



February Newsletter of the Plymouth Climate Council

**Upcoming Events:**

**Climate Jobs meetings & webinars:**

**Tuesday 8th February 7pm**  
Plymouth in-person at the Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain PL4 6LF or on Zoom ID 890 7071 3922 pc 465011 or Facebook Live broadcast: @Plymouth Hub4Climate

**Climate Jobs Technical & planning meetings:**

**Monday 21st February:**  
Climate Jobs in Energy: 6:30-8:00pm

**Monday 28th February:**  
Climate Jobs in Buildings, 6:30-8pm

**Monday 14th March:**  
Climate Jobs in Transport 6:30-8pm Sign-up here: <http://cacctu.org.uk/>  
Climate\_jobs\_meetings



**International Coalition Hubs Trade Union**

**Caucus: Tuesday 15th February 6:30-8pm on Zoom** speakers from African Trade Unions [www.plymouthhub4climate.org](http://www.plymouthhub4climate.org) for details.



**"Futureproof Housing" 16.2.22 5pm**

**"The Biodiversity Emergency": 9th March 4pm**  
Plymouth University webinars about sustainable development in Plymouth: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/future-plymouth-2030>

# No Brown Backlash! Stop the Greenwash! Don't Blame Climate Activists for the Energy Crisis!

**The devastating rise in gas and electricity prices will hit working class households horribly this year despite government "loans",** writes Tony Staunton from the Campaign against Climate Change.

The UK Government is diverting the debate away from the huge profits of the privatised energy companies to protect the income of their shareholders despite the growing suffering. With household energy bills likely to rise by £700-£1,000 a year from April, climate and environment groups are calling for the re-nationalisation of companies in order to immediately lower fuel prices by cutting profit margins and ensure democratic control for the public good.

**Trade unions and consumer groups are campaigning to stop fuel poverty by capping the profits of fossil fuel companies.**

In response, the far-Right is trying to build a popular campaign to scrap the "green levies" on energy bills in order cut energy bills.

**Absurdly, former UKIP leader, Nigel Farage, and many climate-denying Tory MPs are blaming environmentalists for rising prices, pretending they're on the side of "ordinary people", not us.**

They are out to hide the truth behind the "rip-off" energy bills. Green levies on energy are a small step in the right direction to hold energy companies to account for their impact on the environment.

**Price increases protect profits**

Green levies are not perfect, but schemes such as the "Energy Company Obligation" and the "Renewables Obligation" scheme encourage suppliers to shift to renewables, and to "improve the ability of low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households to heat their homes."

**Meanwhile, the energy companies increase their prices to pay for the levies rather than lower their rate of profit.**

In particular, the regional gas and electricity network companies - the businesses who run the pipes and wires - are criticised by the energy regulator, Ofgem, for paying bumper shareholder payouts (many large stockholders are companies registered overseas).

**Continued overleaf:**

**For more news and action go to: [www.plymouthhub4climate.org](http://www.plymouthhub4climate.org)**

*Huge Utilities' Profits from Energy Generation 2021: Oil and Gas Profits - 3rd Quarter 2021 BP £3billion. Shell £4bn - a total of £14,000,000,000 profits paid to rich shareholders in 2021... Stealing money from the poor to give to the richest shareholders.*

**Join the Campaign against Climate Change:**



[www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org)

**Headlines from a warming world:**

track the development of extreme conditions caused by climate change on our new "headlines" page

**Go to BBC Player for short stories of Life at 50°C**

## Local Hubs Gathering & Climate Justice Weekender

Online & In-Person in Birmingham

**We need all hands on deck: in workplaces, communities, schools, hospitals and across national borders. Whether you've been involved in the climate justice movement before or not, join us to get organised for system change:**

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cop26-coalition](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cop26-coalition)

Climate justice recognises that all of our struggles lead back to the same unjust system. Whether we are fighting for better pay at work, for clean water, or against police violence or the opening of a new mine. For control over our bodies or to stop the destruction of forests we live in. We need climate action that works for all of us, not just the people with the most money in their pockets.