



Issue 320 20th - 26th September 2021

## Net Zero

The Scottish Government have set a target for Scotland to be a net zero carbon emitting nation by 2045. This is certainly better than saying that Scotland will still be a net emitter of carbon by 2045 but there is considerable doubt as to whether it is good enough. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned last week that the world is on a "catastrophic pathway" to 2.7°C of global heating. Governments are failing us on achieving the Paris Agreement 1.5°C target. The science shows a 'code red warning for humanity'. Yet Scotland failed to meet its last three annual climate targets

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland has **called for** urgent updates to Scotland's Climate Change Plan. Progress will be measured by how fast emissions fall, not by ambitious long-term promises. Public services must be funded to lead by example. **SCCS demands** for COP26 in Glasgow include the importance of a Just Transition to ensure that no workers or communities are left behind. Plans must be strengthened, particularly to support **green jobs**, not offshoring, and in the face of Scottish Government claims to be implementing the recommendations of the Just Transition Commission, yet **abandoning plans** for a publicly owned energy company. The Commission said this should be established "at pace with a broad remit".

UNISON Scotland wants an industrial strategy that includes greatly **increased public ownership in energy** and transport. We need to invest in a public programme of retrofitting of houses and an integrated sustainable public transport system that serves all communities instead of **rip-off bus** and **rail fares**, with **reduced services**. It is vital to get the **Just Transition right** and work for climate justice worldwide.

UNISON Scotland says no to Cambo and stands in solidarity with young people on this Friday's **global climate strike**.

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## UNISON members at Dundee University set for strike action to defend pensions

UNISON members at Dundee University who are part of, or are eligible to be part of, the university's superannuation scheme are taking strike action later this month over the employer's plans to close and replace the defined benefit CARE scheme with a defined contribution scheme next year.

Affecting around 900 staff on grades one to six, the proposals are set to leave many members in pension poverty and will see some losing up to 40% of their pension. Those on grades higher than six fall under a different, nationally negotiated, scheme. Action is initially planned, with 300 members striking, for five days across the start of the new academic year, with pickets each morning as well a rally in Dundee's City Square at noon on the first day, 29 September. Read more **here**.

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**VOTE YES  
FOR  
STRIKE ACTION**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY BALLOT- 1st to 22nd September (10am)**

**Save Our Care Homes - Public Demonstration Free · Edinburgh City Chambers - 28 September 2021 9:30am**

**UNISON survey show huge vacancy rates across care sector adding to staff mental health crisis**

**General Secretary : A new post-pandemic deal is needed for public services**



**Scottish Government – Programme for Government 2021-22**

The Programme for Government for 2021-22 has been announced. This sets out the Scottish Government’s legislative programme and other administrative actions for this parliamentary year. This briefing highlights the issues likely to have the greatest impact on UNISON members.

The most pressing priority is recovery from COVID. A Recovery Strategy and a Recovery Bill focused on the hardest hit will be produced in the first year of Parliament. The promised COVID recovery strategy will “outline a shared vision with local government.” However, other than a commitment to a human-rights based approach there are few details as to what this will involve. Read [here](#).

**GREEN  
UNISON**

**Doing our bit to make public services greener**

**Green UNISON Week  
runs from 18 – 26  
September**

**Everything you need to know  
towards building for Saturday  
6 November COP26  
demonstrations [here](#).**



## **PICK OF THE MEDIA**

17/09/21 [thecourier.co.uk](http://thecourier.co.uk)

**"The existing proposals will lead to staff retiring into pension poverty, with the university's own figures suggesting a 40% cut in retirement incomes for scheme members"** UNISON Branch Secretary, Dundee University Phil Welsh.

17/09/21 [tfn.scot](http://tfn.scot)

**Low pay haunts Scotland's voluntary sector - and it could get worse.**

17/09/21 [committees.parliament.uk](http://committees.parliament.uk)

**Scottish renewables progress hampered by grid connection charges.**

16/09/21 [tfn.scot](http://tfn.scot)

**UNISON launches support group for under pressure care workers.**

15/09/21 [glasgowtimes.co.uk](http://glasgowtimes.co.uk)

**Lanarkshire care workers are at breaking point amid staff shortage worries, UNISON warns.**

12/09/21 [thenational.scot](http://thenational.scot)

**'Corporate actors' slammed for profiting at expense of asylum seekers' human rights.**

**There for You impact report: A colourful, engaging report setting out how much of a positive difference UNISON's charity for members has made this year.**



## **Financial wellbeing for UNISON members**

Join **There For You** on 28 September 2021 at 12:00pm–1:00pm for a free financial wellbeing webinar. Register **here**.



Welcome to UNISON Scotland learning!

Here is our online education programme for July to December 2021. Build your skills with our national programme UNISON Learning - a whole range of courses for our members.

## Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

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## Update your UNISON details

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To take part in our consultations, surveys and ballots, we need accurate information: **your work, email & mobile.**

