

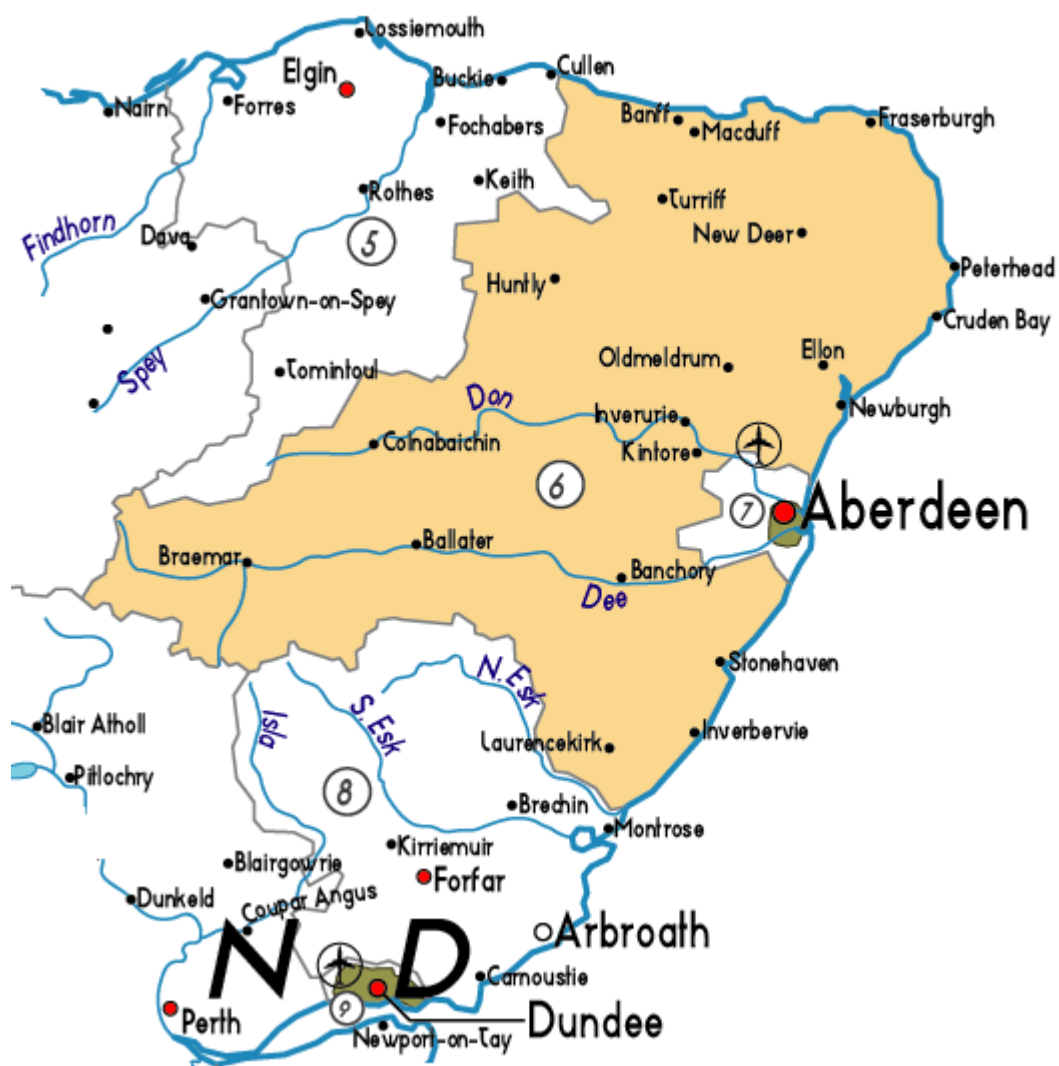
Worker-Climate project online session Aberdeen Trade Union Council presentation

[Aberdeen Trades Union Council](#)

[Aberdeen Trades Union Council : STUC Reports](#)

[Climate Hazards and Resilience in the Workplace - Adaptation Scotland](#)

[Hazards 165. January-March 2024](#)



Aberdeen Trades Union Council was founded in 1868 by the trade unions across the north east of Scotland not just Aberdeen. In those days there was an extensive railway network linking the towns and villages helping to spread trade union activities

and membership across the whole region with the ATUC as its hub with its offices and meeting hall in Aberdeen.

Despite being 500 miles from London the trade unions in Aberdeen were internationalist in outlook taking part in the International Brigade in Spain during the 1930's, CND and the Anti-Apartheid movements during the rest of the 20th Century.

Aberdeen became the centre for the North Sea Oil and Gas industry in the late 1970's which has widened the gap between the rich and the poor across the city and the region. Employment in the oil and gas industry has declined by 40% in the last 12 years, The renewables industry has not been guided into providing local supply chains and has failed to deliver the promised jobs or economic benefits to the city/region.

The city region has by virtue of its north east Atlantic location started to suffer increasing severe climatic events. Storm Frank in 2016 forced the evacuation of 500 flooded homes in Ballater. The 2018/19 drought resulted in 300 rural homes being without a water supply and related problems for the farming, food and drink industries and their workers. The 2020 Stonehaven train derailment caused by a sudden localised weather bomb killed 3 people on what was an almost empty train. Storm Babett in 2023 closed road and rail links into the city and the region for several days.

Following the 2020 Stonehaven train derailment the ATUC worked with the Scottish Trade Union Congress and Adaption Scotland to develop the Climate Hazards and Resilience in the Workplace resource. The Jan to March 2024 edition of Hazards Magazine Working In a Bad Climate gave wider recognition to the hazards faced by all workers in the UK and internationally due to climate change.

In 2024 the need for a climate resilient just transition has become more urgent for the workers and their communities like ours here in the north east of Scotland who have relied heavily on the oil and gas resources of the North Sea for jobs. Cuts to the public sector in local government, the NHS and higher education are also limiting the options for workers in the oil and gas sector to move into new types of work that could be done or to retrain.

In 2024 the ATUC members took part in the following Just Transition activities.

Getting the STUC Conference to support the ATUC motion for maximum working temperatures for outdoor and indoor workers as high summer temperatures become a real health and safety threat in our workplaces.

Starting a dialogue with the North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCANS) about their communities led just transition campaign [Just Transition Communities](#) and the ATUC being invited to their events at Inverurie, Seaton Park, and Tillydrone. The Tillydrone event was also attended by members of the Just Transition Commission. [Just Transition Commission](#)

The Aberdeen Climate Café hosted a just transition event at which the STUC Just Transition Officer took part. [Cl. Cafe 1st October 2024 Ryan Morrison](#)

The ATUC support the Friends of St. Fitticks Park Torry campaign to save the park a vital greenspace for Torry folk whose life expectancy is 10 years less than the rest of

the city. The park is threatened by speculative industrial development. [Friends of Saint Fitticks Park](#)

Solidarity with the workers and their community at Grangemouth has also been taken up as ATUC delegates attended the rallies at Grangemouth and outside the Scottish Parliament. [Letter to the UK Government – Just Transition Commission](#)

In the absence of UK and Scottish Government dedicated policy support and long term financial resources the ATUC delegates are still looking to campaign for our climate resilient just transition alongside affected communities across Scotland through working with the STUC and other partners.

Steven Gray Aberdeenshire UNISON ATUC Delegate