



Sarah Watt

Marketing and Media Manager
Orbital Marine Power

What do you do?

I work at Orbital Marine Power, a renewable energy company focused on generating clean power from the tides, based in Edinburgh.

What does a just transition mean to you?

I think it's about justice for the planet and fairness. It is important that the people who decide what technology we use to tackle climate change are neutral, they don't have any reason to pick one over another.

Tidal power isn't the only solution to climate change but I think it would be really helpful. It's my job to make sure people have the facts and to show them how it works.

Why is a just transition important?

A just transition is very important. We need everyone to learn ways that they can help climate change. It can be really tough when there are lots of changes. We can't ask everyone to change how they live. We need to balance changing lots of small things with finding new technology to help us.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

The climate crisis made me think about if I want to have a family or not. It might not be fair to have children when there aren't lots of natural resources left in the world. I like that I work for a renewable energy company. It's important to me that people give tidal energy as much of a chance as solar and wind energy.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

A big challenge of getting to net-zero carbon emissions is not a lot of people know about it. It's important that we share information and don't blame people for the things they don't know. We have to teach everyone what they can do to help the planet.



Billy Sim

Managing Director
New Energy Scotland

What do you do?

Our goal is to make a green energy source affordable and accessible to anyone in the world. Our hydro energy device sinks and floats in water and generates energy from that movement. It can be used in lots of different water sources like rivers, lakes or the sea.

What does a just transition mean to you?

It means moving from polluting energy sources that will run out, to clean and sustainable energy sources. It also has to be done in a way that makes life better for everyone.

In my business, it means that we can have people who used to work for oil and gas companies come to work for us. We can give them good jobs and they can help us with the things they learned making energy from non-renewable sources.

Why is a just transition important?

It creates communities that can benefit from green energy. It would create jobs and opportunities for everyone.

Lots of communities across Scotland have struggled with having very little money. It's good that people and companies can be aware of these but if they can make lives easier it would be even better. I want to build a company that provides good opportunities for anyone, no matter what their background is.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

I think it's a good opportunity for people to work together to reverse the damage of climate change. Our work aims to make green energy and save everyone money. That will hopefully open up opportunities for spending in other areas.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

One of the biggest ones is money! If it costs a lot to make renewable energy then it will mean people have to pay higher bills and that's not fair. The challenge is for businesses to make new ways of renewable energy really cheap.



Chris Dunn

Principle Naval Architect
Malin Group

What do you do?

As a naval architect I help to design, build and operate ships and other similar equipment. I look at how we can make “greener” ships by designing ships that use sustainable fuels and new technology.

What does a just transition mean to you?

Oil and gas have been important for us to advance technology and our economy but it’s really bad for the environment. The transition to renewables gives us an opportunity to change it all. If we use renewable energy, it is better for the environment, better for people's health and we can share the wealth with local communities.

Why is a just transition important?

Our society isn’t fair. There are huge differences in opportunities across communities. With the just transition, we can change our systems to bring benefits to everyone, not just businesses. We could improve quality of life for lots of people. We have to agree on how we do this though.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

Innovators are needed to help make these big changes happen. There are lots of good jobs in engineering now, but not lots of engineers. It means that people who have just graduated are getting good jobs and companies are getting lots of fresh ideas. There are lots of new challenges and technology for us to work with. It’s hard work but I think my job is really fun.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

People don’t like change but they need to if we want to reach net-zero. There are millions of jobs in the oil and gas industry, all of them will be affected by the transition. It’s also going to be expensive! It is possible though; five years ago, electric cars were described as a fad and now they’re outselling diesel cars! It is possible!



Ian MacKenzie

Chief Executive Officer
Trojan Energy

What do you do?

I am the CEO of Trojan Energy. We make charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) that can sit flat underneath the pavement when not in use. Before this I worked for an oil company. I now use those skills to help transition the energy sector to net-zero.

What does a just transition mean to you?

It's important that we move away from using fossil fuels but it will take a long time if we don't think about how to make it work for everyone. For EV charging that means making them low-cost and available in public places without blocking our streets. We also need to make good jobs for people who used to work in oil and gas industries.

Why is a just transition important?

The benefits of a just transition are cleaner air, low cost energy and less contribution to climate change but with the changes that will be made some might be negative. There is no transition if it's not a just transition.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

I left my career in oil to pursue this new path. The zero-carbon energy industry will continue to grow while the fossil fuel one slowly ends. Moving career paths has lots of highs and lows but there are lots of learning opportunities.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

A just transition needs to benefit everyone. Organisations will need to find ways to put the skills of their employees to use in supporting the transition. I think there should be a tax on carbon emissions to help ensure everyone is focused on reducing them.



Colin

Expert
Energy Industry

What do you do?

I am responsible for several commercial aspects of energy use for my company. I also have a role in emissions reduction for my company, which is an energy intensive industry.

What does a just transition mean to you?

It's about ensuring that no group or member of society is disadvantaged. This includes financially, in access to opportunities, their wellbeing, health or any number of "non-financial" aspects.

For example, a friend of mine lost their job as a qualified engineer, but the company provided funding to re-train as a music teacher. I believe their life is richer, although they probably have less income than before.

Why is a just transition important?

Too many areas of the country show the impact of changes that have been far from "just". The UK's wealth was once built on manufacturing. Too many members of society are struggling with finances, health and wellbeing.

The move to service and financial services based economy has provided employment and wealth. There may be more people in employment, but clearly, there have been "winners and losers" in this transition.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

I don't know. A transition to net-zero is possible without needing a drastic change; however, there are likely to be changes that happen in the way that we do things.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

Some of the costs involved in achieving net-zero for certain processes and industries are very high. Would society financially support businesses to achieve net-zero? The businesses provide employment, generate wealth and contribute taxes. If they are unsupported in achieving net-zero, instead faced with higher costs to comply, these businesses will close.



Aoife Hutton

Climate Change Officer
Keep Scotland Beautiful

What do you do?

I work with lots of different organisations across Scotland to develop training and help people understand what climate change is, why it is a problem, and most importantly; what are the solutions?

What does a just transition mean to you?

To tackle climate change, much of the way we live needs to change in a big way. These changes will cause disruption to our daily lives and the way businesses work. It's important that we use these changes to make a fairer and more 'Just' Scotland. No one should be left behind, and we need to make that everyone can access can gain new 'green' skills and move into new 'green' jobs where required. This is all part of what is known as the 'Just Transition'.

Why is a just transition important?

Changing to more 'green' ways of travelling such as walking, cycling, train, bus or using electric vehicles, would also improve our air quality, reduce traffic in cities, and make us fitter and healthier too.

A Just Transition means making sure that everyone gets to experience these new benefits. We need to make the 'green' options the easiest, most accessible choices – like having safe places to walk and cycle, and affordable and reliable buses and trains near where we live.

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

As part of my job at Keep Scotland Beautiful, I am delivering Climate Emergency Training to lots of different organisations. We hope to increase the support we can offer, as more and more people want to learn what they can do to help Scotland reach the climate goal.

I am excited by a vision for Scotland where we have more green spaces, there is clean air in cities, public transport is reliable and accessible, our homes are warm, and people have opportunities to work in green jobs that they enjoy. There is lots of good ahead if we all get on board.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

The big challenges for us all will include changing the way we normally do things. We need decision makers to help make the 'green' options the easiest. This includes funding for green projects, for example creating safer places to walk and cycle, and affordable and reliable buses and trains, so that we don't need to use cars as much. For governments and businesses, the challenges include making decisions about how to fund new green projects.



Shgufta Anwar

Active Travel & South Hub Lead
Bike for Good



What do you do?

I support a team of passionate cyclists to deliver active travel services for people of Glasgow, encouraging them to start commuting by bike. We do this by offering bike loans, cycle training and bike maintenance sessions.

What does a just transition mean to you?

Just Transition is creating a sustainable change where we do not use up all the planet's resources, made possible through a range of social interventions that are not only badly needed to secure people's rights and livelihoods but also that are fair and "just". In my role, it is reducing people's barriers to enable them to cycle as a mode of transport or even by inspiring people to want to make change.

Why is a just transition important?

Carbon-emitting modes of transport are not accessible to all in society and decrease a person's physical and mental health.

Bike for Good enables people to ride a bike. We believe that cycling is the most effective and sustainable form of transport. We believe it enhances our chances for a healthier life and environment. Cycling has to be accessible! Not only that, but it saves you money and burns fat!

How will a just transition affect you and your future?

Massively! Glasgow (and worldwide) will be a healthy and inclusive environment where everyone in the community benefits from more people cycling.

It will mean healthier, sustainable, more resilient and connected communities.

It will mean a fair and just society where the actions of one group of people does not cause chaos to someone completely unconnected halfway across the world.

What are the challenges of a just transition to net-zero?

For active travel, it is the distinct lack of effective cycle infrastructure that links up the whole city and particularly disenfranchised communities. Time and time again we hear that people want to take up active travel but the roads (and cities) are created for vehicles, and not people.