

DEMANDING CLIMATE JUSTICE

What does “Climate Justice” mean?

The transition we so urgently need to a clean economy must not be at the expense of people now employed in carbon-intensive jobs, people in the Global South who are trapped at low standards of living or exploited to extract minerals for green technology, or people who cannot afford increases in the cost of fuel. **The transition should save and enhance our daily lives and end the grotesque inequality that has imperilled us all** and particularly people of colour, migrants, people with disabilities, women, and children. This is just the beginning of what is required for Climate Justice.

Specifically, Fuel Poverty Action demands:

- Every government policy and law must be tested against the need to limit global heating to **a maximum of 1.5 degrees**.
- One fifth of carbon emissions in the UK are due to heat for our homes. All homes must swiftly be **insulated** with safe, non-toxic, non-flammable materials, well-installed, with ventilation to prevent cold, overheating and damp.
- **New buildings** must be zero-carbon and designed and built with climate resilience in mind. This must also apply to the many buildings already approved but not yet started.
- Residents must individually and collectively have **the power to call to account** landlords, developers, and providers of energy or heat, to ensure that green infrastructure for our homes actually benefits residents, and that it does, in practice, reduce carbon emissions. Sanctions must bite.
- We need an urgent **transition to cheaper, cleaner renewable energy** that does not endanger people’s ability to **afford the energy we need** for essentials like heating, cooling, cooking and transport.
- In the interim period, before we reach the goal of cheaper, cleaner green energy for all, and while many homes are still poorly insulated, people must be **protected from energy poverty**, with special attention to the extra energy needs of people who are elderly, disabled, or young children.
- The above suggestions must be **paid for** by the 100 corporations responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions, the banking sector which invests in them, by the military, and by the wealthiest 10% of the global population who are responsible for 50% of consumption emissions. **It must not be paid for by taking money from the least well-off people in our society.**

There are many demands being put forward for a transition to an economy that will preserve a liveable climate which is just for all frontline workers and communities worldwide. FPA supports the demands of other organisations that:

- **Workers in industries based on fossil fuels must be guaranteed opportunities** to instead use their skills and develop new ones without loss of income. This can include well-paid jobs meeting the need for urgent home adaptations, renewable energy infrastructure, and new public transport systems.
- **The work of caring for people's health and welfare, and for the planet, must also be recognised and paid.** This work is essential for survival, but is often done unpaid, especially by women. A Care Income could underpin a shift away from fossil-fuel based employment, towards a low carbon economy. .
- **Extraction of minerals**, rare earth metals and other materials used to produce renewable energy must not be allowed to cause environmental devastation, exploitative and dangerous labour conditions, or wars, in countries of the Global South, or anywhere.
- **Industry, agriculture, transport and trade must also be transformed** to sustainably meet the needs of humans and other life. **An end to waste:** of energy, water, mineral and other resources, of consumer products, of labour, creativity, and lives.
- People already in crisis due to the changing climate must be protected immediately. This includes **recognising the rights of climate refugees and of indigenous peoples**, and compensation for the work of **restoring homes and communities** after floods and other extreme weather events.
- Funds should be diverted from **military spending and the arms trade** to tackle the climate emergency. Financial resources now poured into wars, at the cost of many lives as well as high carbon emissions, should be redirected towards improving energy efficiency and enhancing living standards, such as through installing proper insulation in all homes.

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In the UK around 9,000 people a year die from cold homes. At the same time, heat and energy are being wasted. Well designed, maintained, and insulated housing and heating systems, combined with fair, sustainable energy tariffs, could help both the climate and people now struggling with fuel poverty.

**FUEL
POVERTY
ACTION**

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