



Over 2000 activists join the Climate Justice March on the 1st December!



On the 1st December the eve of the UN Climate talks in Poland—COP24, activists, campaigners, MPs and Trade Unionists gathered outside the Polish embassy in London to show solidarity with Polish activists, whilst challenging our own Governments failings around climate change

Around 2000 people took part in the rally and march that followed which received a positive reception from the general public which shows the growing understanding and increasing concern about an issue that affects each and every one of us

The UN talks are supposed to be negotiations to draw up a 'rule book' for the Paris Agreement, however the threats of a climate denying Trump US government, a similar approach taken by the Polish government alongside their draconian anti-protest legislation, not to mention the fact the talks are being sponsored by fossil fuel companies and other governments reluctance to act means they certainly wont be easy discussions and without sounding too pessimistic may simply provide us with more of the same and no real direction for change! To watch the video of the march and rally please follow the link below, thanks to the campaign against climate change for the information.

<https://youtu.be/VRN7VAvmOPA>

Picture credit to Peter Marshall, Steve Eason, Hiba Ahmad, Frack Free United

Welcome to Green Stuff

Hello and welcome to edition 3 of *Green Stuff* — The BFAWU's official newsletter on all things environmental, intended to bring you articles and features on the issues facing the environment as we continue to put economic and production growth over care and concern for our world at the detriment of the people living on it.

We will include reports on areas of concern, explanations of current issues and notification of the rallies and events we are organising (or which others are mounting) which will promote a more balanced view of our environment.

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SERA fringe meeting

During Labour Party conference this year SERA (which is Labours environment campaign) held a number of fringe meetings of which John Fox project worker in the North West attended on our behalf.

Sue Haymen MP shadow secretary of state for the environment, food and rural affairs praised Blue Planet 2 as a watershed moment that brought the problems of plastic waste forward into the public eye

- 38.5 million plastic bottles are used a day
- 15 million of them are not recycled.
- Most fish in the River Thames have plastic in them!
- If a turtle eats just 1 piece of plastic it has a 20% chance of dying



China will no longer accept our waste so it is vital that we look at production and waste through the process of manufacturing as well as encouraging consumers to recycle!

At one of the fringes it was agreed that the Government needs to look at the bigger picture, it can't just concentrate on one aspect of climate change! The extent of the problem is only getting worse and

BFAWU Green Survey Update

- 41 responses so far
- 24 people have given their names and said ye/maybe to becoming a green rep

So far the results are coming back saying that whilst some of our employers are better than others at reducing their environmental impact, there is always room for improvement!

The same can be said for us too however as individuals.

Over the last year the majority of people have said that their employer, department and themselves have improved their environmental performance.

Most responses have said they are aware their employer has an environmental policy, but disappointingly some commented that they haven't seen it or don't have access to it

There are lots of great things already happening out there -

- Recycling
- Energy champions
- Sensors for lights and taps
- Battery/electric trucks
- Wind turbines



But equally you have given us lots of ideas to improve things further—

- Paper cups instead of plastic ones
- Improves shut down procedures
- Less paperwork
- Utilise digital technology



If you want surveys sent to your branch please contact sarah.woolley@bfawu.org

Or use the link below to access the survey through the BFAWU website;

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/bakersunion/pages/438/attachments/original/1537270800/Green_survey.pdf?1537270800

Putting Green Issues first for our children and our children's children

Love food hate waste

Love food hate waste aims to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste and help us take action, It shows that by doing some easy practical every day things in the home we can all waste less food, which will ultimately benefit our purses (or wallets) and the environment too.

Right now in the UK, we throw away 18% of all the food we buy. 7.1 million tonnes of it in fact every year which equates to 9 Wembley Stadiums full of food! lovefoodhatewaste.com/



Is your local/child's school an Eco-school?

The Eco– schools programme is pupil led, hands on learning that gets the whole school and the wider community involved in exciting environmental projects.

Schools are provided with free resources to help progress to an international Eco Schools green flag award!

There are 7 steps to follow starting with setting up an Eco Committee and finishing with a school wide call to action and 10 topics to focus on ranging from energy and waste, to biodiversity and global citizenship!

Eco schools empower pupils, raise environmental awareness, improves the schools environment and also creates financial savings for the school! It engages the wider local community, helps with curriculum and Ofsted requirements and should be something all schools aspire to achieve!

For more information click the picture to visit the website or go to <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>



Jobs, Skills and training for a just transition to a low carbon economy

The 26th and 27th November saw a pilot course run by Yorkshire and Humber TUC designed to stimulate responses to the question;

'How to protect and develop our energy and manufacturing industries and deliver jobs, skills and training for a just transition to a low carbon economy'

We were a small group of experienced activists and union officials from different unions, sharing ideas, knowledge and best practice all agreeing that 'business as usual' is not a viable strategy

The course looked at amongst other things why a just transition is central to future economic strategy, evaluating the renewable energy and carbon reduction options currently available and took time to assess the implications for skills and training.

It fell under the assessment criteria for the open college network ;understanding environmental issues in the workplace'

Not only did we receive some invaluable resources for information, as an outcome we set up a group for the attendees to continue to communicate with each other as sharing information is the best form of education!

If you would like a copy of the initial report and findings from the course please email

Sarah.woolley@bfawu.org .

The regional TUC is looking at tweaking the course and running it again in 2019, we will circulate the dates once we have them!



Roberts bakery

Roberts Bakery is the first UK bakery brand to give shoppers a sustainable alternative to the usual harmful plastics. Their website goes on to say that every year the UK bread industry produces 10,736 tonnes of plastic packaging that's difficult to dispose of responsibly.

The same weight as the Eiffel Tower, 60 blue whales or 1952 killer whales, all of it pretty much ending up in landfill!

Roberts bloomer range comes in 100% recyclable materials which is fantastic and really leads the way for change in our industry!

<https://www.robertsbakery.co.uk/>



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What's in season?

Its that time of year where we buy far too much food for one day and eat warm ups for a week!

There will be some obvious ones in here but here is just some of what is in season over the next couple of months!

Beetroot, Brussel Sprouts, Leeks, Parsnip, Potatoes, Apples, Pears, Rhubarb, Oranges, Duck, Turkey, Haddock, Mackerel

Remember buy local and in season!



Future learn is a website full of free courses across 13 categories. The link below takes you to the 41 Nature and Environment courses! They range across;

Climate change the science

Understanding Nuclear power

Climate change solutions

Environmental justice

The courses vary in length and difficulty and are well worth a look at if your wanting to learn more!

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/categories/nature-and-environment-courses>

Greener jobs alliance

The most recent newsletter is now out, which gives a detailed briefing of what's going on in Poland at COP24, the Yorkshire and Humber TUC training and also information about a new **Trade union clean air network** that is going to be launched on the 6th February 2019 14.00—16.00 in London, the venue is yet to be confirmed but we will circulate it as soon as its released!

This is an exciting prospect which will look to test workplaces on exposures to fumes and dust and campaign for the adoption of legal standards to protect workers whether inside or out!



Links to more Information..

www.frack-off.org.uk

www.drillordrop.com

www.eattheseasons.co.uk

www.shrinkthatfootprint.com

www.thestoryofstuff.org

<http://eatseasonably.co.uk/what-to-eat-now/calendar/>

<http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/>

Free courses on green issues;

http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31

www.lowimpact.org

www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk

www.meen.org.uk

www.campaign.cc.org

www.peopleandplanet.org

www.foe.co.uk

[Greenpeace uk](http://www.Greenpeace.org.uk)

[Www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)

Unionsforenergydemocracy.org

lovefoodhatewaste.com/

We will support the newsletter with

@BFAWUGreenstuff - on Facebook

@bfawuS - on Twitter

As always if you have an article, something interesting going on in your workplace or local areas, or feedback please get in contact with us via sarah.woolley@bfawu.org using 'green stuff info' as the subject!

Finally we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

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