between projected emissions in 2030, and the level scientists say is needed. But who is really responsible for that gap?

If we look at the world population as though it were a single country, spread between the richest and poorest people on the planet, we can see the stark inequality that is pushing the 1.5C goal out of reach.

Research carried out by the Stockholm Environment Institute on behalf of Oxfam estimates the per capita consumption emissions of different global income groups in 2030 based on the unconditional national climate pledges to the Paris Agreement and other national policies.

It finds the carbon footprints of the richest 1% in 2030 are set to be 25% higher than in 1990, 16 times the global average and some 30 times above the global per capita level compatible with the 1.5C goal. The richest 10% are set for footprints that are 9 times that level, while those of the poorest half of the global population will still be far below it.

Source: Climate Home News

To read the full (excellent) report with lots of statistics, go to:

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/11/05/keep-1-5c-alive-super-rich-must-change-high-carbon-lifestyles/>

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This summer's extreme weather events would have been 'virtually impossible' without climate crisis



*Pictured: Flooding in western Germany this summer.
Image: Regine Fabri, CC BY-SA*

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has published a major report on the state of the climate

in 2021, revealing that the past seven years have been the warmest on record, and that global heating made devastating floods and wildfires this summer more likely. Published to coincide with the ceremonial opening of COP26 in Glasgow, the 'State of the Global Climate' report details this year's major extreme weather events and also provides an historic look at indicators including temperatures, ocean heat, ocean acidity levels, sea-level rise and ice melt.

The world is currently, the report states, 1.09C warmer than in pre-industrial times.

Source: Edie Newsroom

To read the full report go to:

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Report--This-summer-s-extreme-weather-events-would-have-been--virtually-impossible--without-climate-crisis/>

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Many thanks for your past and future support!

The Climate Action Newtown team