

Just Transitions for Industrial Decarbonisation in the UK

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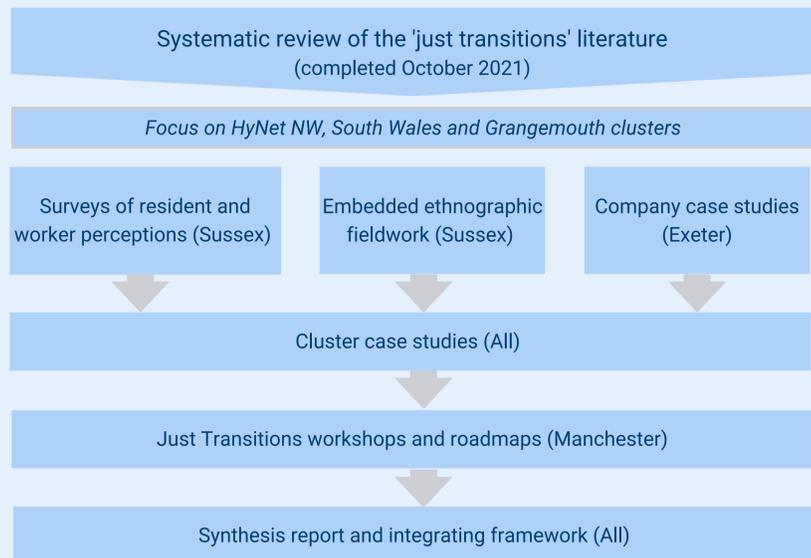
MIP 2.4

Industrial strategy and climate policy goals for decarbonisation must not come at the expense of social and environmental justice for communities and workers. 'Just transition' approaches are required to ensure the costs and benefits of industrial decarbonisation are distributed fairly

Project Aims

1. Identify community and worker vulnerabilities, concerns, and priorities to ensure local decarbonisation projects avoid burdening the most affected and vulnerable and enhance local economic development, environmental health, and education and leadership opportunities.
2. Map technical innovations, multi-level policies, collaborative decision-making processes and net-zero business models needed in order for decarbonisation infrastructure to advance community-worker priorities.
3. Co-develop a synthesis and integrative framework to guide UK industrial cluster decarbonisation activities to be more equitable, inclusive and just in the transition to net-zero.

Method and Approach



Developing a Just Transitions framework

- A systematic literature review was undertaken to identify concepts from across multiple literature to inform the development of our analytical framework (table 1)
- With a focus on energy, the review highlighted three core 'just transition' perspectives around which the literature has developed

Table 1: Summary of three literatures on socially just or equitable sociotechnical transitions

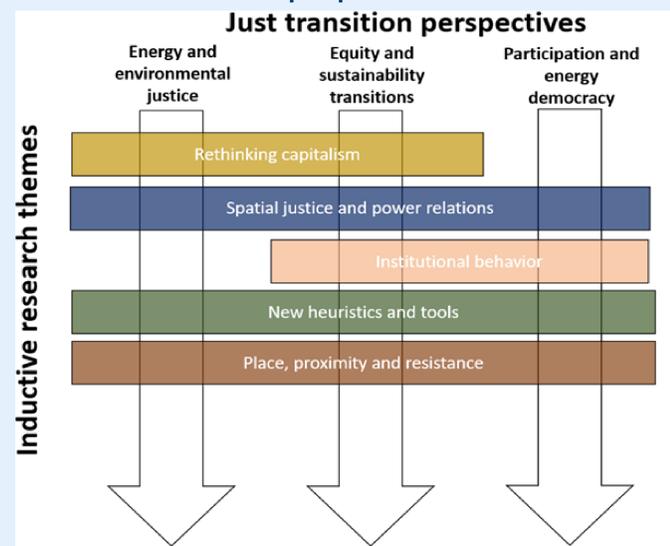
Literature	Predominant focus	Common unit of analysis	Key concepts
Energy and environmental justice	What is morally just or right	Tenets of justice or principles	Procedure, recognition, distribution, cosmopolitanism
Equity and sustainability transitions	Who wins and who loses from transition processes or outcomes	Sociotechnical systems	Niches, regimes and landscapes, transition pathways
Participation and energy democracy	Ownership of, and engagement in, energy supply	Ownership share, production share, decision-making rights	Governance and participation processes

Source: Upham, Sovacool and Ghosh (2021)

Synthesising 'just transition' perspectives

- Given the diversity of disciplines from which literature was identified, an inductive, thematic analysis was undertaken to avoid the need for theoretical integration
- The five inductive themes identified cut across more than one of the 'just transition' perspectives (figure 1)

Figure 1: Positioning core research themes among three 'just transition' perspectives

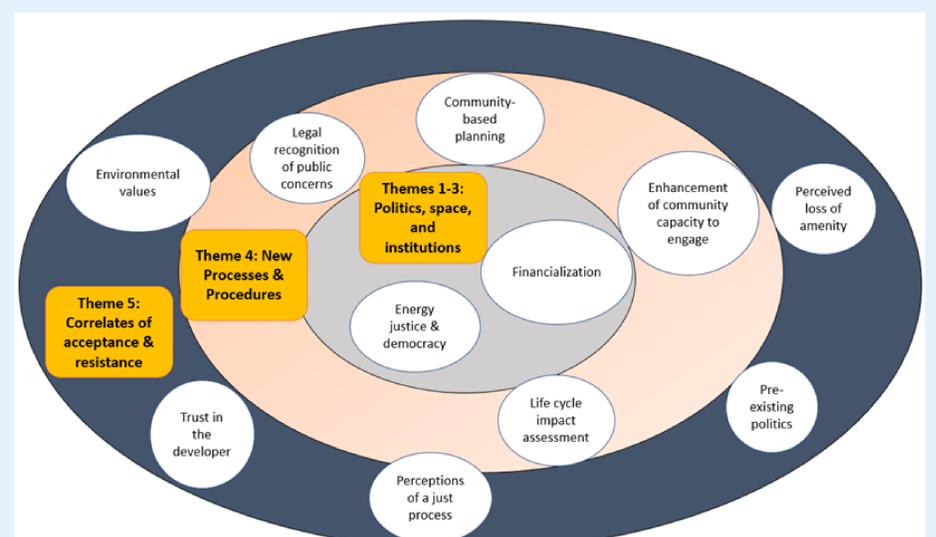


Source: Upham, Sovacool and Ghosh (2021)

Translation of research to date to the decarbonisation community

- Within the roadmaps developed by the clusters, industrial cluster decarbonisation is most commonly represented in terms of employment and economic benefits; other dimensions of a 'just transition' are referred to more rarely.
- Industrial clusters are very different from the contexts studied within the academic literature in terms of scale, processes and hazards.
- Thus, the principles of a 'just transition' are even more important within the context of industrial clusters, with relevant themes identified in figure 2.

Figure 2: Selected themes relevant to public engagement and industrial 'just transitions'



Source: Upham, Sovacool and Ghosh (2021)

Outputs

This poster presents material from: Upham, Sovacool and Ghosh (2021), Just Transitions for industrial decarbonisation: A framework for innovation, participation, and justice, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*