

Are climate NGOs really going to let another crisis go ...

Published: January 15, 2026, 6:25 am

A group called The Climate Coalition (about whose work, funding and staff it is remarkably quiet on its own website, I have to say with some concern) have got 57 organisations to sign up to its action plan for climate recovery, [issued this morning](#).

The list includes some well-known names. They've agreed to this:

As you begin the process of planning the economic recovery, we enclose our 'Plan for a Green, Fair and Healthy Recovery', which sets out our recommendations for some of the policies needed to forge a resilient and inclusive net-zero economic recovery. We set out seven priority areas for action:

1. Turbocharge a more productive, inclusive and resilient economy by **prioritising and increasing public capital investment, training and reskilling in renewable energy, energy efficiency and zero carbon transport infrastructure**, creating over 100,000 clean energy jobs in the areas of greatest need.
2. **Accelerate private sector investment in the net-zero transition**, including by setting up a Climate Infrastructure Bank, increasing financial powers for local authorities and developing a Climate Finance Plan.
3. **Set the economic policy foundation for a sustainable recovery** by adopting a new economic rule to ensure the UK economic recovery plan, public spending and taxation get us on track to net-zero and 1.5°C & ensure all bailouts for business are conditional on plans and action to do the same.
4. **Prioritise investment in the transition to a UK land use and farming system that delivers for nature, climate and human health** by protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, on land and at sea. Future UK trade deals must support this transition.
5. Enhance global leadership on climate action by **aligning all UK public finance abroad with a just energy transition**, ending fossil fuel finance and helping developing countries to transition or leapfrog to sustainable renewable and efficient energy instead, with energy access for all.
6. **Build a resilient, sustainable and inclusive global recovery by strengthening international support for the most vulnerable countries and communities worldwide.** The UK must support debt relief to enable developing countries already drowning in debt to tackle both the COVID-19 and climate crises, as well as champion significantly increased grant-based climate finance for impacted communities.
7. **Engage with the international community to halt and rapidly reverse the decline of biodiversity and nature globally**, given nature's vital role in limiting catastrophic climate change, ensuring future generations' ability to produce food, to have enough water, to remain healthy, and to thrive.

There is, of course, nothing to object to in this list, and maybe that's all you can expect when you get 57 varieties of organisation to sign up.

That the demands made for the UK economy are uncontentious is reflected in the fact that the CBI has issued a press release since the release of UK unemployment data this morning, most of which says (and apologies for not having a link; this was emailed to me):

“Unemployment falls unevenly across society and leaves scars that last generations. The urgent priority must be creating inclusive jobs today, by turbo charging the sustainable industries of tomorrow. This should be backed by a revolution in retraining, with business, government and education providers stepping up to reskill communities for the future.”

I think it's fair to say that there is, then, a consensus about this being the way to deliver a recovery. That said though, the lack of ambition in this plan is very worrying.

Note that they are only looking to create 100,000 jobs. Even today's completely understated [unemployment data](#) suggests that 600,000 jobs have already been lost in the UK. In the circumstances these organisations are not calling for anything that looks vaguely like a recovery at all. And that is because the scale of their ambition is far too limited.

Caroline Lucas and I have [suggested](#) this morning that there is funding available, if sufficient imagination is used, for a £100 billion a year programme of investment in the UK. I am completely convinced that this is possible, and that is before any aspect of modern monetary theory is taken into account.

At the same time the demands made for accountability are also weak, and continue the myth that this can somehow continue outside the mainstream of financial reporting, as if climate change is an optional extra, when it is absolutely core to our future. We need [sustainable cost accounting](#) now.

I regret to say that in that case I find this call rather depressing. If climate NGOs are not going to be ambitious now whenever are they going to be? We face the biggest crisis we've ever known, which is simultaneously the necessary basis for change and what we have got are demands for 100,000 jobs when many, many times more are needed, and could be delivered.

Are we really going to let another crisis go to waste?