

Green

UNISON
Day

13 Sept 2018

**Green UNISON Day Guide
Branch activities
Thursday 13 September 2018**

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Here are a few suggestions for branch action on Thursday 13 September - but you may well come up with loads more ideas and/or opt for actions over that full week!



Branches are asked, at a minimum, to complete the short one-page survey and audit circulated and to elect/appoint a Green Environment Rep.

Activities on the day could be as minimal as supporting it with some social media action and members' pledges (see pledge sheets at end of guide) and publicising the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland campaign to strengthen the new Climate Bill going through Parliament. www.stopclimatechaos.org

However, ideally we'd like to be having conversations with members across Scotland about why climate action is so important, what UNISON is doing and ask for their ideas on how the union can take this forward. You might like to:

- Make 13 September a cycle to work day (or wider - walk/swap car for bus/train) Publicise with press release and on social media with pictures.
- Arrange a climate action discussion at the branch meeting closest to 13 September and/or have short discussion slots at a stall(s) – e.g. starting on the hour each hour the stall is there. A '10 Minute Talk' PowerPoint presentation will be circulated to branches before the end of August that may be of use (for just 10mins or to start longer debate), as well as a couple of shorter video messages for discussions and use on social media.
- Have a stall(s) with information and activities, including perhaps a laptop with videos and e.g. E actions below* and sign up for UNISON Scotland's Green Network email list.
www.facebook.com/greennetworkunisonscotland
- Have a stall(s) with some healthy local organic food samples to promote UNISON's [Food for Good](#) principles.
- Involve your young members in a discussion on climate change. It's their future most of all.

- Invite members to make Green UNISON Day pledges to, for example, swap their car & use public transport or cycle on the day, or do a [plastic free Friday](#)** on 14 September. (Ideas/ pledge sheets at end of guide.)
- *On the stall laptop, and/or your website, give members the opportunity to support the SCCS E-Action, calling on MSPs to improve the Bill, and UNISON's divest from fossil fuels campaign, emailing councillors.
<https://act.foe.scot/SCCS-climate-change-act>
<https://foe.scot/campaign/divestment/local-government/>
www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2018/01/Divest-from-carbon-campaign.pdf
- Ask members to book a place (ltd numbers) to lobby their MSP at the SCCS lobby at the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 19 September.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-climate-lobby-of-the-scottish-parliament-tickets-47472497518
- Have suggestion boxes for branch action on climate change.
- Hold a [plastic free Friday](#) discussion with examples of how to ditch the plastic. **<https://foe.scot/10-tips-plastic-free-fridays/>

RESOURCES: (in addition to links above)

Ideas for finding out more about potential green workplace action: These two publications are a little out of date, but contain good outlines of the kind of campaigning green workplace action that branches can undertake, including negotiating green workplace agreements and examples of what has been done by UNISON and other unions.

www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/06/On-line-Catalogue173553.pdf

www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/extras/gogreenatwork.pdf

All public bodies have climate change duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The 'major players' all report what they are doing, so you can check these reports for your employer's progress (and ideas for pushing for more action). Just now, ask your employer for their most recent report(s), but all are due to be published on this site in due course.
www.sustainableScotlandNetwork.org

The next Green Network meeting – informal and open to all members – is on Saturday 15 September from 1.30pm-3.30pm in the UNISON Scotland office, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow G2 6RX.

www.facebook.com/greennetworkunisonscotland

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#GreenUNISON Pledges

We are suggesting as activities and part of publicising the day/week of action that members are encouraged to make pledges of what they will do for Green UNISON Day.

A few ideas for pledges are below. Branches can print off blank pledge sheets (sample below and sent as separate attachment) for members to draw colourfully/write in one of the suggested pledges or write in pledges they come up with - or branches/members can design their own more 'jazzy' pledge sheets. People can take 'selfies' or individual/group photos of people with their pledge sheet (write in BIG lettering!) to post on Facebook and Twitter, in advance of and on the day. Use the hashtag **#GreenUNISON**

My Green Workplace Pledge for 13 September:

I pledge to:

Cycle to work

Do plastic free Friday on 14 Sept

Email MSPs to improve the Climate Bill

Email cllrs to stop pensions investing in fossil fuels

Talk to colleagues about climate change

Leave my car at home

Use public transport

Switch off my computer when I leave

**My Green Workplace Pledge
I PLEDGE TO:**

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