



## The BFAWU Supports the Earth Strike!

The beginning of September has seen storm Dorian devastate the Bahamas, hitting the islands with winds of 185mph, the highest ever recorded on land and now is moving on to the South East and Mid-Atlantic coast of America where they are expecting over 15 inches of rain and are asking over 2 million people to evacuate their homes.

Storms like Dorian were once rare extremes but are slowly becoming the norm in their strength and destruction due to climate change.

Young people are calling on adults across the planet to disrupt business as usual by joining the Global Climate strikes on September the 20th, just ahead of the UN emergency climate summit. We need to sound the alarm and show our politicians that business as usual is no longer an option!

150 countries are organising action—strikes, protests, education opportunities and as a union we will help to direct you to what is going on in your local area and how you can join in.

The impact of extreme weather not only devastates communities and the lives of those living in them, it also directly impacts our industry—floods and droughts disrupt crop growth, which impacts our ability to produce, either by pushing up costs of ingredients or not having them available!

## Welcome to Greener future Earth Strike Special!

At our national conference in June, we passed emergency motion 8 which called in part for the union to support the Youth Climate Strike and the Earth Strike day of action on the 20th September.

We know not everyone will be able to go on strike, however there are all sorts of actions both at work and in your community that you can do to show your solidarity on the day itself, in the run up to the 20th September and in the days afterwards.

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# **Organise your Work Place**

**(taken from Earth Strike Website)**

## **Step 1: Getting started**

Host a discussion or use this newsletter, use the union noticeboard to share information about the Global #ClimateStrike. Try to kick off a conversation about the connections between the climate crisis and your sector.

Propose some ways that you and fellow employees could join the climate strike and decide together what you want to do as a union branch.

Don't underestimate the power you have to inspire your friends and colleagues if you're passionate about this moment.

## **Step 2: Put a proposal to your employer**

Once you've got an initial plan and interest, make a proposal to your employer, outlining how and why your workplace should join the #ClimateStrike. Negotiate an arrangement that will work for everyone and remember that a goal of the Global Climate Strikes is to encourage activism and disrupt business as usual, everywhere, and force politicians to act with urgency to address the climate crisis.

## **Step 3: Publicise your employers' support**

Once your employer has agreed to support staff participating, ask them to communicate this widely to everyone, through staff newsletters, emails, on their website and social media channels etc.

Put up posters/distribute flyers everywhere. Invite colleagues to do the same through their networks.

Post selfies or group photos on social media using the hashtag #climatestrike to let school strikers know your workplace is joining in and to inspire other employers to do the same.

<https://globalclimatestrike.net/organise/>



## **Climate Strike ideas for workers**

Here are a range of ways you could join the Climate Strikes if you're supposed to be working on September 20th :

### **Organise a training day**

You could work with your employer to schedule a training day about the climate crisis and how it impacts your industry to coincide with the September climate strikes. And attending a local #ClimateStrike event could even be an important part of the training for all participants!

### **Organise an action at your workplace**

This could involve you and all of your colleagues holding a short event at work in solidarity with climate strikers – and posting selfies on social media with signs explaining what you are doing and why to build awareness.

### **Take formal leave**

You could request official leave in advance from your workplace and encourage everyone you can to do the same. Let your employer know why you are taking leave to ensure that your action builds awareness within your workplace about the gravity of the climate crisis and the sacrifice that you & others are taking to address it.

### **Take action in your lunch break**

Why not use your lunch break to go along with co-workers to join the #ClimateStrike if you can't take the day off. Lots of #ClimateStrike events on September 20 and through the week to the 27th will take place around lunchtime. If possible, you could consider starting your day early or ending late to make up for it. Some employers would require notice of such an action.

### **Get your workplace to pass a resolution**

Some employers have already announced they're giving their staff the day off to join a #ClimateStrike without penalty. You and fellow staff could put a proposal to your workplace to do the same and get your workplace to publicise the fact to build awareness of their leadership.

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## **ORGANISE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Before you start organising a #ClimateStrike, make sure you locate and connect with any youth strike and other climate groups that have sprung up in your community to plan together towards September. Take your lead from the young people who called this mobilisation.

### **Step 1: Set up an organising team**

You can't do this alone. Bring together a core team of people with the necessary connections, skills and passion you'll need to make this a big, empowering moment for everyone in your community.

As well as involving youth strikers, it's a good idea to invite other partners into your organising group. For this to be as powerful a day as possible, it will be essential for many diverse groups to work together.

Who are the groups in your community that you can work with on this? Local places of worship, a local sports team, labour/trade union groups, university, or arts cooperative, local businesses?

### **Step 2: Invite your community to join**

Once you've made a plan for your event and set a time and location – it's time to register your Climate Strike and start recruiting people to it.

Think big.

### **Step 3: Organise, organise, organise**

Create a to-do list of everything you'll need to make your Climate Strike event a success. Share it widely with everyone involved, invite volunteers and delegate tasks to volunteers and working groups.

All that's left to do is turn out people on your #ClimateStrike date.

The #ClimateStrike will generate lots of new energy, momentum and attention for climate action in your community. It's a great moment to absorb new organisers and volunteers into ongoing local campaigns and groups so that you can keep up the pressure beyond September.



## **Climate Strike ideas for communities**

### **Marches**

If your community has a large and active climate movement, consider organising a big march through the centre of town or to a government building. They're loud, they're often disruptive, and they jolt people out of their ordinary day to make them think about your key message and demands.

Make sure to go big on banners, signs, and visually-compelling elements that get your message across clearly.

### **Rallies**

Like marches, rallies help push your message into the public sphere in a big way. They're loud, they take up physical space, and they disrupt business as usual — especially if you're in a busy place. You don't need quite as big a group as for a march but you can still make a loud impact.

### **Solidarity Action Photos**

If your town or group is on the smaller side consider organising a solidarity photo action that can demonstrate your community's support for the #ClimateStrike.

Organise your action in a place that's recognisably your city, town, workplace or community (e.g. the town hall, a famous bridge, or a famous view of your city skyline).

This type of action can be pretty easy and quick to organise, and could involve a banner drop, a simple gathering of people, or any kind of peaceful action that leverages the location you have chosen to show solidarity with the millions of people in the streets that day. Send your message through banners, signs, props, or other creative visual elements!

## **What's happening near me?**

UK Student Climate Network has information on their website about where action is being taken on the 20th September—you can find it [here](#).

Visit our website—<https://www.bfawu.org/blog>

Or visit <https://ukscn.org/>

If you're on Facebook @EarthStrikeUK has all the details of events going on during the 20th too!

You can also follow @EarthStrikeUK on Twitter too!

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## Motion for TUC Congress 2019

Congress notes:

the Earth's temperature has already risen by one degree above pre-industrial levels. The autumn IPCC report warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Carbon emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030 and reach zero carbon by 2050 in order to avoid a dangerous tipping point

the tremendous impact of the school students strikes in shifting government complacency over climate change forcing them to amend the 2008 Climate Change Act

Greta Thunberg's call for a Climate Strike and for adults and workers to join the global school students strike on the 20th September which will begin a week of action on climate

the solidarity strikes organised by trade unions in Belgium and France.

Congress believes:

climate change is a trade union issue

that the future of our planet is at risk if we don't organise now to force governments to cut emissions in line with the IPCC report

that taxing the very wealthy and closing tax loopholes in line with Labour Party manifesto commitments will meet the cost of cutting emissions

that we must keep the pressure up. The school students have led the way but educators and the trade union movement as a whole must now act to ensure that they don't fight alone.

Congress resolves:

The TUC to call a 30-minute workday solidarity stoppage to coincide with the global school student strike on the 20th September.

Sign up [here](#) to support



The climate strikes won't solve the crisis alone, what it will do is demonstrate that people are no longer willing to continue with business as usual. September's climate strikes will kick start a huge wave of action and renewed ambition all over the world!

We need to act right now to stop burning fossil fuels and ensure a rapid energy revolution with equity, reparations and climate justice at its heart

The climate crisis won't wait, so neither should we.....



### Links to more Information..

[#ClimateStrike](#)

[#fridaysforfuture](#)

<https://globalclimatestrike.net/online-trainings/>

<https://www.campaigncc.org/climate-strike-20-september>

<https://ukscn.org/>

[www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/air-pollution/](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/air-pollution/)

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/10202/Support-the-30-minute-solidarity-climate-stoppage>

<https://www.bfawu.org/blog>

If you have any information on action being taken locally to you—either in your workplace or your community please let us know by emailing

[Sarah.woolley@bfawu.org](mailto:Sarah.woolley@bfawu.org)



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