



Queensland
Decarbonisation
Hub



Just
Transition
Lab



Centre for Policy Futures

Just Transitions: International, National and Regional Perspectives

Queensland Decarbonisation Hub Forum 2026

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- **Scotland** and the **UK** is rapidly facing a transition across multiple sectors and regions.
- Strong policy signals and opportunities ➡
- A rapidly growing Net Zero Economy (UK: 1.1 million jobs; GVA £105 billion 2026).
- Substantive impact as regions face high energy costs, cost of living crisis, polarisation and job changes (e.g. Aberdeen, Grangemouth, Hull).

- **2045 Net Zero Goal:** Legally binding, Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- **Carbon Budgets:** Flexible **five-year carbon budget mechanism** (2026–2045)
- Emissions fell by **51.3%** between 1990 and 2023
- Climate Change Plan (2026–2040)
- Scotland's Just Transition Commission



Mission: *JUST-Systems* seeks to support, facilitate and accelerate a people-centred, place-based transition for the UK.



JUST-Systems

1. Understanding what a just transition means for *people and place*.
2. Using *systems approaches* to support *tangible interventions* that link decarbonisation with social justice, wellbeing & community wealth.
3. Turn our *learning into action*, developing people-centered governance solutions that can be scaled across the UK.
4. Strengthen *skills and capacity* to accelerate action.



Aberdeen researchers drive £5.7million cross-UK 'whole system' approach to Just Transition

www.abdn.ac.uk/just-systems/



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Fuel Insecurity	Fuel Poverty	Fuel Bill Savings
 28.3% of people in the South Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 55.6% of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 5.6% of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 11.1% of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 46, 2022)	 £32,725.77 fuel bill savings made across the South Locality through energy efficiency measures and support such as provision of warm spaces

An emerging lesson is that a transition cannot be delivered by optimising technology and then addressing its social consequences. Justice has to be designed into the system from the outset, through place, participation, relationships, multiple outcomes and governance.

www.abdn.ac.uk/just-systems/

- 1. How you define the system changes the solution. Whose boundaries & perspectives?
- 2. Start with place & problem, not disciplines.
- 3. Co-creation is continual. Trust is essential research infrastructure.
- 4. Fragmentation is a barrier: misaligned policy, finance, & infrastructure limit impact.
- 5. Focus on leverage points for system change that are capable of producing the strongest combination of societal benefits.
- 6. Scaling requires system redesign, not just replicating individual projects.

