

Save Eurostar campaign

RMT is calling on the Secretary of State for Transport to urgently agree assistance for Eurostar, which, like other transport operators, has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak, but which has not yet received any support from the UK Government.

Please sign and share our petition:

<https://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/save-eurostar>

Like other rail companies and transport operators, the Eurostar has been significantly impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, with passenger numbers and revenue a fraction of pre-Covid levels.

The Eurostar provides a vital, low carbon, link between the UK and mainland Europe, and will be essential to the UK's green economic recovery from Covid-19. Eurostar is a UK-registered company with its head office in London and the company supports over 3000 UK jobs. It would be disastrous, economically and environmentally, if the service were not protected.

Eurostar is part owned by the French state owned operator SNCF, and it has received over £200m in support from shareholders during the pandemic. However, given that it



is likely to be some time before passenger numbers return to pre-Covid levels, it needs further assistance to ensure it can survive during the pandemic.

Unlike other transport operators, including airlines, Eurostar has not yet received any Covid-19 state support from the UK Government.

RMT is calling on the UK Government to urgently agree to work with Eurostar and engage in coordinated action to protect the collapse of this vital transport link and ensure that thousands of jobs are protected.

General Secretary Mick Cash said;

"As the main Eurostar union RMT supports the calls today to save this vital environmentally sound link between the UK and our neighbours in Europe.

"The UK and French governments must work with the private stakeholders to put together a financial package that provides the bridge to survival for this service which supports 3,000 UK jobs and keeps our economies and communities connected."

STOP THE EDMONTON INCINERATOR NOW

MARCH TO THE INCINERATOR

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

MEET EDMONTON GREEN STATION 1PM

WEAR A BLACK MASK



**extinction
rebellion**



**STOP
THE
BURN**



Our campaign is focussed on raising awareness in the local community who live next to the incinerator. We have designed INFORMATION LEAFLETS & POSTERS which we aim to deliver to 10 thousand local residents as soon as possible, so would really appreciate any help you can give us towards the cost of their printing.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rtjhym-help-prevent-the-disastrous-edmonton-incinerator>

THE POLICE CRIME SENTENCING AND COURTS BILL 2021

a view from our friends at *Extinction Rebellion*



The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill is wide ranging in content and its intentions are controversial. It gives the police increased powers to stop and search which will impact disproportionately on black youth. It increases the sentencing guidelines for assaults on emergency workers and in doing so, takes no account of mental health issues or the experiences of women subjected to domestic violence. The provisions in the Bill restricting the rights of travellers have been labelled racist and draconian. This article, however, concentrates specifically on the impact of the provisions of the Bill on the right to protest.

Police Power

The detail of the specific provisions relating to protest are contained in clauses 55 to 60 of the PCSC Bill. They propose increasing the powers of the police to place conditions on the right to public processions and assemblies but without detailing what those conditions might be. They introduce a new consideration for the police to take into account – the level of noise. This requires the police to determine whether the level of noise is such that it could cause “serious disruption to the activities of an organisation which are carried on in the vicinity of the procession” or such that there may be a relevant or significant “impact” on persons in the vicinity.

Peaceful Protest is Noisy

The very nature of peaceful protest is that it is noisy – whether through chanting, shouting, or Samba / drumming /musical support. Having put into place their own conditions on the protest assembly or procession, the police may immediately arrest protestor(s). While legal challenges to the lawfulness of the arrests and prosecutions may result in acquittals, this is no consolation to the protestor whose rights are abruptly curtailed by arrest.

The current provisions of the Public Order Act allow for defendants to argue lack of

knowledge when prosecuted for violating any conditions imposed by the police on the protest. The PCSC Bill disallows this defence by making it an offence where the person “ought to have known” of the conditions –effectively criminalising protestors who inadvertently commit a breach by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Unrealistic

The police themselves find it difficult to understand how to exercise their current powers. It is unrealistic to assume that officers – often following police guidance and handbooks – will fare any better when their powers are increased as proposed by the PCSC Bill. The police’s use of force during the vigil for Sarah Everard (the woman murdered by a serving police officer in March 2021), the Bristol protests to Kill the Bill, also in March, and the recent Impossible Rebellion protests by Extinction Rebellion in London in August, reinforces the very real concern that to give the police more powers will deter peaceful protestors from exercising their rights. The duty of the police is to support and promote the right to peaceful protest, but recent events give the public no confidence that such rights will be upheld, rather the reverse. This represents a serious erosion of one of the only ways in which citizens can express their dissatisfaction in a democratic society.

Serious Disruption

The Bill gives the Home Secretary the power to make regulations defining what would amount to “serious disruption to the activities of an organisation” or “serious disruption to the life of the community. This political power can be used without scrutiny by Parliament which should never be permitted in a properly functioning democracy.

Union activity such as pickets and protests outside places of work may be im-

continued on next page

THE POLICE CRIME SENTENCING AND COURTS BILL

continued

pacted by these proposed changes. By relying on the “serious disruption to the activities of organisations”, these powers could be used to clamp down on commonplace union activity. The right to picket and protest is a fundamental human right which is safeguarded by the ILO Convention (Article 3), the European Social Charter (Article 6(4)) and the ECHR (Articles 10, 11 and 14).

The right to peaceful protest must be defended in a functioning democracy. Protests are noisy and inconvenient, but are an integral part of the exercise of our rights under articles 10 and 11 ECHR. The PCSC Bill is neither necessary nor proportionate. Given the 80-seat majority in the House of Commons, there is every likelihood that this Bill will be passed into law by the end of this year. Our voices need to be heard loud and clear now before this draconian Bill seeks to silence us.

Nicola Harries Extinction Rebellion

Report from East Anglia

In Norfolk we have now got a list of speakers for the 6 November rally and have printed 5000 leaflets for distribution over the next few weeks at campus freshers events and various other events run by supporting groups. Norwich Trades Council has pledged money to help fund some sort of transport to Glasgow and we are joining forces with Cambridge to plan that. Norfolk Unite Community has donated a contribution towards leaflet costs.

In addition there is now a brand new Suffolk Hub after their launch this Wednesday.

So we're off and running.

Wendy Smith

Climate Jobs Update

Climate Jobs: Building a workforce for the climate emergency will provide a detailed and in-depth update of the Million Climate Jobs report (2014), demonstrating that there are many more than a million good, well paid, skilled jobs that could be created if we get serious and urgently tackle the climate emergency, as the science demands.



But to do this requires us to break from the failed reliance on the market and instead to invest in a huge expansion of public sector jobs across all sectors from transport, energy and food to homes, education and more, which are essential to tackling the climate crisis.

At the heart of this, we argue, needs to be a National Climate Service which can organise, plan, train workers and deliver the jobs so urgently needed. The changes needed are ones which will improve our lives, ensuring among other things we have warm homes, a fully integrated public transport system and most importantly a safe climate and ecology now and in the future.

Two chapters now available to download from <https://www.cacctu.org.uk/climatejobs>

Warm homes, healthy workplaces: climate jobs in buildings

Creating a green, affordable and accessible network for all: climate jobs in transport

Join Norfolk's public forum

A BOLD VISION OF HOPE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

4–5:30pm | 23.10.2021 | Norwich School, NR1 4DD
Also available to watch online after event

4
SPEAKERS
+ CHAIR



FREE
TO ATTEND
OR WATCH
ONLINE

Book your free seat or register to watch online at
norwichsciencefestival.co.uk

This event is part of:



This event is supported by:



The countryside charity
Norfolk



Book a seat or to receive the video via www.hope4abetterworld.co.uk

Newham communities say: Stop the tunnel

Six hundred people marched through Canning Town on Saturday 5 June, calling for the Silvertown Tunnel project to be cancelled.

We followed the Extinction Rebellion samba band over the Canning Town flyover, chanting “hey Mayor, we want clean air” and “Stop the Tunnel now”. There were banners from trade union and community groups, and Labour and Green party branches, and three more drummers bringing up the rear.

Postcards denouncing the £2.2 billion project as a waste of money, and calling for investment in public transport links instead, were handed to passers-by and to residents in the Britannia estate as we marched.

We stopped for a photo outside the site where preparatory construction work for the tunnel is under-way, and held a rally outside the Crystal building at the Royal Docks – which will be the new headquarters of the Greater London Authority, who are responsible for the project.

Rokhsana Fiaz, the mayor of Newham, started the rally, promising to support our campaign to the end – the cancellation of the tunnel project. Destiny Boka Batesa of Choked Up, an organisation of black and brown teenagers campaigning for clean air, was next.

A performance by the Extinction Rebellion Banshees followed. When Niall Mulholland from Newham Trades Union Council spoke, he pointed out that in Irish tradition, wailing banshees warn of hostile forces – which in this case are the property developers, haulage companies and other big businesses who would profit from the tunnel.

The long list of other speakers showed how united the community is behind the demand to stop the tunnel project: Ann Basu of Fossil Free Newham; Ruth Fitzharris of Mums for Lungs; Izzy Hickmet, vice chair of the National Education Union (London Region) and Labour for a Green New Deal; Silvertown resident and anti-tunnel campaigner Robbie Gordon, who passed on a message of support from the local MP, Lyn Brown; Jane Gwynne of the Rail Maritime and Transport Union; Naima of Stand Up to Racism (Newham); and Adetola Onamade of Young People/Global Majority, which is bringing legal action against the UK government over its “complicity in environmental genocide and ecocide” in Africa.

Political support came from Sian Berry, joint leader of the Green party; Zack Polanski, Green party London Assembly member; Newham Labour councillor Suga Thekkeppurayil; Zain Mir, deputy chair of West Ham Constituency Labour Party; and Joshua Williams of the Young Greens. Last but not least, Victoria Rance of the Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition urged everyone to keep campaigning. The tunnel project can be stopped.

Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, whose nine-year-old daughter Ella died in 2013 due to air pollution poisoning at her home near the South Circular road, sent a message of support to the rally, which said: “The Silvertown Tunnel means even more people will be impacted air pollution. The children of Greenwich have suffered enough and deserve a better quality of life. All parents living in the borough must get involved, it affects everyone. Ella’s death tells us we must never create more toxic air, but less. Building roads always means more traffic, and not less. Please continue to fight for the sake of your children’s health.”





Institute of Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability

Analysing economic, social and corporate practices and issues from political, economic, governance and risk perspectives.

The first event in new series on COP26 and climate change organised by the Institute of Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability (PEGFA) at the University of Greenwich.

Is the Silvertown Tunnel, a four-lane road tunnel across the Thames, compatible with London's climate commitments?

Thursday 7th October 2021 17:30-19:30

Room HH103, Hamilton House, University of Greenwich, 15 Park Vista, London SE10 9LZ

This is a "hybrid" event that you can attend in person on the university campus, or online.

Registration via this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cop26-is-the-silvertown-tunnel-compatible-with-londons-climate-agenda-tickets-169953705107> or <https://bit.ly/3knMqqC>

The event is free but sign up is required.

Overview

The Silvertown Tunnel is a proposed four-lane road tunnel across the Thames, London, to be built a few metres east of the Blackwall Tunnel. It has been commissioned by the Greater London Authority from the Riverlinx consortium and is scheduled for completion in 2025. The GLA says that the cost, which it estimates at £1.2 billion but opponents say is £2.2 billion, will be met by road tolling.

Climate and transport researchers have argued that the project is incompatible with London's own climate targets, which require a substantial overall decrease in traffic volumes in the next decade. It will also exacerbate local air pollution problems, and community campaigners and doctors have called for its cancellation for that reason.

The tunnel project raises wider questions about London's transport system and urban planning. Opponents, including the Labour party's own London regional conference, are calling for alternative approaches with more investment in public transport and non-motor modes.

Speakers

Rachel Aldred, Professor of Transport and Director of the Active Travel Academy, University of Westminster

Andrew Boswell, Independent Scientist and Consultant on Climate Emergency Planning and Policy

Simon Pirani, author of *The Silvertown Tunnel is in a hole, so Stop Digging*; Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Ellen Robottom reports from Yorkshire and the Humber

I went on Tuesday to a virtual consultation event run by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission - a body which includes people from industry, local authorities, academics and some people from community climate action and campaign groups, but as far as I can tell, no trade union representation other than the Regional TUC Secretary. The event was on buildings retrofit, and was part of a series of events on different transition topics. I pressed the point that, although the YHCC website and draft proposals make reference to jobs and training, the words "worker" and "trade union" appear nowhere, and that it was vital TU members were included in discussion, both due to their central role in creating the transition, and because of the need to establish concrete mechanisms to ensure that training and redeployment happens and is accessible in practice.

The Unite Environment Conference featured some strong speakers, especially Sean Sweeney of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy. There appeared to be an encouraging level of agreement about the central importance of a mass retrofit programme for the energy transition, though questions from attendees worried about union support for nuclear energy and gas were not really answered. These events have a very top-down feel and that ethos is, I feel, reflected in the approach to member engagement, which is mainly about putting on educational programmes (eg for workplace reps) which, though needed, is not the same as facilitating dialogue in branches and workplaces and building power to demand and develop [plans for a worker-led just transition based on international worker solidarity. However, we now have an opportunity to put forward suitable trade union people to participate in a regional forum termed a "Better Homes Hub" looking at ways to expand retrofit.

Over the COP period, three key TU demands, especially from comrades in Glasgow, will be for free publicly-owned transport (in Scotland; in England the demand is for franchising giving more demo-

cratic control over public transport); mass retrofit programmes; and more investment in renewable energy industries. These are the measures which benefit communities, as well as offering large numbers of good well-paid skilled jobs. And I would add to that the vast opportunity - and indeed necessity if our programme is not to be blocked by supply bottlenecks - for building secondary or supply chain industries (including production of sustainable insulating materials such as growing hemp for hempcrete).

In Leeds some of us are looking to form a working group on local energy plans, involving a community organisation "Our Future Leeds" which has a kind of "critical friend to the council" ethos. This is one of a number of opportunities coming up for Leeds Trades Council to be part of an alliance of community/grass-roots campaign groups pushing for local action - again with homes retrofit as a primary focus (along with stopping airport expansion and a fair publicly-controlled bus service).

From working on the "buildings" and now the "energy" chapters of the CACC TU pamphlet, it has become increasingly clear to me that there are multiple reasons why the transition demands public ownership of energy, and retrofit and installation of local energy generation and storage need to be done as public works. As well as obvious reasons to do with ensuring secure decent and unionised employment for all workers potentially displaced from carbon-intensive industries, that the pathways exist to get sufficient numbers of people trained and working on these very labour intensive programmes, and to prevent public resources being drained into private pockets, there are compelling technical reasons. In fact, if we don't eliminate the market and the competition between different energy sectors from the energy system, if we don't approach retrofit and domestic energy generation and storage as public works and as an integral part of an integrated energy system, we will not be able to build the necessary energy mix, storage solutions or grid management capability that is needed to make this physically work. That is the message we need to get through.

Climate Learning Month teaching materials launched

The NEU along with others have today launched a set of climate and sustainability teaching resources to support Climate Learning Month taking place from October 2021 in the run-up to COP 26.

The University and College Union (UCU), National Education Union (NEU), Education Institute of Scotland (EIS), National Union of Students (NUS), Teach the Future and SOS-UK today (Thursday) launched a set of downloadable climate and sustainability teaching resources for schools, colleges and universities to support our joint Climate Learning Month initiative taking place from October 2021 in the run-up to COP 26 in November.

<https://climatelearningresources.org.uk/category/all-ideas/>

The aim of Climate Learning Month is to support educators in all sectors to integrate activities and themes around the climate and ecological crisis into school, college and university campus activities. We hope the learning materials and CPD courses will inspire both educators and young people to bring about the changes needed for a more sustainable future and that the momentum from this initiative will continue beyond COP26 and encourage governments to do more.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said: ‘Education can empower students to make a difference to the world, and that is no different in the context of climate change. However, up to now the UK Government has failed to invest in young people’s climate education. That’s why UCU, alongside other education unions and campaign groups, have created these teaching resources so educators working in our schools, colleges and universities can teach students about the urgency of this crisis and how best to tackle it. A more sustainable future requires investing in the young people who will help to build it.’

NEU joint general secretary Kevin Courtney said: ‘The UK Government must commit to properly resourcing climate change education, as well as all the other changes that are needed to help deliver Net Zero and do so as a matter of priority. It is vital that every student leaves education climate-literate, equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle climate change, adapt to uncertainties, and take part in building a more sustainable future. For this to happen, teachers and support staff require training and support to provide quality climate change education.’

EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan said: ‘Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing the world today, and it is through our young people that we can overcome that challenge. Young people across the globe have already shown great leadership in facing up to climate change, and we must do all that we can to support them. With COP26 coming up in Glasgow, now is a particularly opportune moment to launch these new resources to aid teachers and lecturers in delivering high quality climate change education for young people in our schools, colleges and universities.’

NUS-USI president Ellen Fearon said: ‘Education at its core has the power to change our world, and we’ve never been more in need of systemic and radical changes in our society than in the face of a global climate crisis. It’s essential that students are being equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle the climate crisis and protect our futures. The UK government must urgently commit to funding and resourcing lifelong climate education across all subject areas, from early years to workplace learning.’

Young people are understandably extremely concerned about the climate crisis. In this context, the refusal of the DfE to consider reviewing the curriculum in England, to make it more relevant to current challenges is deeply frustrating. Educators have a key role to play in teaching about the scale and urgency of the climate crisis and the measures needed to address it. To this end, all governments within the UK must properly resource climate change education and do so as a matter of priority.

A Green New Deal for Gatwick

A joint report by PCS, Greenhouse and Green New Deal UK on the urgent need for jobs investment in the Gatwick diamond in response to COVID-19.



This report considers the crisis in employment at Gatwick airport and in the surrounding areas as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It challenges a troubling perception - that 'there is no work'. We examine the latent skills potential held by former aviation workers and propose a constructive, positive investment in quality, secure jobs - jobs that meet the present and future needs of communities and the environment.

This is just the outline of a proposal and an indication of the scale of opportunity and feasibility, to prompt discussion around Gatwick's future and the need for a new way forward - with workers and the community in the driving seat. Building on a similar consultation undertaken by Platform, engaging North Sea Oil Workers about the prospect for a Just Transition from oil to renewable energy jobs, we envisage a process that enables airport workers to draft policy demands for a transition that works for them, and identify which of the jobs created by a Green New Deal they want to work in. We now welcome the opportunity to work with local stakeholders to take this plan further, and see a Green New Deal for Gatwick become a reality.

- Perceptions that 'there is no work' are grossly misleading. There is a huge amount of work to be done.
- From insulating homes to installing green energy, restoring nature to caring for children and the elderly, expanding public transport and a circular economy, there are a plethora of tasks in decarbonisation and transitioning to a safer, more secure and more prosperous society.
- We find that 16,000 of these green jobs could be directly created across the 'Gatwick Diamond' region of seven local councils in East Surrey and West Sussex, many within the next two years. Many thousands more would be created in the supply chains and local economies needed to sustain them.
- We also find that many of the skills held by different types of aviation workers - from pilots, cabin crew, engineers and baggage handlers, to those in IT, retail, logistics and operations - are highly transferable to many of the green jobs that the Gatwick region is crying out for.
- The annual public cost of this level of employment would be between £287 million and £532 million, depending on the extent to which wages are borne by the Government. While significantly more than the one-off stimulus figures delivered locally so far through the Towns Fund (£25 million) and the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (£19 million), this indicative cost would be well under half, and as little as a quarter, of Gatwick's share of the annual tax break granted to UK aviation (£1,250 million in 2019).
- The sum is comparable to Gatwick's share of the 12-month Air Passenger Duty (APD) suspension called for by Airlines UK, even though it would create twice the jobs in Gatwick as the latter is projected to create (8,000) across the entire UK.
- And yet this investment would carry a stream of co-benefits including warmer, more energy efficient homes, better quality care services, an improved local environment and stronger local economies.

Read the full report here -

<https://www.greennewdealuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/A-Green-New-Deal-for-Gatwick.pdf>

WALTHAM FOREST COP26 COALITION

CAMPAIGNERS DEMAND CLIMATE ACTION NOW FOLLOWING DAMNING IPCC REPORT

Campaigners in Waltham Forest are calling for rapid action by the UK and other governments around the world following the recent publication of the damning IPCC report which says climate change is real, it is happening now, it is caused by human activity and we need to act now to prevent the worst effects on all human and all other life.

The IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body, has never been clearer, or starker, on the need for action on climate change. Their report smashes the years of climate denial from industry and governments. The IPCC says our reliance on carbon based fuels, coal, gas, petrol etc. has led to the creation of greenhouse gases which in turn are responsible for the climate change we are experiencing and which is expected to get more extreme. They also say that taking preventative action now is probably our last chance to stop catastrophic climate change.

The report was swiftly followed by another from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) that says despite the UK's successes in areas such as wind powered electricity generation the government spending is falling well short of what is needed to ensure we get away from pollutants and change to clean renewable energy whilst still spending billions on projects that will increase emissions.

Both reports are timely as the world's leaders will gather in Glasgow in November at the COP26 to discuss the progress made on previous agreements such as that in Paris in 2015 and the IPCC report which says much more needs to be done.

Sam Mason of Waltham Forest COP26 Coalition said:

"This is about collective action, not individuals doing their bit. That is important but the change we need is a fundamental shift in how we travel, produce goods and food, construct our buildings, produce our energy, and this is where governments need to step up. It's also about jobs and ensuring workers are protected in transition along with our public services."

Waltham Forest COP26 coalition consists of local trade unionists and campaigners, Waltham Forest Trades Council, WF climate emergency campaign. We support those who call for positive action on climate change, including Fridays For The Future and Extinction Rebellion. We also call for a just transition to a cleaner and healthier future where those affected, workers and communities, suffer no loss in that change.

For more information contact:

Sam Mason 07847 209724

WFCOP26Coalition@protonmail.com

Support the climate strike in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest COP26 Coalition has organised a public event on 24 September, 4pm, at the town square (top of Walthamstow market) in support of the schools' climate strike – all are welcome.

We are joining in with the schools' climate strike with this event and are calling for all concerned locals, to join in.

