



We are very excited to share the 11th edition of our newsletter *Making a Living on a Living Planet*. This month we are highlighting the groundbreaking work of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers locals in California in their efforts for sustainability and just transition. We also urge your support of Canadian railroad workers Tom Hardy and Richard Labrie who face unjust charges due to reckless policy and lax oversight of fossil fuel transport on North American rails.



MLLP provides news of how working people are fighting for a planet that is sustainable -- environmentally, economically, and socially. If you like what we are doing and want to connect, please sign up for our newsletter and other information on the Labor Network for Sustainability website ([Sign up here!](#)). You are welcome to repost anything in this newsletter - help us spread the word!

We need your support to accomplish the work ahead. Your individual contributions will provide LNS with the resources we need for bold, independent action that will be necessary to accomplish our goals.

[Donate](#) today to [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) and help us build a future that works for all of us.

**Defend the
Scapegoated Lac-
Mégantic rail
workers:**

A message from:

Fritz Edler
Harding and Labrie

July 6 was the 4th anniversary of the deadly oil train wreck in the rural Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic. That wreck of volatile oil killed 47 outright and created an environmental disaster that will never be fully resolved.



Now two railroad workers, Tom Harding and Richard Labrie, face criminal charges for a tragedy caused by unsafe railroad management policies. Every critical issue facing rail labor and community safety activists, as well as climate activists and those who oppose fossil fuel transports, are at stake in this upcoming trial. If the two Canadian rail workers are convicted, there will never be accountability for the reckless policies and lack of regulatory oversight that we now know for certain caused the wreck. The conditions that brought us that disaster will be again the norm across North America.

Every year since that wreck, the number of reported runaway trains in Canada has increased. But the government and all the North American railroads would have us believe that those two railroaders are solely responsible.

Fossil fuel usage and crazy risky profitability are front and center on this. Issues regarding infrastructure and many worker safety issues such as scheduling and fatigue are also being tested. This upcoming trial is truly the most important event regarding these matters that we will face this summer going into the fall.

[Here's a link](#) to the general fund raising drive for the scapegoated Lac-Mégantic rail workers

"Music for Safe Rails and Sustainable Communities"

[The U-Liners](#) will headline [a benefit this Sunday to assist the defense of the Lac-Mégantic Rail Workers](#) who their supporters say are being scapegoated for a tragedy caused by railroad management.

Features the U-Liners, with Tom & Elisabeth, this Sunday, July 9 at 6:30pm at the Dew Drop Inn (2801 8th St NE DC)

Transition Webinar

Co-Hosted by [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) and [350.org](#)

How Can We Realize the Paris Climate Protection Targets in the Trump Era?



Deepen the effectiveness of our groups and movements with ideas, experience and organizing strategy featured in the new book, *Against Doom: A Climate Insurgency Manual* presented by the author and Labor Network for Sustainability co-founder, **Jeremy Brecher** and special guest **Richard Lipsitz**.

Just Transition Webinar

Monday July 10, 5:30-6:30pm Pacific/ 8:30-9:30 Eastern

([Join the Webinar](#))

How can we organize to avoid letting our opponents pit jobs, workers, and unions against climate, water and community protection? How can we build "just transition" that includes a better future for workers who produce and use fossil fuels, construction workers who build fossil fuel infrastructure, and communities that depend on them? With Richard Lipsitz, President, [Western New York Area Labor Federation](#), AFL-CIO.

Book Discount:

Buy 5 or more copies of the book 'Against Doom: A Climate Insurgency Manual' and get 50% off (thank you, PM Press). When you order your copies online from PM Press [here](#), just enter "FOPM" in the coupon code box to receive the discount.

FORM A READ-DISCUSS-ACT BOOK GROUP:

[350.org](#) and Labor Network for Sustainability are circulating a free Read/Discuss/Act Guide to help you form a read-discuss-act group with friends, members of your group or community, using the book *Against Doom*. The Guide is downloadable [HERE](#)

Watch the Previous Webinars

Climate Insurgency

An intro to Climate Insurgency strategy, weaving together many strands of climate organizing--mass nonviolent direct action, freezing fossil fuel infrastructure, public trust, and just transition--into a global strategic framework.

[\(Link to video\)](#)

California Electrical Workers Fight for Climate-Safe Clean Energy



California electrical workers are at the cusp of the transition to a fossil-free, climate-safe energy system. LNS interviewed leaders of three large California locals of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and got their eye-opening stories of what they are doing to make that transition worker friendly.

"We Have an Eye Toward the Future":

LA's IBEW Local 11 Spearheads a Transition to Clean Energy

Los Angeles IBEW Local Union 11 represents 13,000 Electricians, Communications and Systems Installers, Transportation Systems Journeyman, Civil Service Electricians, Apprentices, Construction Wireman and Construction Electricians. It describes itself as "a movement for social justice, safe jobsites, training, green jobs and opportunity for all."

It has become a pioneer in the transition to a climate-safe, worker-friendly energy system. Local 11's Director of Workforce and Environmental Engagement, Jennifer Kropke, says

We take the position: we have to have an eye toward the future. We have to be involved in influencing what that next evolution of energy is. We have to have a seat at the table so we can influence what that looks like for our workers. If we are talking about renewable energy, that's us. We're the subject matter experts. This is what we do every day.

[\[Full Text Here\]](#)

"Doing the right thing for the environment can be a win-win for workers and the community"

San Diego area's Local 569 Is Helping to Lead the Transition to a Low-

Carbon Economy

[The following interview with Micah Mitrosky, Environmental Organizer for IBEW local 569, was conducted by email June 21, 2017 by Jeremy Brecher]

To ensure green jobs create pathways into the middle-class, it is essential to link smart workforce policy with programs and projects. Local Hire Agreements, joint labor-management apprenticeship partnering, workforce safety standards and certifications and responsible contractor criteria are some of the policy tools we support and ask decision makers to employ to create family-sustaining green jobs that provide upward mobility and career opportunities.

[\[Link to the Full Interview\]](#)

IBEW Local 1245: "We Knew Big Changes Were Coming to our Industry"

Interview with Tom Dalzell, Business Manager of IBEW Local 1245.

There is a nexus between climate issues and jobs. We looked at what happened to the auto workers in the 1970s, the Teamsters in the 1970s and 1980s, the communications workers in the 1990s. We knew big changes were coming to our industry, and we were concerned that whatever the changes were, if we were in a game of musical chairs we wanted to be in a chair at the end when the music stopped.

[\[Link to the Full Interview\]](#)



Blue Green Alliance will be convening a Clean and Fair Economy Summit

It will be taking place in Olympia, WA September 14th and 15th and will be hosted by the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

During the Summit, LNS will help facilitate an invitation-only conversation among elected leaders of Central Labor Councils and State Federations on climate change related issues. If you're interested contact Barbara Byrd at [\[barbara@oraficio.org\]](mailto:barbara@oraficio.org) or Jeff Johnson at [\[jjjohnson@wslc.org\]](mailto:jjjohnson@wslc.org)

See more information and register [Here](#)

New LNS Videos: Workers Say Why Climate Matters to Them

Union workers tell why they are concerned about climate change and why they joined the Peoples Climate March in Washington April 29.

These videos and subsequent ones can be found on the [Labor Network for Sustainability YouTube Channel](#)

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