



Edition #21 July/August, 2018

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](#).

Become a Member

Labor to Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice - September 8



On September 8, thousands of demonstrations around the world will demand immediate action to create for climate, jobs and justice. The Labor Working Group for Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice ([Facebook Page](#)) has asked unions and other labor organizations to sign this pledge to support and participate in this action:

Working people and our communities are suffering the ravages of pollution and rapidly worsening climate change, as evidenced by extreme weather, unprecedented wildfires in urban areas and wilderness, continuing drought, rising temperatures, record hurricanes and floods, and rising sea level. We are at a crossroads and have a critical opportunity to shape which path we're going to take: going backwards, undoing modest gains, which will assure even greater dislocation and suffering, or a just transition to a 100% sustainable, renewable energy economy.

Politicians from California and around the world will meet in San Francisco for the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) Sept 12 to 14. Social, racial, economic and environmental justice organizations are planning to march and rally - to [Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice](#) - on September 8th to send a message to the Summit, our government and the world that the time for half-measures and false solutions is over. The SF demonstration is the anchor event for similar actions taking place that week across the country and around the

world.

Unions and other labor organizations are organizing a Labor Contingent to demonstrate that runaway climate change is a labor and working families issue. These organizations support a rapid just transition to a 100% renewable and sustainable energy economy.

The [Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice](#)

LABOR RISE FOR CLIMATE JOBS & JUSTICE

March with Labor

SATURDAY 9.08.18 10AM

RISE FOR CLIMATE, JOBS & JUSTICE

March with Labor

Gather on Steuart at Market St. in SF

RSVP
CA.RISEFORCLIMATE.ORG

Sign the Pledge
<http://bit.ly/LaborClimateActionPledge>

Civic Center
Resource Fair, Music & Murals

Market St.
10 AM LINE UP
11 AM MARCH

Embarcadero Plaza

CA.RISEFORCLIMATE.ORG

Union Labor Donated
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[mobilization https://peoplesclimate.org/actions/sept-8/](https://peoplesclimate.org/actions/sept-8/) 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.

LNS Holds Los Angeles Labor Convergence on Climate

On July 28, 2018 the Labor Network for Sustainability organized the first Los Angeles Labor Convergence on Climate. Erica Zeitlin of AFSCME DC 36 called it a dialogue "from labor, to labor." As Dave Campbell, USW 675, said, "organized labor needs to be at the table on climate change, or they will be the meal."



The Convergence was hosted by AFSCME DC 36 and co-sponsored by seven union locals. The planning committee included nurses, refinery, electrical, and entertainment industry workers. Representatives from local unions included teachers, cinematographers, construction, energy, sheet metal manufacturing, city and country workers, letter carriers, and social workers. They were joined by ally environmental and environmental justice organizations with deep relationships with labor.



Why is Climate Change a Workers Issue - A Postal Worker Speaks

[This is an excerpt from a talk by Ajamu Dillahunt of the American Postal Workers Union on August 19 at a pre-Convention program on "Political Strategies to Win a Progressive Agenda."]

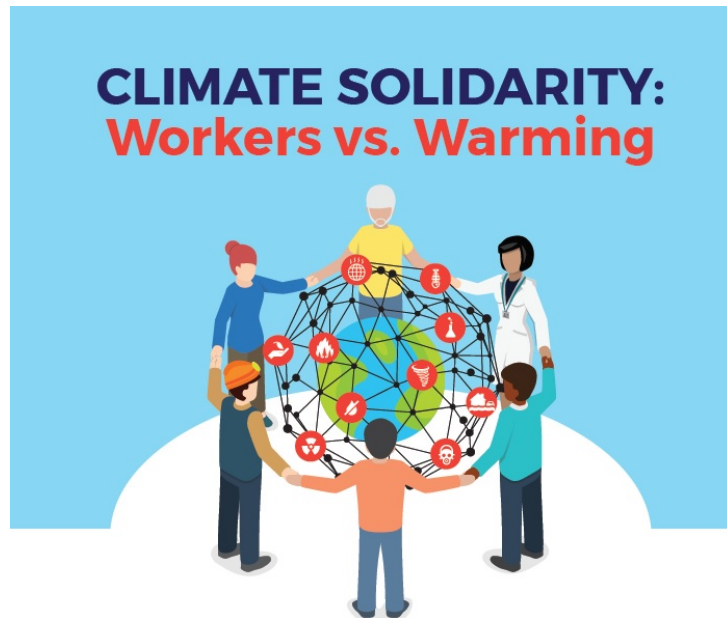
For too long the orientation of labor has been concern for only workplace issues. Our union. Our contract. Across the movement this business unionism has suppressed the great need for social justice unionism: a unionism that is part of the fight for a better world.

So what is the condition of the world today? The wildfires, floods and record-breaking temperatures are evidence we are confronted with everyday that the climate is changing. More frequent and powerful storms, melting ice caps, rising sea levels are having an immediate impact on places like Puerto Rico and the Caribbean but also promise the destruction of coastal communities around the globe.

Workers in construction, tourism and other industries that require outdoor work are at great physical risk, or face job loss because of declining revenue; or increased cost to governments for disaster responses and reconstruction; or even increased energy cost due to the high demand for air conditioning.

Don't forget: our Motor Vehicle Craft and Carriers are subject to these dangerous conditions. The buildings we work in and roads we travel are vulnerable as well.

We fight for a Just Transition from Fossil Fuels to a new economy based on sustainable energy that is democratically owned by consumers, not stockholders; with living wage union jobs for a work force that includes workers who have been marginalized in the past.



We ask you to check out the Labor Network for Sustainability and join as an individual and get your local to join. Attend the next Labor Convergence on Climate.

Most importantly consider building Climate Justice Committees in your local and state organizations. And we need you to contribute to the efforts of the National APWU to hold management's feet to the fire and participate in the broader national and international movement for climate and environmental justice.

Postal Workers Call for Climate Action

The National Association of Letter Carriers at its July, 2018 convention passed a resolution on climate change noting that

In 2017, letter carriers and their families were impacted by severe storms and rainfall in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, and by record wildfires in California, suffering damage or total loss of their homes and possessions, and mail service was disrupted.

According to the resolution,

In recent years, hundreds of letter carriers have suffered heat exhaustion or heat stroke while working in excessively hot weather, with many cases resulting in long term problems, including but not limited to kidney failure, brain damage and motor skills impairment, and two letter carriers have died.



The resolution called for legislation to reduce climate-changing pollution. It also called for securing employment, pensions, and health care for workers affected by changes in the energy market.

Climate "trial of the century" to start October 29

The US government's support for climate destruction is going to court. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled unanimously against the Trump administration's application for a stay in the "climate kids" lawsuit *Juliana v. United States*. The U.S. District Court's trial starts October 29, 2018. LNS was a party to a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the "climate kids" suit.

Two days after the election of Donald Trump as President, Judge Ann Aiken of the federal district court in Oregon ruled that "the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society." A stable climate system is quite literally the foundation of society, "without which there would be neither civilization nor progress." The Trump administration has repeatedly tried to stall the case, but now the Supreme Court has ordered that the case go to trial.

In "A Climate Constitution in the Courts and in the Streets" ([link here](#)), LNS research and policy director Jeremy Brecher writes,

The Aiken decision empowers the climate protection movement. It provides principles that justify the movement's demands for a rapid end to the burning of fossil fuels and its replacement by climate-safe energy. It provides organizations and activists a vision of how they can use the constitutional right to a stable climate and protection of the public trust as a common unifying and mobilizing weapon in all their efforts and arenas.

For additional background on the Juliana case, see Jeremy Brecher's "Trial of the Century Pits Trump Climate Denialism Against 'Right to a Climate System Capable of Sustaining Human Life'" ([link here](#)).

The Just Transition Fund has a new weekly newsletter presenting recent transition-related events. The first issue includes efforts to create community-supported solar development in Navajo communities in the face of the pending closure of the Navajo Generating Station; two articles on economic transition in Appalachia; and a report on the role of solar industry in economic development in rural southwest Wyoming. To subscribe go to <http://justtransitionfund.org/contact>

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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