



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 to spread the word!



Help us build a powerful national organization for workers and communities to confront climate change. Membership is open to anyone interested and who endorses our [mission and principles](#).

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The New Poor People's Campaign



This Mother's Day a convergence of unlikely bedfellows launched a Poor People's Campaign -- echoing the Poor People's Campaign Martin Luther King, Jr. initiated half a century ago aiming to "[transform](#) the political, economic and moral structures of our society." The campaign

grows out of the experience of North Carolina's Moral Mondays which brought together a coalition of 145 organizations representing Christians, Muslims,

Jews, nonbelievers, blacks, Latinos, and poor whites, labor, civil rights, feminists and environmentalists, doctors and the uninsured, businesspeople and the unemployed, women and men, gay and straight, young and old, documented and undocumented. Their unity was based on a belief that "none of us would be free until all of us were free."

The first Moral Monday of the new Poor People's Campaign saw a thousand protestors arrested in dozens of state capitols around the country. Subsequent Moral Mondays will focus on systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological destruction, and a distorted national morality. The [demands](#) of the Poor People's Campaign coincide with the basic principles of climate justice and sustainability.

For an analysis of the new Poor People's Campaign by LNS's research and policy director Jeremy Brecher - [Visit Here](#)

Engaging the Labor Movement on Climate Change

The Labor Network for Sustainability is offering training to help climate campaigners, leaders, organizers, and allies learn more about how to work with organized labor.

"Jobs vs. environment" is a damaging and unnecessary frame. Yet too often campaigns to stop fossil fuel and other environmentally destructive projects erupt into conflict pitting workers against communities protecting our health and environment. Understanding of the labor movement and the fundamental importance of work in peoples' lives is essential to overcoming these divides and building the broad-based movement we need to overcome the climate crisis.

For more information on the trainings and how to schedule one for your organization:

[Download the Brochure](#)

Where Will You Be September 8th?

In the wake of Donald Trump declaring his intent to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, several states and municipalities declared "We're Still In". California Governor Jerry Brown joined with Governors Andrew Cuomo (NY) and Jay Inslee (WA) to establish the [U.S. Climate Alliance](#), and shortly after announced that he would convene a [Global Climate Action Summit \(GCAS\)](#) in San Francisco in September of 2018. The GCAS is an effort to galvanize support for and inspire new commitments for climate solutions by "sub-national actors."

The GCAS has come under criticism by various movements because of the involvement of green capitalists like Michael Bloomberg and Elon Musk. Governor Brown's leadership on climate change is also being questioned by many in the

environmental and environmental justice movements. California is still the third largest oil producing state in the U.S. Brown is also a proponent of cap and trade as a strategy to confront climate change - an approach that the environmental justice movement and others have strongly and consistently criticized as a "false solution."

Dozens of organizations across the political spectrum of the climate movement are planning to mobilize at the GCAS. Here are some of the efforts that we are aware of:



[The People's Climate Movement](#) since 2014 has organized a series of large Peoples Climate Marches and mobilizations. Its leadership includes a range of labor, environmental, and other organizations. On September 8 [the PCM](#) is planning "Rise for Climate Justice" actions around the country. Local organizing hubs will lead local planning and will formulate their own demands. Here's the [Mission and Vision Statement](#) for the California Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice Action

A powerful movement of Indigenous people, frontline communities, labor, immigrants, people of color, people of faith and young people, Californians, and peoples from across the world leveraging its political power to demand real climate leadership to keep fossil fuels in the ground and lead a just transition to an equitable and resilient 100% renewable energy economy that rapidly expands economic opportunity, creates family sustaining jobs, and protects vulnerable communities, workers and future generations.

[Brown's Last Chance:](#) In California Environmental organizations have initiated a campaign called [Brown's Last Chance](#). Nearly 800 organizations have signed onto a letter calling on Gov. Brown to declare that California will support no new fossil fuel infrastructure. The campaign is initiated by Greenpeace, Oil Change International and others.



[It Takes Roots:](#) The Climate Justice Alliance, the Indigenous Environmental Network, Right to the City Alliance, and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance are planning activities under the banner of [It Takes Roots \(ITR\)](#), a direct action/mobilization initiative to resist the Trump agenda that first came together for the United Nations climate summit in Paris. ITR will participate in the PCM mobilization in San Francisco but is also organizing other activities

Purchasing Power for Labor and the Environment

Is there a way to influence labor and other conditions in the food chain that produces and distributes the food we eat? A recent paper by LNS staffer Ryan Saunders called "Good Food, Good Work? Labor and the Good Food Purchasing Policy" describes the Good Food Purchasing Program which is already under way in the huge Los Angeles County school system and is spreading to public institutional food purchasers across the country.



Efforts to affect food policy can easily divide advocates for different concerns. The Good Food Purchasing Policy has creatively addressed this by getting advocates to all support five values:

1. Local economies
2. Environmental sustainability
3. Valued workforce
4. Animal welfare
5. Nutrition

An elaborate set of purchasing standards and evaluation procedures administered by the [Center for Good Food Purchasing](#) helps implement these values. The United Food and Commercial Workers has recently become a National Partner to the Center.

Labor, Trade, and Solidarity

How should labor respond to President Trump's baffling gyrations on trade? [A recent statement](#) by the UE union maintains that "what American workers need is not partial half-measures, but a trade and industrial policy that is based on international cooperation, respect for workers' rights, and environmental sustainability - one that raises living standards for workers across industries and across borders through investment in infrastructure, jobs and social programs."

[The statement](#) warns that Trump's proposed tariffs "will only have the effect of

whipsawing U.S. steel and aluminum workers against other U.S. manufacturing workers whose industries are dependent on steel and aluminum imports, and against steel and aluminum workers in other countries."

The UE statement also lays out a positive alternative:

The greatest threat to our national security is global climate change. Investing in infrastructure and transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy would not only improve our national security but could create millions of sustainable and good-paying union jobs. We could transform our nation into one where our air and water are clean, our cities livable, our education system top-notch, and workers and residents have the same affordable access to healthcare, housing, and food regardless of income.

EPA Employees Rally to Dump their Boss Scott Pruitt



At a lunchtime rally on April 14 a crowd of Environmental Protection Agency staffers and members of Congress demanded the EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt quit or be fired. It was the second in a series of rallies called by the Government Employees (AFGE), whose Local 3331 represents the agency's staffers.

"You here are the EPA" Rep. Dan Kildee told the EPA workers. "Scott Pruitt is not the EPA. He's the head of the Empower Polluters Always agency." Trump and Pruitt plan to cut the EPA budget by 25 percent in the next fiscal year.

For more: [Visit Here](#)

Who We Are:

**The Labor Network for Sustainability: Making A Living
On A Living Planet**

The mission of the Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS) is to engage workers and communities in building a transition to a society that is ecologically sustainable and economically just. We work to foster deep relationships that help the labor movement engage in the climate movement and the climate movement understand the economics of climate change and the importance of organized labor as a key partner in confronting the climate crisis.

We work with trade unions, worker centers and labor support organizations to advance a climate action program that will help the labor movement be a leading force for a just transition to a climate safe and equitable economy. This includes building a network of leaders and rank and file activists in the labor movement to confront climate change called the Labor Convergence on Climate.

We also work with climate and climate justice leaders to develop approaches to more effectively build partnerships with the labor movement, to understand the central importance of work in peoples' lives and assure that good jobs are an essential element of a just transition. We encourage these organizations to integrate workers' rights policies in their agendas.

LNS serves also as a primary resource on just transition within the climate and labor movements. We identify and analyze policies related to just transition, develop principles that advance the rights of workers and communities who will be impacted in the transition to a climate safe economy, and we share information about just transition victories and effective strategies.

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

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

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