



# Plymouth City Council will not meet net-zero emissions targets by 2030 on its current form



**With the El Nino already kicking in, the weather's turning warmer – have you got a heatwave plan at work?**

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has produced a video and leaflet to help union reps and activists plan for heatwaves and cold snaps, and take climate action at work. [https://youtu.be/vb9\\_XFxLkgA](https://youtu.be/vb9_XFxLkgA)

Cold and draughty buildings with poor air quality affect our wellbeing and health at work. Running buildings is increasingly expensive due to the cost of living and energy bill crisis, and is the third largest carbon emitting sector globally. Done in the right way, maintenance and retrofit can fix these issues. The **TUC** provides suggestions for trade unionists for why and how to start advocating for building retrofit at work. You can protect workers from extreme heat, save energy and mobilise union members by taking climate action. Read the TUC guide to building retrofit here: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/resource/tuc-guide-building-retrofit-work>

## **Demands should include:**

- a maximum temperature above which people cannot be expected to work, with no loss of pay (or detriment if leaving school or college)
- Airtightness measures; good insulation for walls, roofs and floors; good windows.
- To prevent overheating: outside shading for windows; a secure means of night time passive ventilation; tree / shrub planting.
- Decarbonised heating solutions; ASHP, solar panels to generate electricity and / or hot water, and ventilation with heat recovery.



**CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Trade union group

CACCTU is a leading organisation within the trade union movement focussed upon direct action including strike action to force politicians and corporations to immediately reduce emissions and transform production and social infrastructure to a zero-carbon economy. The Plymouth Climate Council organises workplace activists, elected Green Reps and trade union Environmental Officers to initiate local actions and campaigns to combat climate change. If you would like to help, or join our meetings, phone Tony Staunton: 07858 489264

**Plymouth has been the centre of national news, firstly for the heroic efforts of the STRAW Campaign following the destruction of 120 mature trees by Plymouth City Council, and then the election of a majority Labour Council to end the appalling rule of an in-fighting Conservative minority.**

Plymouth City Centre is a mess, the social infrastructure neglected for years, public transport cut back including the demolition of bus shelters, and public amenities including spaces for shelter from heat and cold almost non-existent.

Plymouth's Climate Emergency Plan contains a number of actions to lower in-house emissions (the contribution to global heating and climate catastrophe) but has only a list of possibilities when it comes to changing the city to a low-carbon economy. And the destruction of the trees offers just one example of how the CE Plan does not translate into real action - reducing the carbon sink and installing more paving moves in the opposite direction from net-zero emissions.



Following the May elections, the question must be asked - to what extent will the Labour Council improve and accelerate the Climate Emergency Plan? We have to pile-on the pressure:



**Mobility:** the Beryl bike scheme is an unaffordable con run by a private, for-profit e-bike hire company charging £9-an-hour to cycle in Plymouth, the company falling over £4million into debt last year. Cycling in Plymouth is dangerous with too few new cycle paths planned, a dangerous reliance on bus/taxi lanes as cycle lanes and and scant thought about designating fast inner-city roads and primary cycle-routes, with no safety features. In these conditions, the mobility hubs and cycle-hire will have zero impact offering negative incentives to move away from private car use. Greater pedestrianisation alongside inner-city bespoke cycle-lanes and a full 20mph zone is essential. More and more councils are taking back their bus services under full Council ownership, essential for low fares and fresh investment.

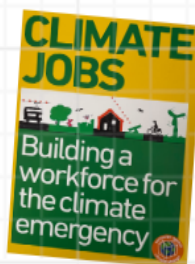


**Green Energy:** the insulation of homes is the best-known single activity that reduces emissions and energy use. It is not enough for the municipal council to simply focus on its internal Corporate buildings for carbon reduction. By-laws can introduce requirements on landlords, private corporations and businesses. Oppose the tax-dodging de-regulated Freeport! At the same time, force the return of council housing from external agencies in order to push-forward home insulation for lower-income households, together with new-build of carbon-neutral affordable homes - marrying the climate emergency with the cost-of-living crisis, must be considered as a matter of urgency.

Will the new Council utilise its cash-reserves and pressurise government to kick-start real change? Not unless we campaign as effectively on the wider climate issues as for the trees and natural environment. We must grow the Movement!

**"Climate Jobs: Building a workforce for the climate emergency"** provides a detailed and in-depth update of the One Million Climate Jobs report, 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. Get it online free or hardcopy £5.

The Campaign against Climate Change is supported by leading trade unions across the UK. In Plymouth we are part of the Plymouth Climate Council and supported by the Plymouth Trades Union Council. We organise for a sustainable future with climate justice, building Solidarity between climate and trade union activists.



**Join the Campaign Against Climate Change!**

[www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org)

find us on Facebook: Plymouth Climate Council  
part of [www.Plymouthhub4climate.org](http://www.Plymouthhub4climate.org)



Campaign Against Climate Change - Trade Union Group



Campaign Against Climate Change

**Plymouth Hub for Climate Justice**



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