



**NEF REVIEW  
OF THE YEAR**

**2019**

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# MESSAGE FROM NEF'S CHAIR

**D**uring my many years on the other side of the policy world in the civil service and local government, I have admired the New Economics Foundation from the outside. As well as its commitment to social justice and the environment, NEF has the unique ability among think tanks to combine local inspiration with national influence.

As people, planet and politics are more and more threatened by unchecked inequality, runaway climate change and rising populism, NEF's role in the UK political landscape is more crucial than ever.

So I'm delighted and excited to have joined the NEF team as Chair at this pivotal moment. My predecessor, Tess Gill, has been instrumental in preparing NEF to take on this challenge from a position of great strength. I would like to thank her for her incredible hard work and dedication over the past five years.

The consensus around the dominant economic model of the past 40 years has broken down and NEF's message is resonating as never before. We have the opportunity to shape a new, fairer economy while tackling the urgent problem of climate change. To do so, we must restore trust in politics and democracy. I look forward to working with Miatta and her fantastic team on these missions.



**Lord Bob  
Kerslake**  
Chair

# THREE MISSIONS TO TRANSFORM OUR FAILING ECONOMY

**A**s 2019 draws to a close we look back on another year where underlying economic, ecological and democratic crises have largely taken a back seat while attention is dominated by Brexit and the Westminster soap opera.

But despite this background, I feel hope for the future. At NEF, our strategy is to partner with and build power across a wide movement of activists and people affected by the problems we face to turn inspirational ideas into action. We work with all levels of government, from national to local. The energy that has come to the fore this year from the likes of the school strikers and Extinction Rebellion is not going away. Together we will ensure the climate emergency and runaway inequality can no longer be ignored.

This year NEF has seen unprecedented interest in our message that the economic model is broken and our ideas adopted in all the major party manifestos. We have used our biggest ever platform on national television and radio to get across that the issues we face are the product of the way the economy has been designed, and to

showcase how we can change it. And we've shown how to do policy differently – to drive bottom up change inspired by the people making a difference in their communities across the country.

In this review, we will highlight just some of the impact our work has had over the last 12 months. We are putting together the foundations of a **New Social Settlement** to ensure people are paid well and have high wellbeing. NEF is part of a group of organisations designing a **Green New Deal** – a huge investment plan to tackle the climate emergency over the next decade while creating a new generation of jobs. Our work is showing how to give people more control over their lives, by devolving state power and transforming ownership to create a **Democratic Economy**.


NEF never works alone. We are part of a thriving movement building a new economy together. On behalf of everyone at NEF, I want to thank and acknowledge all the people and groups up and down the country who are fighting for change – some of whom are our partners and others we admire from afar.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to all the grant makers and our individual supporters who ensure NEF can remain a powerful, independent advocate for people and planet, and without whose generosity none of this would be possible.



**Miatta  
Fahnbulleh**  
CEO

# 1. A NEW SOCIAL SETTLEMENT

 Our economy has the wealth and resources to ensure that people from all backgrounds can enjoy a good quality of life.

But the people living in tents and doorways in our towns and cities are a shocking daily reminder of the inhumanity of political priorities that ignore our wellbeing. After decades of privatisation and liberalisation, austerity is the final nail in the coffin of the post-war social settlement. Only the NHS is left largely intact, but it is barely managing to take the strain of broken public services, a deeply flawed welfare system, and the proliferation of poor quality, insecure and low-paid work.

Public services are only half of the story. NEF is fighting for workers rights and for a shorter working week where people have time to spend with their families, fulfill caring roles and play an active role in their communities.

We need a new social settlement fit for the 21st century. NEF is working with trade unions, progressive businesses, academics, grassroots organisations, campaigners, women's groups and those delivering services. Together we are developing a core of policies to get us there.

## CREATING A WELLBEING STATE

Public services are an investment in our future. They do more than provide a safety net for when things go wrong – though they must do that too. At the heart of our vision for a new social settlement are Universal Basic Services (UBS), accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

The UK has UBS in healthcare and schools. Our proposals extend it to social care, childcare, housing, internet access and public transport. NEF has been leading thinking on UBS for many years. Our ideas and 2019 report, written with our partners at the UCL Institute of Global Prosperity, were instrumental in the Labour Party's embrace of the UBS vision this year.

NEF research into adult social care and childcare has highlighted patchy provision and often low standards. We helped to expose how with delivery provided by large chains more care funding is trousered by shareholders or swallowed by corporate debt servicing. Using our experience of working with families, providers and local authorities, including our partners Community Catalysts, we are building the evidence to show that directing state spending towards not-for-profit and co-operative providers drives up both standards and value.

*We are grateful to the Barrow Cadbury Trust for their support of our debt work.*

## PAY EVERYONE A WEEKLY ALLOWANCE

Our proposal for a Weekly National Allowance paying everyone £48 a week generated unprecedented media attention and was welcomed by Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell and Green MP Caroline Lucas.

Funded by scrapping the tax-free allowance – the amount people earn before having to pay tax – 88% of all adults would see their post-tax income rise or stay the same, lifting 200,000 families out of poverty.

## MOVING TOWARDS A FOUR DAY WEEK

The two-day weekend is not a law of nature but a hard-won victory by trade unions for workers. Today, the British work among the longest hours in Europe, but productivity is low.

NEF has long argued that shorter working hours, with no reduction in pay, would create a happier, healthier, more equal and more sustainable society. This year we produced a series of papers on productivity and proposed steps government could take to move to a 30-hour standard week within a decade. Partnering with the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions (CSEU), we're building the evidence base for how the manufacturing sector would benefit, as well as supporting the independent 4 Day Week Campaign.

Our work has led to the Labour Party and the Green Party setting targets for shorter hours, with a 32 hour average working week the headline pledge of the Labour conference. Labour have also adopted our proposals for an independent Working Time Commission and collective bargaining for

unions and employers to negotiate how to meet the target in different sectors.

## FIGHTING BACK AGAINST UNFAIR DEBT

It is expensive to be poor. Low-paid, insecure jobs and benefit cuts are forcing more and more people to go into debt to cover basics like rent, heating and food. Personal debt is not only an economic problem, but carries a huge social stigma. Women often bear the brunt of this, forced to hide their household's indebtedness and the many problems it creates.

Alongside our partners in the End the Debt Trap coalition and thanks to the support of the Barrow Cadbury Trust, we have been working in East London with a group of women trapped in unfair debt. From small beginnings with just one or two people, the group has grown as more and more come to share their stories of ruined family finances, harmed relationships and mental and physical health problems.

Supported by NEF's policy team and community organisers, the group are building a campaign to secure a credit card cap so that no one pays more than £2 back for every £1 they borrow – in line with the payday loan cap already won by campaigners. They have met local authority leaders, the Financial Conduct Authority, a cross-party group of MPs, and John Glen, Treasury minister responsible for regulating finance. Having won support from Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative MPs, and promises to take action, they continue to keep up the pressure to ensure those promises are met.



## BUILDING THE NEW SOCIAL HOUSING WE NEED

Decades of market-driven policy has left our housing system in crisis. The gutting of council housing has been catastrophic. Since 2010, homelessness has more than doubled and we pay a vast housing benefit bill to private landlords. But instead of using public land to build social housing, we are selling it off, transferring valuable public assets into private hands.

In our influential report, this year we proposed two significant policies the government should adopt instead. First, halt the sell-off of public land to the highest bidder. Instead, wherever appropriate, the land should be ring-fenced for the provision of social housing. We estimate that 200,000 social homes could be built on available central government land during the next parliament. Second, create a Public Land and Housing Corporation to strategically oversee the building of the next generation of social housing, with a remit to acquire public and private land for development. Akin to new town development corporations, this could build at least one million new social homes, a third of the total we need in the next twenty years.

## NO HOMES FOR NURSES

Back in 2018, our research, supported by the Royal College of Nursing, highlighted that homes being built on NHS land would be out of the reach of most of the staff on which the health service depends. This year our updated figures in No Homes for Nurses gained huge attention. We showed that only one third of homes could be bought with the average nurse's salary and, even if they could afford the mortgage repayments, it would take 34 years to save for the deposit.

Meanwhile in Southend-on-Sea, a group of residents and NHS staff have come together to fight the closure of their local A&E department. As part of the cuts, land at Fossetts Farm, once intended for a state-of-the-art diagnostic centre, was earmarked for sale. After hearing about our 2018 research, they started a campaign for affordable housing on the site.

NEF's organisers worked with them to build an alliance of residents, local unions and women's guilds called Fossetts For The People. Today it is fighting to ensure the site provides hundreds of new social homes, remains in public hands, and that local people have a say in the scheme.

## COMMUNITY-LED REGENERATION, NOT GENTRIFICATION

Druids Heath is one of the most deprived areas in Birmingham. It is home to a strong and diverse community which provides essential support networks, friendships and stability. Over the next ten years this will be threatened. Built in the 1960s, the estate is in need of repair and renovation. Birmingham City Council proposes demolishing 11 towers of 50 homes each and replacing them with a mix of private and social housing. Residents say hundreds of units of social housing will be lost.

NEF organisers have been working with the residents' group opposing the council's scheme since autumn 2018. The group want their own community-led regeneration which allows them to stay in the area and increases rather than reduces the number of social homes. NEF has provided mentoring to group leaders, training in community organising, and supported negotiations and strategy development. Residents have so far won the right to return to equal or better properties after



the regeneration is complete, and are continuing to fight to lead the regeneration process themselves.

## HELPING RENTERS FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

Almost one-in-five people in the UK rent their home from a private landlord. But all too often this works better for the owner than the tenant, with many renters spending around half their monthly income on rents, suffering from poor conditions and the lack of long term security. Evictions from rented accommodation are the leading cause of homelessness. But tenants are fighting back. And they're doing so by organising in renters' unions.

NEF has been working with a group of renters' unions and other organisations representing tenants to develop a National Renters' Manifesto. This covers six themes – security, affordability, justice, conditions, discrimination, and housing for people not profit – which were chosen and have been developed by renters themselves. It is an example of movement-led policy making,

with support from NEF.

Renter organising is making a difference. In April, the government committed to scrap Section 21 'no-fault' evictions – a huge win thanks to pressure from the End Unfair Evictions campaign, made up of Generation Rent, ACORN, the London Renters Union, NEF and others. NEF is supporting renters' unions to build their power for more victories like this.

This summer, the Greater London Authority awarded NEF a grant to design proposals for a rent control system in the capital. London Mayor Sadiq Khan adopted our recommendations, calling for more powers to be devolved from Westminster to create a London Private Rent Commission with the objective of bringing rents down in real terms. If we can fix London's broken private rented sector, we can show that it could be done throughout the country.

*We are very grateful to the Nationwide Foundation, Oak Foundation, Persula Foundation, Trust for London and the Tudor Trust for their support of NEF's housing and land programme.*

## 2. A GREEN NEW DEAL

**T**he climate crisis is today's problem. From extreme weather to crop failures, people and planet are already suffering its disastrous consequences.

Back in 2008, NEF was part of a visionary group that proposed a Green New Deal. Now the school strikers, Extinction Rebellion and politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have combined with influential reports from the Committee on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to thrust climate and the Green New Deal back up the political agenda. They have forced political parties into competing on carbon targets.

We are part of a growing movement of activists, NGOs, social justice campaigners, workers, politicians and other think tanks building on this momentum to create a radical economy-wide plan to halt climate change and restore nature.

Above all, NEF stands for a just transition: tackling climate change must go hand in hand with tackling inequality.

*We are incredibly grateful to the European Climate Foundation, Friends Provident Foundation, Partners for a New Economy, the Pickwell Foundation, Samworth Foundation, TUC and NEF's supporters for generously funding our work towards a Green New Deal.*

### GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Decarbonisation will require the largest peacetime mobilisation of resources in UK history. While some ask how can we afford it, we say we cannot afford not to. However this requires a shift in the mindset of policy makers who for decades have been wedded to arbitrary targets on levels of public debt – the UK's 'fiscal rules'.

This year, NEF's economists managed to reopen this debate. Our research helped to lead to the hugely influential Economics Editor of the Financial Times publishing a piece calling for the government's fiscal rules to be reformed. At the start of the general election campaign, the Conservatives and Labour proposed changes in line with our proposals. While neither party's policies go far enough, this is a major step in the right direction.

### GREENING THE BANK OF ENGLAND

With an explicit decarbonisation mandate and increased coordination with government, central banks could play a huge part in tackling the climate crisis. This would break decades of orthodoxy in monetary policy and just a few years ago would have seemed like an impossible



Derbyshire anti-fracking campaigners.

DrillOrDrop.com

dream. However, thanks to an international campaign co-ordinated by NEF, it is coming closer to reality.

In April, the Bank of England became the first advanced economy central bank to adopt our demands for green transparency and called for other central banks to follow suit. The Bank committed to analyse and disclose the green impact of its operations – for example how quantitative easing (QE) is implicitly subsidising carbon intensive activities. This heralds a huge step towards the more climate interventionist model of monetary policy needed for the Green New Deal.

### COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNERS DEFEAT FRACKING

Last year, NEF helped Eckington Against Fracking persuade Derbyshire Council to reject a fracking application in their village. Together with NEF, they kept the pressure on their Conservative MP who has become a constant thorn in the side

of the government. The recent decision to stop fracking in the UK shows how local campaigners can make national change.

### DELIVERING A JUST TRANSITION

Despite 'industrial strategy' becoming an in-vogue topic among UK politicians, economic policy has remained much the same. The 'market knows best' mindset of recent decades is not fit for purpose. It props up the old, dirty economy, and, when decarbonisation eventually occurs, leaves communities on the scrapheap.

We have been working intensively to help build common cause between the environment and trade union movements, helping to bridge the divide between climate activists and workers. We partnered with framing specialists Climate Outreach to develop a story about transition that starts from the lived experience of those that face the biggest transition challenge. And our blueprint for reinventing industrial strategy in the UK was adopted by the TUC in its proposals on how to deal with



the twin challenges of decarbonisation and automation.

Next year, our organisers and community economic development specialists will begin pilot projects working directly with workers in high-carbon industries to co-produce transition plans for their local areas. The learning from these places will show how to deliver just transitions throughout the UK.

## RESTORING NATURE

NEF has pioneered work that links thriving communities to thriving habitats. For several years, the Blue New Deal – our coastal economies regeneration programme with a healthy sea at its heart – has produced a slew of policy proposals that have won support from Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green and SNP MPs.

Our research and coalition building played a key role in the UK Fisheries White Paper's focus on the need to define and favour low-impact fisheries, and use social, environmental and economic criteria when allocating fishing quota. We are now working with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural

Affairs, fishers and other stakeholders to co-produce the government's definition of 'low-impact'.

Our Centre for Coastal Economies draws in expertise from across NEF to give coastal towns a coordinated and powerful voice in policy and provide specialist economic regeneration support. Over the past two years, for example, NEF has shown the benefits of good water quality and its effect on the value of the small-scale fishing fleets in Poole and Weymouth, ensuring that they feature in local economic planning.

NEF research on kelp forest restoration provided evidence to make the case for protecting it from damaging forms of fishing. Pushing a Green New Deal for nature, which connects terrestrial, coastal and marine restoration to help limit the negative effects of climate change and provide natural solutions to the climate crisis is NEF's focus at the moment.

*We'd like to thank the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch, the John Ellerman Foundation, the Waterloo Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts for their generous support of the Blue New Deal and Centre for Coastal Economies, as well as our work on post-Brexit fisheries.*

# 3. THE DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

**T**oo often the economy can look like a stitch up between large, distant institutions and large, distant corporations.

It looks like this because frequently it is. Free market ideology has been combined with our highly centralised state to create an economy with huge regional imbalances that does not work for huge swathes of the population. The new data economy is creating new inequalities, with economists, politicians and regulators failing to adapt to its different realities. And just as citizens have been left out of the decisions that shape the places they live, they have also been voiceless in the places where they work. Authoritarian populists are exploiting these failings to create division and undermine the institutions and conventions of our democracy.

We must devolve power to the places where people live – including new city and regional authorities – and create the tools and mechanisms for power to be responsive to their particular needs. We must give workers more of a say, so we all have a stake in what we produce and the places we work. From strengthening unions to worker co-operatives, NEF's work is showing how we can devolve economic power and drive up living standards.

## TRANSFORMING LOCAL ECONOMIES

NEF is spearheading innovative approaches to local economic strategies to lock more of the value created into the communities that need it most.

Over time, we have developed deep relationships with local stakeholders in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, local councils and small and medium-sized businesses. We are bringing these sectors together to build a new place-based approach to economic development – turning these places into 'beacons' of a new economy in practice, shifting how a local economy works for the environment and people.

This year NEF has stepped up our work in Grimsby and Plymouth, building on the Power to Change Empowering Places Programme, run with our colleagues at Co-ops UK and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies. In both places we are supporting our partners to draw together the multiple strands of social and economic investment in their town. Through capacity building and new practices we are changing how the councils and their stakeholders work, giving voluntary, community and small businesses an active role in economic decision making.

Alongside our partners, we are helping many other places systemically rethink their approach to local economies. This

includes support to four other Empowering Places areas, 10 locations participating in the DCMS and National Lottery Community Fund Place Based Social Action Programme, and our Centre for Coastal Economies. Meanwhile NEF Consulting is offering strategic support to councils on a range of issues, from responding to the climate emergency, to business support to regenerate local markets and high streets, to developing key economic sectors, such as adult social care. We have also launched new Community Economic Development Training.

The work we have supported over the past few years is already seeing new jobs and community businesses emerge through the ideas and needs of local people. Even more crucially, it is embedding a new model of community-led economic development into local authority operations.

## SCRAPPING HS2 TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE WE NEED

HS2 is a costly example of the poor choices that can be made by an overly centralised government, out of touch with the real needs of regions outside of the capital. Without the tools to listen to and understand people's needs, we end up with a hugely expensive hard hat photo opportunity for politicians that makes our problems worse.

In March this year, we put HS2 back in the spotlight by showing that what economic benefits it does bring will mainly go to London. Our report for Friends of the Earth argued that the £56 billion budget (at the time) should instead be put into a National Rail Investment Fund to make improvements that would support regional economies while getting more people out

of their cars and onto public transport. Example projects include the reopening of the Trans-Pennine line between Manchester and Sheffield, building bridges to take slower, local lines over intercity tracks, and a huge expansion of electrification. Our recommendations have been welcomed by Conservative MPs in favour of scrapping the scheme and taken up by Green co-leader Jonathan Bartley in his party's vocal opposition to the project.

## BUILDING A NEW COOPERATIVE NURSERY

Aysan Alba's son Ezekiel was five months old when she attended an open day about parent-led childcare near her home in Deptford. She remembers the date, because her son had just started sitting, and she was already worrying about going back to her job and leaving him in the care of someone else.

NEF has been building a network of parent-led nurseries in London, inspired by a nursery called Grasshoppers in Hackney. Alba met NEF staff at an open day and has since been working with a group of local parents to bring an empty building on Deptford's Vanguard Estate back to use as a nursery in their local area. The group started small, with stay and play sessions, community meals and other gatherings where the parents got to know one another and to discuss what a good nursery would look like to them. In total, NEF has run over 40 play sessions and workshops and supported 25 people to get new qualifications.

Early next year, the Friendly Families Nursery will open. All staff will be paid at least the Real Living Wage. Alba and her fellow parents have the option to volunteer with their children in the nursery, reducing the cost of childcare and enriching the experience for everyone involved.



*We are very grateful to the Greater London Authority Good Growth Fund, the London Family Fund, Trust for London, the Peabody Community Development Fund and all the individuals who supported our Childcare Appeal for getting the nursery off the ground.*

## FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

Regulations are necessary for a functional society. They are how we collectively decide the rules we all play by; to safeguard ourselves, each other and our environment from the harms unfettered institutions and markets inevitably cause. And they create a level playing field for good businesses to thrive, being sure that their competitors aren't cutting corners on quality or safety.

While no one wants to see regulations introduced for their own sake, in a climate emergency new regulations to raise standards and cut emissions are essential.

But civil society has not successfully countered the ideologically-driven agenda which dominates the UK government and, under its influence, the European Commission – that any regulation is a harmful burden to business. So, thanks to the generosity of the Adessium Foundation and the KR Foundation, NEF has been working with partners in the UK, France, Germany and Brussels to build a co-ordinated anti-deregulation story, targeting European Commissioners and domestic elections.

While 'regulation' is unpopular as an abstract concept, the reality of high protections such as food safety has widespread public support. We have used people-based stories and news events to devise messaging for campaigners that frames regulations as positive tools of a 21st century democracy. We have delivered workshops and reports in French and German based on the unique societal and political contexts of these countries. This foundational work will support more effective campaigns in Europe and in the UK.



## ORGANISING AGAINST AIR POLLUTION

This year residents of Basingstoke in Hampshire asked for NEF's help to clean up their dirty air. After being named in a High Court judgement as an authority required to reduce air pollution, the council dithered and delayed, eventually producing an entirely lacklustre response.

With support from NEF's organisers, locals formed the Basingstoke Clean Air Campaign and put air pollution on the agenda, securing prominent local media coverage and holding large public meetings. With NEF's help to build their people power, members were able to demonstrate to the council that there was widespread demand for the problem to be tackled. The alternatives put to the council – including changes to the town's transport, housing and education structures – came directly from local people.

The group went on to hold meetings with council officials to demand and secure a better air pollution strategy, and was instrumental in the council declaring a climate emergency. They are now keeping up the pressure on them to follow through with meaningful action. This was achieved thanks to the generosity of the Pickwell Foundation and NEF supporters.

With more and more declaring climate emergencies, NEF Consulting are providing councils with support in how to respond with impactful and inclusive action.

## DEMOCRATISING THE DATA ECONOMY

A new economy is emerging, powered by a new type of fuel: data. Power is derived from its ownership and control, worsening existing power imbalances and creating

new problems of accountability.

But it would be wrong to simply draw dystopian conclusions about the future. Technology does not determine social change. This doesn't have to be the Wild West with companies like Cambridge Analytica running amok, profiting from non-consensual sharing of our data. However if we are to realise a positive vision of the future, the public and policy makers need to improve their understanding of its implications and potential.

NEF's digital economy team are at the forefront of emerging thinking on how we can harness the power of data for the benefit of the many, while overcoming the monopolies and power imbalances that threaten to divide us. They are working with leading academics, thinkers and people inside and outside the tech industry to build evidence for informed policy responses to the new challenges.

Data should be treated as a public good. It's real value is not monetary but social. We therefore must not simply view it through the lens of the wider economy and traditional policy responses such as consumer choice and greater liberalisation of data. Instead we must build a data commons that is controlled by users, not corporations or the state.

Over the past year, thanks to grants from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, we have published a series of influential papers that start to address how policy makers can harness the power of data for the common good, with ideas including an independent, user controlled National Data Store and a Digital Passport system.

## OUR NEW WEB PROJECT: CHANGE THE RULES



In November NEF launched Change the Rules, a new website that maps inspiring local, community and workplace initiatives to build a more democratic and sustainable economy, and showcases the policies to make it happen.

We have so far mapped more than 50 initiatives across the UK – from co-operative energy to community banks to companies implementing a four-day week – and will be adding more each week. They include:

- **The Marine Dream Hub in St Ives** – a coastal hub bringing together marginalised communities to make the most of their marine environment and boost their local economy.
- **The Isle of Eigg in the Hebrides** – a community-owned island that has been labelled Britain's most eco-friendly.
- **Simply Business in Northampton** – an insurance company where 250 staff are taking part in the UK's largest

four-day working week trial.

- **Granby 4 Streets in Liverpool** – a determined group of residents that saved their streets by taking them over.

As well as celebrating these initiatives, Change the Rules showcases the policies that will nurture them. And because the threats we face need urgent national and international action, we set out the policies to scale up these local alternatives and embed their principles at the highest level. Alongside policies from NEF we feature those of other organisations such as our supporting partners Common Wealth and We Own It.

We live in anxious times. And yet, across the UK, there are seeds of hope, as some communities develop local economic models that share prosperity and protect the planet. These alternatives, springing up from below, show us a different future. We hope Change the Rules will become a key resource for everyone in the new economy.

[letschangetherules.org](https://letschangetherules.org)

# TIMELINE

## January

Our award-winning **Weekly Economics Podcast** returned for its fifth year. Over the year we featured Maya Goodfellow, Grace Blakeley, Gary Younge and Safiya Umoja Nobel, recorded two episodes in front of live audiences, and reached more than 1.25 million listens.



## February

Our **headline grabbing analysis** revealed that austerity since 2010 had made every UK household £300 a month worse off.



A busy month for NEF's Fisheries team as we published **Low Impact Fisheries Guidance** and the latest *Landing the Blame*, naming and shaming the EU member states setting fishing quotas above scientific advice.

We organised an **event in parliament on social licensing** and taking back control of the everyday economy. Speakers included Rachel Reeves MP and Debbie Green, CEO of Coastal Housing and Welsh Ministerial Advisor.

## March

Our **proposal for a £48 Weekly National Allowance**, lifting 200,000 families out of poverty, made a splash in the news with coverage in the Guardian and the Independent.

We put out **analysis showing average weekly hours in the UK fell faster between 1946 and 1979 than post-1980** with supportive quotes from Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP and Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party.

Our **report on HS2** and the alternatives had a big media impact with coverage in the Guardian, the Times and the Daily Express. In The Guardian, Lynsey Hanley wrote that the report "comprehensively exposed the HS2 project as a London-boosting white elephant".



We kicked off a new programme working with unions and businesses to achieve a **shorter working week** with a discussion with Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP.

## April

We published the final paper of a series on the digital economy. **Protection before profit** sets out six principles to guide the transition to a data economy that puts protection of people above the interests of private companies or government surveillance.

We ran a **discussion on a just transition to a green jobs revolution** with speeches from Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Caroline Lucas MP and more.

## May

NEF CEO **Miatta Fahnbulleh** was on **BBC Question Time** to debate HS2, the future of British Steel, the European elections and more.



NEF Consulting worked with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to measure the environmental, social and economic benefits of **different approaches to land stewardship**.

Our **modelling** showing the poorest 50% of households could see 13% boost in income by 2030 **with a four-day week and higher minimum wage** was covered in the Mirror.

We had a busy month of events, including

a **workshop on organising around time in the workplace** with the TUC and a **discussion with Guy Shrubsole about his book *Who Owns England?: How We Lost Our Green and Pleasant Land, and How to Take It Back***.

## June

Our report **No Homes for Nurses** taking a fresh look at how NHS land is being sold off to build unaffordable homes picked up coverage in the Mirror and the Express.



NEF research showing that **more than five million British workers are struggling to make ends meet in low-paid, insecure work** was used by the Living Wage Foundation to launch the **Living Hours Pledge**. Companies signing up guarantee at least 16 hours a week for their workers.

Vince Cable delivered a keynote speech at our **business and the environment event** in parliament.



## July

Our **End the Debt Trap** report uncovered that almost half of the poorest households are forced into using credit cards to pay for food or other living costs.



Working with the City of London Corporation, NEF facilitated a series of roundtables with major firms, banks, lawyers, and market regulators to talk through different options for the **Inclusive Ownership Fund** policy first proposed by NEF in 2018.

We worked with the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan on a report recommending six steps towards a system of rent control in London. It picked up coverage in the Guardian, the Mirror, iNews and elsewhere.



Our report *Changing the Fiscal Rules* called on the Treasury to take the risks of the climate emergency more seriously and develop a new set of targets for government debt and borrowing.

## August

NEF joined the **Patients not Passports campaign**, which aims to end immigration checks in the NHS.

A NEF report calling for workers to have more public holidays and higher wages as a way of **tackling the productivity puzzle** was covered in the Guardian, Independent, Left Foot Forward, Employee Benefits and Personnel Today.

**Lord Bob Kerslake**, former head of the civil service and crossbench peer, joined NEF as chair of trustees.

## September

We had a really **busy conference season**, with three events at **Labour party conference**: one on the Green New Deal, one on self-employment with IPSE and a rally for the new economy with speeches from John McDonnell MP and Ed Miliband MP and more.



Director of Policy and Advocacy Andrew Pendleton appeared on panel at a **Conservative party conference event** '2050? The pathway to net-zero carbon emissions'. Environment Programme Manager Fernanda Balata spoke at an event at **Green party conference** on GDP growth and the climate emergency.

We also had three events at **The World Transformed** on childcare, climate breakdown and worker solidarity and the history of capitalism.



NEF's research challenged the government's "austerity is over" narrative, laying bare the **extent of cuts** to come under government spending plans.

We published *Media Capture in UK Fisheries*, a report highlighting how concentrated power has influenced Brexit coverage of the UK fishing industry.

**NEF analysis of the government's mass sell off of public land** showed that just 6% of the houses built on former public land, will be available for social rent.

NEF began working with grass-roots women's organisations, alongside Smallwood Trust and the Women's Budget Group, to shape **an agenda for women's economic wellbeing**.

NEF staff were proud to join the young people **striking for climate action**.

## October

NEF published the first paper in a series outlining options for reforming local government finance. *Councils in Crisis* found that local government will face a funding gap of more than £25bn by 2025.

Our **New Economics Zine** launches, featuring articles from Christine Berry & Joe Guinan, Miatta Fahnbulleh, Ann Pettifor, Frances Ryan and many many more.



**Guardians of the Arches**, an association of independent businesses in railway arches formed with support from NEF and the East End Trades Guild, negotiated terms of a Tenants Charter with the new private arches owner, to help redress the power imbalance between landlord and tenant.

## November

NEF launched the **Change the Rules** website, mapping new economy initiatives across the country and highlighting the policies we need to change.

We published **New rules for the economy**, our manifesto setting out more than 100 actions the next government must take to set us on course for a radically transformed economy.



Proposals in **our report commissioned by the Scottish Parliament** to use the nation's renewable industry and its supply chains to re-energise manufacturing were adopted by the Scottish Green Party.

We had a **sell-out event on land ownership**, with speakers including writer George Monbiot, and Toby Lloyd, former senior advisor to the May government.

## December

We set out options for reforming the business rates retention system in a new report, *Rating Retention*.

Building on our plan for a 'Weekly National Allowance', **NEF outlined proposals** to integrate a new, unconditional weekly payment with Universal Credit to **transform social security**.

Our report *Building the Social Homes we Need* explored some of the issues that must be overcome to build the next generation of social homes and the solutions.



# FUNDING AND TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is fundamental to democracy. Organisations trying to influence policy should be open about where their money comes from. NEF publishes the names and amounts of everyone that gives over £5,000 and every report we write says who funded it, giving us the highest transparency ratings from Transpirify and Who Funds You? The next time you see one of us on TV or hear us on the radio, you can be certain that we are not pushing a hidden agenda.

NEF is proud to be independent of political parties and special interests, giving us the

ability to truly stand up for people and planet. We are only able to do so thanks to the broad cross section of individuals and organisations that support our work.

We are delighted to thank our major funders, listed below, who supported NEF in our 2018/19 financial year.

**We are also very grateful to all of you, too numerous to name, who give generously each month or have donated to one of our appeals. Together we can change the rules of the economy.**



Fossetts for the People social housing campaigners bring a rousing close to NEF's Change The Rules event in October.

## OUR MAJOR FUNDERS

Adessium Foundation	£69,369
Barrow Cadbury Trust	£62,569
Big Lottery Fund Wales	£15,735
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch	£52,145
CWU	£15,000
The Dunhill Medical Trust	£19,539
Economic and Social Research Council	£11,504
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	£13,825
European Climate Foundation	£115,124
Friends of the Earth	£43,000
Friends Provident Foundation	£97,340
The Greater London Authority	£116,211
Ronald Higgins	£500,000
John Ellerman Foundation	£15,932
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	£37,877
KR Foundation	£107,523
Living Wage Foundation	£27,700
Local Trust	£11,375
Everyone at Lots Road Auctions	£20,000
The Nationwide Foundation	£95,648
Oak Foundation	£337,647
Open Society Foundations	£33,200
Partners for a New Economy	£38,179
The Pew Charitable Trusts	£80,528
People's Health Trust	£330,106
Power to Change	£40,652
R H Southern Trust	£18,225
Robbins Family Charitable Fund	£8,000
The Tudor Trust	£21,070
Trades Union Congress	£31,000
Trust for London	£59,177
UNISON	£10,000
The Waterloo Foundation	£29,048

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