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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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AFSCME: Climate Change: The Real Job Killer?

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Workers 2018 convention in Boston just passed a resolution titled "Climate Change: The Real Job Killer?" It stated that climate change "represents a dagger pointed at the heart of AFSCME because our very existence relies on the ability to negotiate good contracts tied to solvent, stable government budgets."

According to the resolution, "local state and federal budgets are already being adversely affected by extreme weather events tied to climate change manifestations - such as ever-larger and more powerful storms, epic droughts and year-round fire 'seasons,' rising sea levels and unprecedented

floods." Climate change chaos is "poised to become perhaps the biggest job killer of all for working people, yet remains largely unrecognized as such." The costs "to local, state and federal budgets are immense and will only increase as environmental devastation accelerates."

Advocates for the resolution used a fact sheet specially prepared for the Convention by the Labor Network for Sustainability called "Government Workers Will Pay the Price of Climate Change." [Read the full fact sheet here:](#) It concluded,



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Public sector workers and public sector unions in particular are under attack both from recession-driven budget cutting pressures and from right-wing anti-government ideologues who attack the very idea of public services. The essential role of public sector workers in protecting public health, the environment, and the earth's climate can be a crucial part of the fight-back. And it can provide opportunities for alliances with workers and others in the private sector that will make it harder to isolate and stigmatize public service workers.

Public employee unions are uniquely placed to take a lead at local, state, national, and global levels. They can do so through collective bargaining, public policy positions, public education, and coalition-building. There are roles to be played here by people in each of the job categories these union members work in, from health care to housing, to schools, to law enforcement.

September 8: Labor and Climate Will Be Front and Center

This September, leaders from across the country and around the world will meet in San Francisco for the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) to rally support for compliance with the Paris Climate Accords that Donald Trump has rejected. Seizing this opportunity, the [People's Climate Movement](#) (PCM) is mobilizing climate advocates to take to the streets on September 8th for a global day of action to challenge the Trump administration and to encourage the other 99% to "rise for climate, jobs, and justice."

The flagship event in San Francisco aspires to be the largest environmental march in the history of the west coast. The [Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice mobilization](#) has attracted a growing list of more than sixty local organizational endorsers, including the San Francisco Labor Council and twenty-

five other labor organizations, environmental justice, immigrant rights, faith, economic justice, peace, women's, youth and other social justice groups. It has been endorsed by LNS, which encourages all its supporters to turn out, mobilize others, and build a large labor contingent in the marches that will take place around the country.

-- LABOR RISE FOR CLIMATE, JOBS & JUSTICE <https://bit.ly/2NCOMyB>



California events will include:

It Takes Roots/Sol to Sol Events

- **Sept 8 2018 - People's Climate March - open to all - San Francisco, CA**
- **Sept 9 2018 - Local Tours and Art Build - open to all - all over Bay Area**
- **Sept 10 2018 - It Takes Roots Member Assembly - open to ITR members / GGJ, CJA, IEN, and RTC members**
- **Sept 11 2018 - Solidarity to Solutions Summit (Sol2Sol Summit) - public event, open to all, likely outdoors!**
- **Sept 12 2018 - Global Climate Action Summit Direct Actions - open to all, San Francisco**
- **Sept 13 2018 - Global Climate Action Summit Direct Actions - open to all, San Francisco**
- **Sept 14 2018 - Global Climate Action Summit Direct Actions - open to all, San Francisco**



Labor in the Climate Transition: Charting the Roadmap for 2019 and Beyond

September 12, 2018
David Brower Center, Berkeley, California

The University of California Berkeley Labor Center is holding a conference on labor's role in climate policy immediately before the start of the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. It will discuss the best practices, success stories and challenges for labor-friendly climate policy in California, around the U.S. and internationally. Co-sponsors are the California Labor Federation, California Building and Construction Trades Council, Service Employees International Union, IBEW 1245, the International Trades Union Council, and BlueGreen Alliance. The conference is an official "affiliate event" of the Global Summit, which starts the evening of the 12th.

For more information and registration, see <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/beyond2019/>

Janus Decision: LNS Says the Right to Organize Is the Right to Live

In response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, the Labor Network for Sustainability joined hundreds of unions and allied organizations to protest the decision. The LNS statement "The Right to Organize is the Right to Live" [link to full statement] stated:

The Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* decision undermines the right of workers to organize. It unfairly forces unions to provide services free to those who won't pay for them. This costly burden on unions and their members is a key part of a broad attack on working people and the 99%. If the corporate elite who sponsored the *Janus* case can prevent us from organizing, they can make the rest of us powerless and poor - and leave us unprotected against environmental threats like devastating climate change.

The *Janus* decision is an attack on those public employees who are teaching our kids, keeping our streets safe, protecting us from fires, and rushing to our aid when we have an accident. The Labor Network for Sustainability is particularly concerned because these are the people who are protecting our water and air and enforcing environmental laws to resist corporate greed that would turn every inch of our nation into an environmental crime scene.

Ultimately the *Janus* decision is an attack on democracy. Without the right to organize, strong unions, and a strong public sector, there can be no effective barriers to tyranny by a wealthy oligarchy. There can be no effective protection of the right to vote, the right to equal treatment under the law, or the right to a stable and secure climate.

The *Janus* decision, however, is not the end of the story.

For much of U.S. history the courts treated unions as illegal. But workers organized unions anyway. By action in their workplaces, the streets, the courts, and the political system they established the right to organize, bargain collectively, strike, and represent workers in the political process. The response to *Janus* by workers, organized labor, and all who support democracy and human rights will be to fight for the rights of workers in our workplaces, streets, courts, and political arenas.

Canadian IBEW: Just Transition for Coal Workers

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) has been appointed to join the Canadian federal government task force to help coal workers and communities. Canada has pledged to phase out fossil fuels by 2030 and to make it a "just transition" that supports those whose livelihood depends on the coal industry. [link: <http://www.ibew.org/articles/18ElectricalWorker/EW1807/north49a.0718.html>]

Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff will co-chair the committee with Lois Corbett, executive director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. IBEW Local 37 Business Manager and International Executive Council member Ross Galbraith noted that his local has a good record of minimizing the negative impacts of such transitions, having negotiated options like retraining, relocation and early retirement.



I'm going to make sure every option is explored in order to protect our members' interests, including the potential for switching fuel sources," Galbraith said. "It's the benefit of a collective bargaining agreement and a good relationship with the employer."

European Unions: Climate Guide for Trade Unions



The European Trade Union Confederation has published a guide to "Involving trade unions in climate action to build a just transition." [link:

https://www.etuc.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/20180511-cop21_guide_etuc_2018-web.pdf

European unions take a broad view of their role in shaping a just transition to a climate-safe economy. Key recommendations of the Guide include:

- Promote economic diversification in regions and industries most affected by the transition
- Negotiate agreements at sectoral and company level to map the future evolution of skills needs and the creation of sectoral skills councils
- Establish dialogue with all relevant stakeholders and regional authorities to identify and manage the social impacts of climate policies
- Promote the establishment of adequate social protection systems
- Unions and workers should assess the risks linked to 'stranded assets'

For a video summary of the Guide, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwMQref6xhc>

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.

STAY CONNECTED:



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