

# COP26 Trade Union Model Motion

**This trade union branch notes that:**

1. The climate emergency is here and now, exacerbating extreme weather events across the globe including heat waves, wildfires, floods and hurricanes. People are already suffering and dying around the world as a result.
2. The IPCC 2018 report has warned of the further dire consequences of exceeding 1.5°C global average warming and that a societal transformation would be needed to avoid this, including halving global carbon emissions by 2030. Nevertheless, global emissions have continued to rise.
3. The climate crisis is a social justice issue, with those who have done least to cause the crisis and who are least able to address it facing the worst impacts.
4. The wealthy corporations and industrialised countries who are historically responsible for the climate crisis have a responsibility to take on their fair share of emissions reductions. The UK's target of net zero by 2050 is insufficient to avoid global temperatures rising above 1.5°C and yet the UK government is failing to implement policies to meet even this target.
5. The climate crisis is a trade union issue, with workers facing the twin threats of climate change itself, *and* of being left behind by market and profit driven restructuring of our industries and economy.
6. We also face a crisis of inequality and both the climate crisis and the global Covid-19 pandemic represent an opportunity to invest in good, green jobs and a greener and fairer society. So far however, the global response to this opportunity has been wholly inadequate.
7. In the face of these challenges our trade union movement has long argued for a worker-led "just transition". This is the name given to a climate strategy put forward by the global trade union movement to protect those whose jobs, incomes and livelihoods are at risk because of climate policies.
8. Effective Just Transition policies need a social dialogue process between governments, employers, workers and our unions to develop plans and measures that will build trust and drive effective transformation. It's about workers and our unions having a seat at the table to negotiate our future.
9. The UN COP26 negotiations in Glasgow in November 2021 are crucial for the global response to climate change. UK civil society needs to exert maximum pressure on the British government to show leadership as COP26 host by demanding a fast, fair and worker-led just transition.
10. Our trade unions can and must play a leading role in mobilising and exerting that pressure, as well as building both the workers movement *and* the wider climate justice movement to face the challenges ahead.
11. The COP26 coalition has brought together UK civil society and is organising toward this moment as part of the wider global climate justice movement. The Coalition is organising a global day of action on 6 November, with mass demonstrations taking place in major UK cities and around the world, as well as a hybrid on/offline alternative "People's Summit".
12. The Coalition's "Trade Union Caucus" has brought together union activists from across our movement and has gained the support of the General Secretaries of most of Britain's biggest unions.
13. The Trade Union caucus is mobilising the "We Make Tomorrow" week of trade union and worker action around COP26 under the slogans/hashtags "We Make Tomorrow", "System Change Not Climate Change", "Climate, Jobs & Justice", "Just Transition Now" and "Our Climate, Our Struggle". The week of action will include big, bold and powerful trade union and workers blocs

on the main demonstrations on 6 November, and trade union and workers events during the People's Summit.

14. The Plymouth Hub 4 Climate is the local organisation of the COP26 coalition, organised under the auspices of Plymouth Trades union Council (TUC).

**This union branch resolves:**

1. To campaign alongside allies in civil society for massive public investment in a green recovery and worker-led just transition that tackles the climate and ecological emergency, creates climate jobs and is underpinned by a fair deal for workers both here and in supply chains in the Global South.
2. To add our name to the list of supporting organisations for the "We Make Tomorrow" trade union and workers mobilisation for COP26 by signing up here: <https://www.wemaketomorrow.org/get-involved>
3. To support and affiliate to the Plymouth Hub for Climate organisation, and circulate its regular news of progress and events: <https://plymouthhub4climate.org>
4. To mobilise our members by
  - a. Sharing the mobilisation website and action map with them:  
<https://www.wemaketomorrow.org/>
  - b. Helping to organise the trade union and workers bloc on our nearest demonstration
  - c. Arranging transport for our members to the trade union and workers bloc on our nearest demonstration
5. To encourage our activists to mobilise non-union members in our workplaces and communities as a means to engage them in both the climate justice movement *and* the trade union movement, using the resources found here: <https://www.wemaketomorrow.org/get-involved>
6. To make donations to the COP26 Coalition and/or a local hub thereof.
7. To affiliate to the Campaign against Climate Change: <https://www.campaigncc.org/join>
8. To send this motion to our regional and national organisation.

Proposed: