

GreenWorkplaces News



TUC Climate Change Conference ● TUC Congress 2010 - fringe meetings: Cut Carbon not jobs! ● 1 Million Green Jobs! ● TUC & green groups lobby to save green tariff and jobs ●

September 2010

Register now!



TUC Climate Change conference, Congress House, London, on Monday 11 October 2010

This year's TUC conference, *Alliances for Green Growth*, is held at a crucial period in climate change policymaking. The Government's "austerity" packages have already had a serious impact on a wide range of green projects - see TUC blogs at:

<http://www.touchstoneblog.org.uk/>

Chris Huhne MP, the coalition's Environment Secretary, has agreed to make an opening keynote speech. The conference includes an expert panel with Fanny Armstrong; Paul Noon, General Secretary of Prospect and TUC General Council lead on climate change; Mick Leahy, GS of Community trade union, the lead union in steelmaking; Jeremy Nicholson, Director of the Energy intensive industries users group; and Joan Walley MP, Chair, Environmental Audit Committee. The panel is followed by a closing contribution from Caroline Lucas MP.

This year's conference necessarily links sustaining the drive for a low carbon economy with pathways out of recession, and both strands mean getting the policy framework right and securing the support of key stakeholders. *Alliances for a Green Growth* will highlight the respective roles of government, business, trade unions, green and development ngos, community and finance organisations in accelerating the transition to a low carbon future. Inevitably, in the run up to Cancun, the event will include a strong international flavour.

In terms of overall arrangements for the day, Chris Huhne will open, followed by a TUC response from Frances O'Grady. This is followed by a science and industry update from David Kennedy, CEO of the Ctee on Climate Change. Eight workshops will then tackle a range of key themes including Green Investment, green skills, transport, energy market reforms, energy intensive industries, Cancun, the coalition's plans for the Green Deal, etc. They are followed by the panel itself and the closing speeches.

To register: www.tuc.org.uk/greenrecovery

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Cutting Carbon not Jobs! TUC Congress 2010

**Fringe meeting, Manchester, Tuesday
September 14, from 12.30 pm to 2pm
Room 4**

Our joint TUSDAC/Climate Solidarity Project fringe meeting marks the launch of the TUC's national network of green workplace projects, backed by the publication of a new TUC negotiators' guide: *Greener Deals - Negotiating on Environmental Issues at Work*.

In solidarity with the many unions that have well established green workplace projects, the national network aims to build on the progress made by the TUC's GreenWorkplaces Project and the Climate Solidarity Project. The aim is to reach a critical mass of green initiatives that can have a national impact on sustainable workplaces. In the current economic climate, unions are under pressure to focus on saving jobs and fighting cuts. With the change of government, the debate around the future of the UK's low carbon economy has never been more critical.

How we green our workplaces, boost green skills, create new green jobs and encourage green investment are major challenges for trade unions and their members. This fringe will debate how we can mainstream sustainability into union agendas, build a green skills base that can adapt to a new economic and social environment, and build a greater role for low carbon industries and different ways of living and working. Be there!

Chair: Nigel Costley, Regional Secretary, South West TUC. With Paul Noon, Prospect General Secretary/TUC General Council and TUSDAC Co-Chair; with Tim Baster, Director, Climate Solidarity; Sarah Pearce, TUC Greenworkplaces Project Leader; and Clara Paillard, PCS Branch Secretary, National Museums Liverpool.

TUC Congress 2010 - 1 Million Green Jobs!

**Fringe meeting, Manchester, Wednesday
15 September, from 12.30 pm to 2pm
The Marquee (just outside conference
centre)**

Last year, the Campaign against Climate Change trade union group - working with unions, academics and climate activists - produced a pamphlet *One Million Climate Jobs NOW!* This set out how why the government must create one million climate jobs - in renewable energy, refitting buildings, public transport, industry and education - and how this can be done. An updated version of the pamphlet, which has sold thousands of copies around the world, will be launched at an event in the House of Commons in October. This meeting will update on the campaign for one million jobs and how unions can get involved and why they should.

Chair Martin Empson, CaCC. With Chris Baugh, PCS Assistant General Secretary; Manuel Cortes, TSSA Assistant General Secretary; and Sean McDonagh, former Vestas worker.

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TUC & green groups lobby to save green tariff and jobs

The TUC was among the “coalition” of 22 green groups, green manufacturers and countryside bodies co-signing a letter warning Chris Huhne against cutting subsidies for green electricity and heating as part of the government’s spending review. Their letter said the new air of uncertainty over government support, prompted by remarks from his Energy Minister, Charles Hendry, will jeopardise job creation, energy security and CO2 targets.

- One signer was Dave Sowden, CEO of Micropower Council, who tweeted recently, “Greenest Government Ever? Not for the UK microgeneration industry. Jobs lost, investors spooked. End of term report.”
- Another was Sharp Energy Solutions Europe. In July the company announced a “substantial” number of jobs will be created following a £30m expansion of its Wrexham factory. The firm plans to double production of solar cell modules at Llay, where 750 work, and it is hoped a new production line will be in place by December. But which Minister should they listen to?

The letter was sparked off by a *Telegraph* interview with Charles Hendry (Minister with the energy to bat for Britain, 23 August) suggested that funding “may be slashed” for feed-in tariff technologies such as solar power and the forthcoming renewable heat incentive. Heat is responsible for 47% of UK emissions and 49% of UK energy demand. “No Government serious about climate change or energy

security can ignore half the problem,” the coalition of letter writers said.

But this isn’t quite the impression that Energy Minister Greg Barker was anxious to create in his *Times* article on 1st September 2010: “The government also has a clear role to play to help create the right conditions which will allow these emerging industries that hold the promise of renewed growth and jobs to thrive and prosper....The ‘green economy’ is not just about the ability to produce clean energy, it’s also about growing the market for products that consume less energy...”

Ed Miliband weighed in behind the green lobby, arguing that, “Clean energy cashback is a great way for people to generate their own electricity and contribute to tackling climate change. We introduced these schemes to make sure we rewarded home owners and communities who generate their own clean electricity because we want everyone to be able to play a part in the clean energy transition.”

See also: <http://www.touchstoneblog.org.uk/>

Events

Free training - take the Trade Unions and the Environment Course

Three day accredited courses for union members available at the following locations:

September 9 - Bridgend

September 23 - Swindon

November 3 - Swindon

November 4 - Cardiff



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November 10 - Taunton

December 3 - London

For more information visit:

www.unionlearn.org.uk/courses/index.cfm/sb/14/

To find out more about the TUC GreenWorkplaces Project or to join the TUC's Green Reps Network contact the project leader Sarah Pearce at spearce@tuc.org.uk or tel: 020 7467 1230