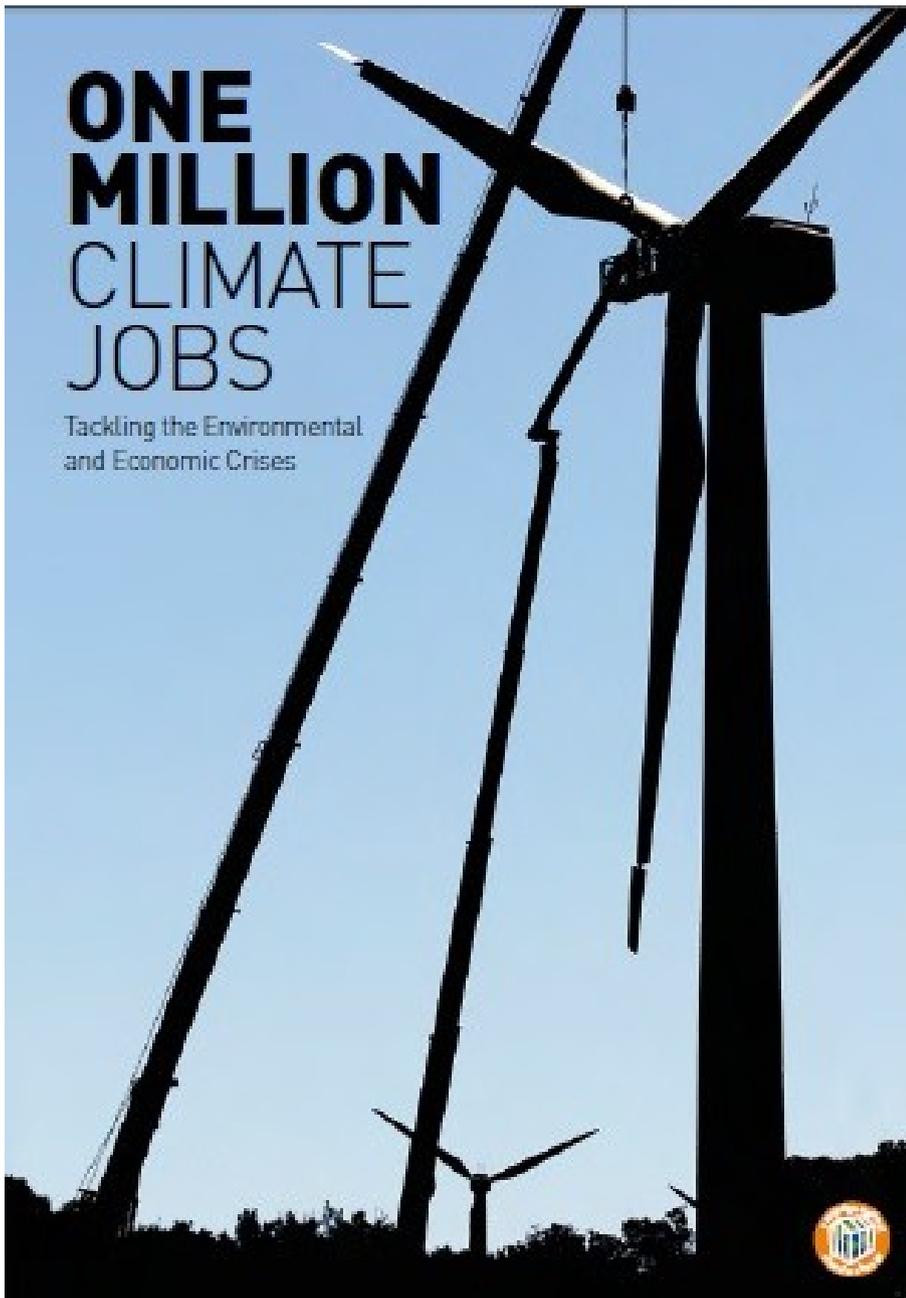


Why a trade union campaign?

- Workers understandably suspicious of industrial transitions as it usually means job losses – (miners strike; automation etc). Better paid, secure and densely unionised jobs have often been in carbon-intensive industries.
- Can give rise to hostility to climate campaigns and alignment with corporate agenda in extractivist industries.
- Rising poverty and struggles over immediate survival can result in perception of climate campaigners as “privileged”, “out of touch” - often correctly!

Solution – One Million Climate Jobs



Campaign Against
Climate Change
Trade Union Group
2014

(New edition in
process of drafting)

Jobs

- The Institute for Public Policy Research says energy efficiency measures could create 34,000 full-time jobs in the next two years. By 2035 over 325,000 jobs could be created in the UK, in a scenario based on heat networks, heat pumps and energy efficiency measures
- The Parity Project suggest that getting all UK homes to an Energy Performance Certificate level C by 2030 would require 223,387 additional tradespeople immediately, rising to around 400,000 over the decade
- New Economics Foundation/Parity Project say almost 9m homes could receive whole house retrofit measures within the remainder of this parliament [...] creating 117,000 new jobs in year one and peaking at 382,000 in year four.

Why else?

- Workers are people – we need decent homes, an end to fuel poverty, a liveable future for our kids. A purely sectoral approach to saving jobs won't achieve this.
- We want work that has social value, and we want a say in how we work and what we produce.
- Grassroots climate campaigns are weakened by absence of a workers' perspective – they become limited to protest, or unrealistically expect policy-makers to find the solutions. Meanwhile, collective self-help solutions remain under-resourced and largely inaccessible to those on low incomes.

Alliances between different sections are vital!

What is Leeds TUC's strategy?

Very much in its infancy, but essentially 2-fold

- 1) Campaigning within the union movement for the adoption of the mass retrofit demand as national policy and as a movement campaign.

About 6.5m people in the UK are union members, and that's a lot of potential influence.

At leadership level, unions have a voice and significant leverage with govt – but that voice must be used to push for the policy frameworks and investment that will give communities and LAs the resources and powers they need.

2) Campaigning for a local programme of mass retrofit coordinated by LCC, which can be a model for similar campaigns across the country,

Our **model motion** calls for local TUCs, TUs, LAs, training establishments (eg Leeds College of Building) community organisations and retrofitting practitioners, to work together to enable whole house retrofits to be carried out within the region.

As a first step, it asks for the convening of a **meeting between all of the above** to explore ways forward.

A seat at the table?

Almost all policy commentaries stress the need to gain community consent for the far-reaching changes disruption involved in deep retrofit work. They emphasise the need to involve all “stake-holders”. Eg, Regen says:

.....[new governance structures] need to sign up and capture the attention of [.....] for example, senior representatives from industry, from private sector organisations including representatives of small businesses, from consumer groups and from organisations supporting vulnerable people

What about the workers?

Our model motion also contains these clauses:

- 3. Ensuring works carried out are undertaken by those with the appropriate skills, following thorough assessment of each dwelling, using safe and good quality materials, and that completed works are inspected for full compliance with safety and energy efficiency standards
 4. Ensuring that the skilled workforce is available and proper apprenticeships are provided using the facilities of the College of Building and that the local authority seriously considers creating an “in house” workforce, with fully negotiated terms and conditions of employment

Local authorities are vital

We concur with commentators that powers, responsibilities and resources must go to LAs to coordinate energy and energy-efficiency policy:

- connecting and supporting community groups and independent practitioners
- instigating projects that stimulate supply chains, provide apprenticeship opportunities and work destinations, to make training courses viable.
- Bringing work inhouse and/or ensuring that all commissioned work is to standards of work, pay and conditions agreed with unions.

Overlaps with other TU campaigns

- COVID has so far cost LCC nearly £200m, on top of a decade of austerity cuts

Campaign: As well as making energy efficiency eligible for Public Works Loan Boards loans, govt needs to *write off existing debt (including bogus HRA Debt)*, and increase energy efficiency funding as part of COVID recovery

- Between March and August, unemployment rose 120% to 2.7 million. Unemployment for young people is up 76,000 compared to last year. The majority of these will be pushed into work with few prospects, poor conditions and no social use value.

Campaign: abolish welfare conditionality and replace with genuine high quality training opportunities.