If Not Now, When? Labor Needs a Climate Plan

Labor needs to propose a climate protection strategy of its own - one that realistically protects the livelihood and wellbeing of working people and helps reverse America's trend to greater inequality while reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the speed scientists say is necessary to reduce climate catastrophe. A strategy designed to provide full employment and rising living standards by putting millions of people to work on the transition to a climate-safe economy could transform the politics of climate by shattering the "jobs vs. the environment" frame. And it could provide a common platform around which climate protection advocates at every level of the labor movement could rally.

Here's a provocative first draft of such a plan in PDF format: "If Not Now When: Labor Needs a Climate Plan". Read More >>

New LNS Resource: Labor Landscape Analysis

Organized labor can be difficult and confusing for climate protection advocates - and even for union members themselves - to navigate. LNS has just put a set of tools called the "Labor Landscape Analysis" on its website that we hope will be useful for anyone trying to work with labor on climate protection. It includes: Profiles of 38 unions, federations, and other labor organizations on sustainability concerns; A strategic "guided tour" of organized labor for labor and climate activists; the past, present, and future of cooperation and conflict between labor and environmental movements; five case studies revealing how labor has changed positions on important public policy issues. Read More >>

Artist Highlight: Sam Gleaves

Labor vs. Environmentalists. Queer vs. Straight. Tired of siloed politics? Meet Sam Gleaves from Wythe County in southwest Virginia. We've chosen Gleaves for the CultureWorks artist highlight because he's a young troubadour writing songs that celebrate workers old and new in an effort to build bridges between movements. Take his song "Ain't We Brothers," for example, based on the true story of West Virginia coal miner Sam Hall who stood up against discrimination he faced in the mines as a gay man. With just one refrain he reveals the complexity of sexuality and class, and in the process, upends the one-dimensional media portrayal of the "All-American" worker. Read More >>