

Motions for General Meeting - 14th March 2018

1. UCU Strike

Cambridgeshire Association agrees to donate £300 to the UCU Cambridge University Branch to support their members on strike against changes to their pensions. Proposed: Jon Duveen

2. More Than a Score

Cambridgeshire Association agrees to donate £100 to the Cambridge More Than A Score campaign group so that they can further the campaign against Baseline Assessment and SATs. Proposed: Philippe Harari

3. Campaign Against Climate Change

Cambridgeshire Association notes that in 2017 global temperatures continued to rise, reaching levels historically unprecedented in a year without an El Nino event.

The impact on both humans and ecosystems are also multiplying, from devastating floods and landslides in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, wildfires in southern Europe and across the US to coral reef devastation and melting permafrost.

We note that despite the rhetoric of ambition around the Paris Climate Agreement, governments' commitments were well short of what would be needed to limit global temperature to a 2^oC rise, let alone 1.5^oC

Given this, since global ambition needs to be intensified, it believes it to be vital for the UK government to take a strong stand against Donald Trump's climate denial and his attempts to undermine international action.

At home the Tory government's backtracking on climate change policies is noted, including dramatically cutting support to renewables, cutting energy efficiency/warm homes funding and promoting fracking.

We believe that measures like those proposed in the "One Million Climate Jobs" report would not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also, by boosting the economy, offer an alternative to austerity.

We also believe that trade unions have a vital role to play in bringing about urgent climate action which is rooted in workers' rights and social justice.

Cambridge Association therefore resolves:

1. To affiliate to the Campaign against Climate Change and to send a representative to meetings of its Trade Union Group;
2. To order 30 copies of the One Million Climate Jobs report to distribute to our members;
3. To endorse the Joint Statement on Just Transition in the UK (attached) supported by FoE, Greenpeace, Greener Jobs Alliance, People and Planet and the PCS Union.
4. To support all local and national events that raise the issue of supporting climate refugees and ways of giving them a legal status.

Proposed: Jon Duveen

Joint Statement on Just Transition in the UK

It's time for a **Just Transition** in the UK, moving to a modern low carbon economy in such a way as to protect workers' livelihoods, create new industries and deliver a fairer society in all regions and devolved nations. The need for action to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Change Agreement to keep global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees, is urgent if we are to avert the environmental and economic costs of climate change.

We share a concern that the Government's Industrial and Clean Growth strategies fail to reference the need for a Just Transition. This embodies the principles of consultation between all sections of society; investment in skills and jobs; the creation of decent work; and social protection for individuals and communities, particularly those reliant on fossil fuels. It is necessary to confront the danger facing our industries and power system as employment in traditional sectors declines. Workers, if losing their job in these sectors, should be able to retrain and redeploy to a new job on equivalent terms and conditions, covered by collective agreements, and fully supported in their housing and income needs through transition.

Government must take a decisive lead with plans to transform key sectors, through publicly and community owned energy supply, transport infrastructure, investing in energy efficiency and sustainable heating in our homes and in industry. The speed and scale of Government action must be increased, as advised by the Committee on Climate Change. Where necessary to secure change at sufficient pace and scale, options for public and community ownership or partial stakes in flagship energy projects and enterprises should be pursued.

Employment and social benefits for communities most affected by industrial change should be secured through local investment in new jobs and skills, the creation of local supply chains, and 'community benefit' clauses in public contracts and local ownership. The principles of social justice and equity must be adopted to ensure no-one is left behind in the transition to economic and environmental sustainability.

Meanwhile, internationally, the government should support the strengthening of workers' rights and environmental standards in the global supply chains for low carbon industries, such as solar panel and battery production.

We believe that all key stakeholders should be represented on consultation and implementation bodies linked to the industrial, skills and climate change strategies. This should include proposed industrial and sector bodies at national, regional and local levels

We therefore call on the UK government to:

- i) incorporate Just Transition principles within the UK's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, including the UK's Industrial and Clean Growth strategies.
- ii) legislate for the right to appoint workplace environment representatives to help ensure workers' views are fairly represented at local level. At company and sector level unions need the right to a voice in the economic restructuring decisions that will take place.
- iii) establish a *Just Transition Commission* to develop a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead, along the lines of the welcome initiative of the Scottish Government to establish such a body.

Early supporters of this statement include Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Greener Jobs Alliance, and People & Planet.

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