

Trade union at the forefront of fighting Climate Change and for Climate Justice

This branch notes

- That two months into 2025, we have already witnessed a number of catastrophic climate disasters in the world, including the Los Angeles wildfires and floods in West Africa, Brazil and Indonesia.
- The floods and change in climate in the UK has put housing, food, electricity, and other essential infrastructure supply for human rights needs at risk.
- The year 2024 was also the [hottest year](#)¹ yet.
- The University of Liverpool's trade unions (UCU, UNISON, Unite) and student (Guild of Students) coalition launched the UK's first [Joint Green New Deal Bargaining Claim](#)².
- The University of Warwick has its own panels on Sustainable Investment Policies and other relevant sustainability policy and impact committees.
- In 2024, the University has [re-freshed the Sustainability Strategy](#)³, including appointing its new director.

This branch believes

- That climate change is a systemic construct from decades of mass exploitation of our natural and human resources including land, forestation, oil, gas, water, and the refusal of investment in welfare and rebuilding our co-habitat.
- That the policy and practices in primary (farming/fishing), secondary (manufacturing/utilities) and service industries, including financial, legal, administrative communications, and IT all have a direct impact on climate change.
- That climate change is an equalities issue that will disproportionately impact people with less mobility, lower income and job security, less access to essential infrastructure and resources, and with more complex caring needs.

1

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/09/climate-crisis-deepens-with-2024-certain-to-be-hottest-year-on-record>

2

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/13211/Case-study-Liverpool-UCU-branch-GND-bargaining-claim/pdf/UoL_GND_bargaining_claim_Sep22.pdf

3

<https://warwick.ac.uk/sustainability/what-we-are-doing/strategy/strategyrefresh/#:~:text=Our%20sustainability%20strategy%2CThe%20Way.education%2C%20research%2C%20and%20operations>

- That the impacts of climate change are a direct health and safety and work conditions concern of workers.
- That the UK Trade Unions have made waves of progress towards bargaining for climate justice, however significant work is needed to [address areas of weaknesses and missed opportunities](#)⁴.
- That the 2024 US election of the Trump administration will not help slow down climate change, or achieve climate justice.
- Although there are many well-intended and helpful attempts at the workplace to contribute to sustainability, the discussions and actions open to staff participation tend to be *depoliticising* rather than politicising, while leaving the root cause, structures and main drive for exacerbating climate change unchallenged.

This branch resolves

- Lobby the University to recognise “environmental and ecological issues” as **an area for collective bargaining in point 5.2**, and **an area for University consultation in point 5.3** in the next *trade union recognition agreement* renewal.
- Lobby the University to recognise “**time off work for trade union Sustainability/Green Reps**” – as it does for Learning Reps in point 6.1, and Health and Safety Representatives in point 7.1– in the upcoming *trade union facilities time agreement* renewal.
- Lobby the University’s new Sustainability team and its directors to consult trade unions on campus on their sustainability strategies, and to work closely with student-staff groups, community groups, and green reps on campus on the University’s Sustainability progress.
- Recruit, train, fund and support the branch Sustainability/Green Rep(s) across the workplace including the Sustainability team, and encourage them to engage with the UNISON Green Network⁵, TUC Just Transition Network⁶, and global grassroots organisations’ learning, training, and organising opportunities.
- Instruct branch Union Learning Reps, Memberships Reps, Officers and Sustainability/Green Reps to organise regular member and activist training on climate change and climate justice, including through events organised by UNISON, [Coventry TUC](#)⁷ and the recently established [Coventry Green Reps Network](#)⁸.
- Encourage branch members and instruct reps to participate in and support Continue to work with campus trade unions, staff student & community groups on sustainable food, and any other relevant climate justice and sustainability campaigns.

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Seconded by: Nick Humphries

⁴ <https://www.ier.org.uk/working-for-climate-justice/>

⁵ <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/green-unison/>

⁶ https://linktr.ee/green_TUC

⁷ <https://coventrytuc.wordpress.com/>

⁸ https://warwick.ac.uk/assoc/unison/campaigns/food/coventrys_green_reps_network_.pdf