

The TUC is organising a national one-day conference on 16 June 2008, to demonstrate the scale and ambition of trade union engagement in the challenge of climate change, nationally and in support of a new UN treaty.



TUC Climate Change Conference

Trade Unions & Climate Change - *A Just Transition*

A national one-day conference and debate on trade unions and climate change, with Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, a Green Academy of six themed workshops, and a plenary debate with an expert panel.

This conference explores the necessity for a 'Just Transition' in the rapid shift to a low-carbon society. Trade unions have a leading role to play in this transition:

- Because of their responsibility towards the workers they represent.
- To ensure that it is not they who bear the brunt of environmentally-driven policies.
- In the workplace, by engaging workers and employers in building sustainable workplaces.
- Through the promotion of social justice beyond the workplace and tackling inequality on the national and international stage.

At the conference, the TUC will publish *A Just Transition: Trade unions and climate change*, a groundbreaking report calling for a green and decent jobs strategy that involves trade unions, social protection measures and skills and training initiatives.

International negotiations on a future post-2012 Kyoto climate change treaty have reached a critical stage. The conference will hear from Secretary of State Hilary Benn MP on how the UK is meeting its national and global obligations, and discuss the ITUC's priorities for the new treaty.

Chaired by Paul Noon, General Secretary of Prospect and TUC General Council lead on the environment, the conference will be a major opportunity for delegates to challenge and contribute to the debate on unions and climate change.

Keynote speakers:

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

Frances O'Grady
TUC Deputy General Secretary

**Monday 16th June 2008, 9am - 4.30pm,
Congress House**

TUC Climate Change Conference



Programme

A Just Transition-Trade Unions and Climate Change

9.30 Paul Noon — Chair's introduction
 9.40 Frances O'Grady, TUC Deputy General Secretary –
 Keynote address: A Just Transition - the key challenges.
 10.20 Hillary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment –
 Britain: honouring global commitments on climate change
 Q&A
 11.05 **Coffee break**
 11.20 **THE GREEN ACADEMY**
Workshops: Sessions 1
A Just Transition. Presentations and debate on what a *just transition* to a low carbon economy might look like from the point of view of trade unions and the workers we represent. Convenor: Sue Ferns, Prospect's Head of Research/TUC General Council member. With Adam Lent, TUC Head of Economic & Social Affairs on the TUC's new report; and Sean Sweeney: Director, Cornell Labor Institute, co-author, *Green & Decent Jobs*, the ILO/UNEP/ITUC study.
Think Global – for a new trade union internationalism. "Securing a new post-2012 Kyoto Treaty is the most important challenge the world community faces" (ITUC report to the UN, 2007). Briefings from the International Trade Union Confederation on union calls for radical action, North and South, on employment and social issues. Convenor: Chris Baugh, Assistant General Secretary, PCS (tbc) with Sophie Dupressoir (tbc), ITUC delegate/ETUC energy and climate change adviser; and Rob Sneddon, head of environment, Community/ITUC delegate.
Act local - green your workplace: Master class on trade union green workplace projects. Plus expert briefing on the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment, mandatory for all large service sector employers from 2010 - public and private. Convenor: Penny Morley, UNITE, chair TUSDAC working group. With Caroline Molloy and Sarah Pearce, TUC GreenWorkplace Project Leaders; DEFRA Carbon Reduction Commitment team; and panel of union Green Reps from Corus, DEFRA, British Museum and elsewhere.

11.20 (continued)
On the frontline. Developing countries are on the climate change "frontline" - facing high impacts - drought, desertification, coastal flooding - but with low capacity to adapt. An NGO/ union debate on development and climate change, poverty reduction, financing adaptation, building global solidarity. Convenor: Dave Spooner, UNITE, with Anabella Roseberg, ITUC Secretariat; and Andrew Simms, chair, NGOs *Up in Smoke* group.
The green transport debate. CO2 emissions from transport are rising rapidly. The DfT is now consulting on a sustainable transport strategy. Presentations and debate: What is the right balance between jobs and the environment? And between road, rail and air travel? Convenor: tbc, with Roger Sealey on UNITE's report, *Aviation and the environment*; and Sean Geoghegan, Policy Officer, RMT.
Floods, storms and drought - is the UK ready for climate change? Recent extreme weather events in the UK show the challenge our public services *and* workplaces face in adapting to climate change. Expert briefings and debate on adaptation and bargaining strategies emerging from the TUC and DEFRA. Convenor: David Arnold, Policy Officer, UNISON (tbc), with Matt Wrack, General Secretary, FBU and Clare Hawley Joint Deputy Director, Adapting to Climate Change, Defra.
 12.30
 13.20
 14.30
Lunch Break
 Workshops: Session 2
Plenary session and debate with the Green Panel: What makes for a Just Transition?
 Green Panel representatives from:
Industry - a green industrial strategy
TUC General Council - green jobs and skills
Green NGO - climate change and development
ITUC – a new Kyoto Treaty
 15.45
 16.15 *Closing contribution:* Towards a new JT strategy – The way

Registration Form

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

First Name

Surname.....

Job Title

Union/Organisation.....

Address.....

.....

PostcodeEmail

Telephone (inc STD code).....

Access / Dietary / Special requirements

Please return your completed form to:
 Emma Richards,
 Trades Union Congress,
 Congress House,
 Economic and Social Affairs Department,
 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. Alternatively email erichards@tuc.org.uk
 This is a free conference which includes buffet lunch.

Closing date for registration 11th June although places are strictly on a first come, first served basis.