

UNISON Scotland Green Network - Green UNISON Week 23 Sept – 1 Oct



General Secretary Christina McAnea:

“The devastating impacts of the climate emergency are felt across every part of the globe, but they fall heaviest on the disadvantaged. UNISON doesn’t need any persuading that climate change is real, dangerous and destructive. There is no future on a dead planet, so we need commitments and action now from government and employers. And if the transition to net zero is not just, workers and their families will suffer...

“Green UNISON Week is our time to highlight these issues, as part of our ongoing work on tackling climate change and greening the workplace. Last year, UNISON supported the UK and global trade union movement at COP26 in Glasgow. Important commitments were made, but sadly it looks like the current government will remove regulations rather than implement vital new ones... Aggressive new plans for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, and pledges to lift the fracking ban, prove that this government can’t be trusted with the environment...” www.unison.org.uk/news/2022/09/blog-there-is-no-future-on-a-dead-planet/

#GreenUNISON Week starts on Friday 23 Sept, in solidarity with the Fridays for Future global climate strike that day. Some key events to support/attend/promote:

See UNISON UK website link www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2022/08/get-ready-for-green-unison-week/ for many of these & to sign up to UNISON UK Green Network

Fri 23 Sept: Fridays for Future Scotland: 11am at Edinburgh City Chambers. Info here: https://twitter.com/FFF_Scotland/status/1571524446854135808?s=20&t=MJ1lOmHfQ5NTly5IQZChw See also <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>

Tues 27 Sept. 6.30pm online. COP27 and Human Rights. Solidarity with Egyptian Prisoners of Conscience. Organised in solidarity with the Egyptian Human Rights Coalition on Cop 27 <https://copcivicspace.net/> by: Friends of the Earth Scotland, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland & the Climate Justice Coalition www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cop27-human-rights-solidarity-with-egyptian-prisoners-of-conscience-tickets-419011483627

Tues 27 Sept, 6 and 12 Oct. Online. Women’s Environmental Network participatory workshops for UNISON members. Women, People of Colour and Disabled People are often the most affected by climate change, but are the last to be consulted. Click [here](#) to find out more and to book.

Thurs 29 Sept. Green UNISON online webinar. 12:30pm to 1:30pm. Speakers: Kate Metcalf, from the Women’s Environmental Network (WEN), to speak about their work and why climate change is a women’s issue, and Graham Petersen, from the Greener Jobs Alliance, who has done a huge amount of work on Green Jobs and who recently authored the Wales TUC Greener Workplaces Tool Kit. Book [here](#).

What branches can do: Some of the types of things Scottish branches are planning or can still be set up quickly for Oct/Nov, perhaps incorporating ideas from above events

Tues 27 Sept 12.30-1.30pm. Our Pension Fund – saving for our future or destroying our future. Online via Teams. All branches, but especially those in Strathclyde, are invited to join South Lanarkshire branch's Green UNISON Week meeting on divestment from fossil fuels, with local Green councillor Kirsten Robb who has cross party backing for a motion to the council. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

A green travel to work day / workplace stall / survey.

Find out what your employer is doing to cut the organisation's emissions/on adaptation.

Link up with local school/youth climate strikers to offer ongoing solidarity and support.

Branch reps attend events such as UK UNISON 29 Sept webinar or WEN workshop, then plan local action/meetings for later in the autumn, in build up to COP27 in Egypt. There will also be global demonstrations in support of climate justice on Sat 12 November. www.cop27coalition.org/events/newly-launched-cop27-coalition-calls-for-global-mass-action-for-climate-justice-reset-of-climate-talks-ahead-of-egypt-cop

Workplace stalls with pledge cards/A4 sheets for members to make green workplace pledges – eg use public transport / cycle to work / email cllrs on pensions divestment.

Hold a meeting to discuss action on climate hazards in the workplace. Use the excellent materials/workbook/video resources, all here: www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/news-events/stories/climate-hazards-and-resilience-workplace-new-resources-respo

Use UNISON's report published at COP26 to discuss putting decarbonising public services on the bargaining agenda. <https://unison-scotland.org/unison-report-getting-to-net-zero-in-uk-public-services/>

Hold an evening online meeting with speakers, promoting Green UNISON & the importance of green/environment reps, as the Further Education branch plans in Oct.

For any newsletter/social media etc, get UNISON 'greening of public services' logos here <https://medialibrary.unison.org.uk/pages/search.php?search=%21collection457&k=157cc15fc8>

NB: Use #GreenUNISON hashtag on social media. See updates on UNISON Scotland Green Network Facebook page www.facebook.com/greennetworkunisonscotland



Next Green Network: Thurs 13 Oct 11.30am-1pm
Contact Fiona Montgomery, in the UNISON Scotland Bargaining & Campaigns team, for link/info on the Green Network and/or to sign up for our occasional email news updates and meetings details. f.montgomery@unison.co.uk