



**School children across  
the globe walk out on  
strike over climate  
change**



Children and young people represent 30% of the world's population and they have come out in force not once, but twice in over 100 countries around the world to voice their opinion on the climate change crisis and the lack of action being taken by adults.

The action was inspired by Greta Thunberg a 15 year old Swedish girl who launched a solitary protest outside the Swedish Parliament in the run up to their elections,

Children walked out of over 30 locations in the UK to demand the Government declares a climate emergency, reforms the national curriculum and take steps to communicate the severity of the crisis.

The biggest protests were held in London, Brighton, Oxford, Exeter and Leeds. Parliament Square was packed on the 15th March with teenagers chanting 'save our planet!' many were keen to point out it is their generation who will be left to pick up the pieces of our civilisations waste and pollution.

You can find more information about the UK student climate network [here](#). They are planning another day of action on the 12th April, it would be great to have BFAWU members standing shoulder to shoulder with the next generation of activists!!

**Welcome to  
Greener future**

Hello and welcome to edition 4 of *Greener future* — 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.

You may have noticed a change in the name of the newsletter, we felt *Greener Future* was a more fitting name and thanks to the young people taking action across the world it will be a reality!!

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## Air Pollution – all in a day's work?

On Wednesday 6 February 2019, the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN)<sup>1</sup> was launched. The event took place at the Head Office of the International Transport Workers (ITF) in London. It was attended by a wide range of trades unions and supporting organisations including Client Earth, British Lung Foundation and the London Sustainability Exchange. The meeting discussed the



**Trade Union Clean Air Network Charter** that has been drawn up to promote a trade union voice on this public health emergency.

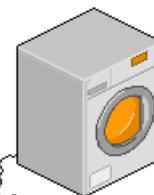
In the same week UNICEF launched a Healthy Air for every Child Report<sup>3</sup> that criticised the UK Government policy for being 'insufficiently ambitious and won't protect children's health.' Graham Petersen, GJA Secretary, commented *"There has rightly been a public outcry about this but very little has been said about workers as a vulnerable group. The fact is there are huge numbers of people who are exposed to dangerous levels of pollutants as a result of work. Indoor and outdoor pollution affects people at work and travelling to and from work and yet this is rarely reflected in national and local strategies"*

The Charter, which you can find [here](#), calls for new legal protections and occupational standards to give greater protection to workers. TUCAN will be organising events and training sessions to press the case for recognising this occupational health emergency.

(Taken from Greener jobs alliance website)

## What can I do at home?

**Kettle** - most of us will put the kettle on several times in the day, that's a lot of electricity!



- Boiling only what you need in the kettle can save enough electricity in a year to power the UK's street lights for 6 months!
- It's also more energy efficient to boil water for cooking using a kettle rather than in a pan on the stove top.

**Reusable bags** - keep some cotton or string bags in your handbag or car ready for your next shop

- The amount of crude oil used to make 14 carrier bags is the equivalent of enough petrol to drive a car for one mile!
- The average plastic bag is used for just 12 minutes, but it can take up to 1000 years to decompose.



**Appliances**-the fear of running out of juice often means we needlessly charge up devices overnight, wait until a battery's low before plugging in and most appliances can be turned off at the wall when not in use to reduce carbon emissions (not fridges and freezers though!)



**Washing machines**– washing at lower temperature is better for your clothes and the planet, cooler 30c washes use around 40% less electricity.

Taken from Save the planet one day at a time wellbeing journal.

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## Reducing plastic use

The first step to reducing plastic is knowing what you can recycle and what can be reused

Here is a quick guide to the common types of plastics taken from Harriet Dyers book 'say no to plastic'

- PET/PETE (Polyethylene terephthalate) mainly clear drinks bottles and some food packaging Recyclable but not reusable
- HDPE (high-density polyethylene) bottles used for things like milk, washing up liquid and cosmetics Recyclable and reusable
- PVC (polyvinyl chloride) clear food wrapping, shower curtains, toys Difficult to recycle
- LDPE (Low density polyethylene) - bags to package bread, carrier bags, squeezable bottles, four—six pack can holder currently difficult to recycle—though plans are in place to try and change this
- PP (polypropylene) cereal bags, bottle tops, margarine tubs, crisp bags, straws Reusable and occasionally recyclable
- PS (Polystyrene) packaging for fragile objects, take away cups Not reusable, currently difficult to recycle though plans are in place to change this
- Other plastics such as acrylic glass, nylon, polycarbonate and items made up of a mixture of plastics Not reusable and difficult to recycle



### **Biodegradability timeline**

Example item	Length of time
Vegetables	5 days-1 month
Paper	2-5 months
Cotton T-Shirt	6 months
Wool Socks	1-5 years
Leather Shoes	25- 40 years
Nylon Fabric	30-40 years
Tin Cans	50-100 years
Aluminium cans	80- 100 years
Styrofoam Cup	500 years - forever
Plastic Bags	500 years - forever
Glass Bottles	1 million years

Manufacturing items from recycled aluminium uses up to 95% less energy than if they were made from new aluminium

Every year over one million tonnes of plastic ends up in UK landfill and in America the figure is a whopping 28.9 million tonnes!

Enough plastic enters landfill each year to circle the world four times

In 2016 around 335 million tonnes of plastic was produced world wide—equivalent to the weight of 2 million blue whales!

The average UK household creates more than a tonne of waste each year—most of which could easily be recycled!



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## **What's in season?**

As we finally head into spring, what's the best produce to eat?

Cauliflower, leeks, parsnips, spinach, spring onions, swede, bananas, oranges, rhubarb, turkey, salmon, asparagus, broccoli, lettuce, lamb, prawns, new potatoes, peas, radishes



## **Jacksons Hull**

Jacksons have teamed up with Hull City Council to plant 200,000 trees by their 200th anniversary in 2051! So far they have planted around 40,000 saplings.

Alongside this, all of Jacksons Yorkshire Champions bread bags are fully recyclable and they encourage all customers to return them to the supermarket to be recycled with carrier bags!



## **And Finally...**

Congratulations to John Fox who was nominated and subsequently appointed to MEEN (Manchester Environmental Education Network) as a trustee. This is fantastic for John and the union. He has worked incredibly hard behind the scenes of our environmental work to build up relationships such as this with MEEN to ensure the aims of our environmental work are met!

Thanks John!!



You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make'

Jane Goodall

## **Links to more Information..**

[www.frack-off.org.uk](http://www.frack-off.org.uk)

[www.drillordrop.com](http://www.drillordrop.com)

[www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk)

[www.shrinkthatfootprint.com](http://www.shrinkthatfootprint.com)

[www.thestoryofstuff.org](http://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](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31)

[www.lowimpact.org](http://www.lowimpact.org)

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

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

[www.campaign.cc.org](http://www.campaign.cc.org)

[www.peopleandplanet.org](http://www.peopleandplanet.org)

[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

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

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

[Unionsforenergydemocracy.org](http://Unionsforenergydemocracy.org)

[lovefoodhatewaste.com/](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com/)

We will support the newsletter with  
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[@bfawuS](#) - on Twitter

Don't forget to fill in a Green Survey, which you can find [here](#) on the BFAWU website page 2 of the blogs.

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](mailto:sarah.woolley@bfawu.org) using 'green stuff info' as the subject!

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