



CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

BUILDING LOCAL GROUPS AND NETWORKS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

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“We need to put climate change right at the top of the political agenda – it is by far the biggest threat to humanity. We have to turn this into the primary political campaign. That means keeping on the streets, keeping up the demonstrations and putting an enormous amount of pressure on our politicians” – George Monbiot

1. Introduction

This guide is for people who believe there is the possibility of building a local Campaign against Climate Change (CCC) group in their area and/or forming a wider network of activists with a relationship to the CCC. It can also be of use to anyone campaigning on climate change issues in their local area. It is based on the experience of existing groups around the country, primarily in Derby, Sheffield, Kirklees, and Brent in North West London, though not exclusively so.

It should be stressed that these are only guidance notes and intended to be helpful rather than prescriptive. They are not a set of instructions and may not cover all contingences.

Every area is different and you will need to interpret them as they apply to your area and make your own decisions about the best way forward. Similarly the form of a group or network is not set in stone. An initial “group” may consist of two or three committed people, and a “network” could simply be a loose agreement between existing organisations to share information and support each other’s initiatives.

There are no hard-and-fast rules but there are some basic principles that the CCC would encourage you to adopt:

1. Act locally but orientate nationally – or even internationally!
2. Keep in touch with the Campaign against Climate Change office to keep informed about national campaigns and publicise your own actions more widely.
3. Develop as broad a network as possible. “Openness” and “outwardness” are the key words.
4. Focus on collective actions you can agree on rather than political or strategic differences.
5. Be as visible as possible and find ways to engage broad sections of the public.

The climate movement suffered a huge set-back after the Copenhagen talks in 2009 but there are signs that the tide is turning. Although virulent, the climate change deniers are starting to lose ground. The incidence of “weird weather” is arousing public concern, other campaign groups are now receptive to the idea of working together, and many trade unions are taking up the call for the creation of climate jobs and training “green reps” in workplaces. There is energy around diverse campaigns: fossil fuel divestment, the green economy and anti-fracking campaigns.

The Campaign against Climate Change wants to make the most of this new potential. We aim to be a major source of information for the climate movement and to act as a catalyst for local activity around the country. We want to see groups and networks campaigning actively on climate change in every town, city and rural district, and drawing strength from each other. The following suggestions are meant to help in that process.

In return, we ask you to stay in touch with the national office and keep us informed of developments in your area. The e-mail address for the office is info@campaigncc.org or phone 020 7833 9311. Other useful contacts are listed in the relevant sections or obtainable from the websites in Appendix 2.

2. Creating a Local Group or Network

Creating a new local group

If you live in a part of the country where there is no existing campaign group, your first step is to contact the national office for details of other members and supporters within reach of where you live. Two or three people prepared, for example, to open a stall in a local market,

hold a public meeting on a climate related issue, or exchange ideas for activities, are enough to form the nucleus of a group. The office will provide you with campaign materials, speakers, and direct assistance if required. You may also find it useful to invite people along to an initial briefing meeting with a member of the CCC's Local Groups Working Group, or an existing local group, as a speaker.

The Campaign against Climate Change national office produces a regular emailed newsletter. Forwarding this is a useful way of keeping members up-to-date about national campaigns. Liaising with the national office allows a group (or network) to publicise its own activities on the CCC website, www.campaigncc.org, and through CCC newsletters. To assist in this, we suggest you ask for its agreement that one of you acts as the recognised CCC advocate in the group and their contact details are passed to the national office.

Building a stronger local network

Alternatively you may be a member of or wish to join an existing environmental or climate group such as Friends of the Earth (FoE) or an anti-fracking campaign. This guide can help your group explore the possibility of forming a larger network of activists which reaches further afield. This doesn't mean a group having to give up their independent existence or cease working in their normal ways, but simply co-operating with others for the benefit of all concerned. By the same token, the Campaign against Climate Change maintains its own distinctive aims, one of which is to mobilise large numbers of people in national demonstrations and similar highly visible public events.

However you start out, we would encourage you to develop opportunities for working with other groups and establishing a supportive framework that goes beyond the hard core of climate activists. One example of this is Brent Campaign against Climate Change which currently involves members of Friends of the Earth, Transition Town, the Green Party and the Socialist Workers Party. It includes delegates from the Brent Trades Union Council and union branches such as the Transport for London No 1 branch of the RMT, the representatives of two tenants' and residents' associations, a member of the parish committee of a local church, and the secretary of the Pakistan Community Centre which represents six mosques. Its list of supporters includes Labour and Lib-Dem councillors.

Again, we strongly encourage a network or coalition to have at least one nominated contact for liaison with the national Campaign against Climate Change office and to share information about local campaigns. As well as CCC campaigns and information, the network should also circulate relevant information from other constituent organisations. It is advisable to be sensitive and opportunistic in finding ways to promote campaigns raised by other local organisations and NGOs, where there is a climate dimension. It can also be useful to have a regular agenda item on reports from constituent groups in management meetings.

What's in a name?

Brent CaCC calls itself a Campaign against Climate Change group and states that one of its Aims is to “promote within the London Borough of Brent the policies and activities of the national Campaign against Climate Change”. The name is unimportant and your network may not be willing to make such a bald statement of affiliation. The Derby group, for example, changed its name from Derby Campaign against Climate Change to the Derby Climate Coalition in order to reach out to and incorporate other organisations. However, it promotes CCC initiatives, as well as those of other organisations when these are seen to be relevant. You may wish to call your network an “alliance” or a “coalition” to express a similar inclusiveness. Also, generally speaking, while it is easier to start out by forming a network, alliances and coalitions tend to survive longer.

Formalities

There are certain steps that need to be taken once a group or network is established. It is useful to have a written constitution which can be sent on to potential affiliates. A constitution is also normally required to open a bank account. However, it can be a mistake to spend a great deal of time on this. The Brent constitution in Appendix 1 is an example of a simple, basic constitution.

A group should have regular dates for meetings. Where a network is being set up which aims to coordinate actions rather than simply exchange information, it is important to set up a management group or steering group which is responsible for organising activities and maintaining the continuity of the network. As with a group, it is helpful to have identified officers who meet every few weeks, including a secretary who takes minutes or notes of decisions, and a treasurer who keeps the accounts. This may sound formalistic but it facilitates efficient working.

Group meetings / network management group meetings should nonetheless be open to anyone who wishes to participate. Notices of meetings should be circulated to all supporters and those who have attended its public meetings or other activities. For this and other purposes there should be “sign-up” sheets at all events you organise and the secretary or another identified person should keep an up-to-date record of names and contact details.

Identity and publicity

Most people wanting to find out more about your group or network will probably look online first, so your webpage becomes the public face of the organisation. A simple blog, for example a WordPress one, is fine – the most important things are to update it regularly and to include contact details for anyone wishing to find out more. It is helpful to link to the national Campaign against Climate Change website, and also make sure your group's details are accurate on the CCC local groups page.

Depending on preferences, a Facebook group or a Google discussion group can be useful. Similarly, Twitter can be used to publicise campaigns. A regular e-mailed newsletter, open to contributions from recipients, can be a good idea but occasional one-off messages may be more likely to receive attention. The time and resources needed to produce and distribute a printed newsletter can't, in most instances, be justified.

Offline, having a banner is a huge aid to visibility and group cohesion, especially if it carries the logos of supporting organisations.

3. Working in Networks

Drawing on strengths

Members of networks will come from different organisations with different traditions, interests, ways of working, and political or strategic agendas. This has to be recognised and respected but should not be an impediment to co-operation. Wherever possible the network as a whole should support the relevant initiatives of its constituent groups, whether joining Friends of the Earth members in lobbying MPs or supporting trade unionists and anti-cuts campaigners in protesting against cuts in environmental services. When Derby City Council wanted to halve the number of people employed in its Climate and Energy unit the Derby group fought hard to protect jobs, by means of letters and pickets outside council meetings. This was the first time that a number of climate activists had joined an industrial picket, linking arms, metaphorically at least, with trade unionists. As a result the council climbed down, and some jobs were saved.

In many instances the involvement of people with different interests and priorities can facilitate a productive division of labour. Such differences imply a difference in skills, knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm. Friends of the Earth members tend to be experienced in lobbying and have access to well devised and informative lobbying materials. Transition Town members, on the other hand, are more likely to be enthusiastic about mounting a display at a festival or talking at a school. Trade Unionists may choose to focus on promoting the TUC's GreenWorkplaces projects.

A climate change campaign can support any of these activities so long as the link is clearly made with climate change and its mitigation. The management group should plan activities with a view to building positively upon such differences and finding everyone a role and an area of activity that draws on their strengths and degree of commitment.

Dealing with differences productively

Of course, there may be occasions when not every constituent group or member can give support to an activity backed by the network. A councillor who belongs to the majority group on the council may not be too keen on supporting a protest against its decisions. Similarly, a Conservative businessman may object to supporting a meeting of the One Million Climate Jobs campaign as it calls for the creation of state jobs.

As a practical measure the constitution of the network can carry a “let-out” clause enabling members to withdraw from a particular activity without needing to withdraw from the network as a whole. These instances should be minuted so that everyone’s position is clear. As a general principle networks should seek to broaden their alliances to include councillors and activists from different parties, and individuals with different political persuasions, but should not compromise decisions to facilitate their inclusion. Nonetheless, the focus should be on commonly supported activities rather than unavoidable differences.

This is not to suggest that political differences should not be aired, so long as this is conducted respectfully, in good humour and in the right context. Two CCC groups, for example, hold “Drink and Think” sessions in local pubs and cafés as forums for discussing the broader political issues relating to climate change. Friendly discussions or debates like this can be stimulating and attract new supporters. They are also a way of addressing contentious issues such as economic growth, geo-engineering, or population increase without disrupting the work of the network. Similarly a short discussion of a book or an article prior to a management meeting can be a way of livening-up the proceedings.

It is very likely that meetings will generate debate and discussion, and this is healthy. In general people earn respect and trust through what they do and what they can give, and in the process the differences are explored and understood.

Working with others: Kirklees Campaign against Climate Change

“We do quite a lot of collaboration with other groups – with environmental or social / economic concerns. Collaborations include the Climate Jobs Caravan that included an event co-run with a local Transition Town group and support of Huddersfield Trade Union Council, an ‘Energy We Can All Afford’ meeting which included speakers from FoE, Leeds Fuel Poverty Action, No Dash for Gas, and two local green businessmen. We have co-ordinated and worked with others on all of the Stop Climate Chaos ‘Big Climate Connection’ lobbies since 2010. We had a very successful Arctic vigil in September which about 40 people attended from a variety of groups”.

“This year, we’ve done some work supporting the Energy Bill Revolution and FoE’s Clean Energy campaign. Over the next year we’re going to be doing quite a lot of work to support the World Development Movement’s ‘Carbon Capital’ campaign”.

Individual network supporters should be encouraged to join one of the constituent groups and/or the Campaign against Climate Change. There is, of course, nothing to stop members of constituent groups also being members of the CCC, and this ought be encouraged. The CCC itself is a “broad church”. We are not out to “poach” members or displace existing campaign groups, but to strengthen ties.

Finding like-minded local groups

Details of local groups linked to the following organisations can be found at the web addresses indicated:

Campaign against Climate Change: <http://www.campaigncc.org/local.shtml>

Climate Rush: <http://www.climaterush.co.uk/local-groups/>

Frack Off: <http://frack-off.org.uk/local-group-specific-pages/>

Friends of the Earth: http://www.foe.co.uk/get_involved/find_group.html

Green Party: <http://greenparty.org.uk/find-your-local-party.html>

Greenpeace: <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups>

Transition Network: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/nearby>

World Development Movement: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/local-groups-activists-and-supporters/local-groups-activists-and-supporters>

4. Campaign Activities and Outreach

Some activities will be carried out to further a particular local or national campaign, others will be more focused on outreach, and some will aim to do both. Being clear about the purpose beforehand makes it easier to assess afterwards how successful the event was, and what might be done differently in future.

For more about outreach, read the sections on working with trade unions and reaching students and young people in your local area.

Public meetings

Public meetings are a core activity for many local groups and networks. These should be varied and topical and attempt to relate to the interests of different sections of the local population as well as the climate issue. They can be focused on national or international events or something more local. Examples would include a protest against a fracking or open cast mining venture, opposing building development at a local park or beauty spot, campaigning around cycling facilities, and resisting proposals by the council to cut the number of environmental officers or street cleaners.

The following are some of the subjects of public meetings held or planned by CCC groups or allied networks:

- “After Copenhagen – How Do We Fight Climate Change?”
- “The Facts about Climate Change”
- “Trade Unionists in the Fight against Climate Change”
- “Health, Environment and Climate Change”
- “What Islam Teaches about Protecting the Environment”
- “Food, Floods and Climate Change: Africa, Asia, Britain”

- “Energy We Can All Afford?”
- “News from Cochabamba: Report Back from the People’s World Congress on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth”

The Campaign against Climate Change office may provide you with contact details for speakers on national or international issues or, in the case of CCC initiated campaigns, publicity materials and direct assistance.

There are also variations on public meetings. Debates are popular – Derby has organised one on biodiesel and one, with local groups of young radicals, on lifestyle politics. In another initiative, Brent has run two series of “Environmental Writers’ Meetings”, held in public libraries and organised jointly with the Brent Library Service. The meetings consist of readings by writers who have written about the environment or climate change in any genre, followed by a discussion. Past writers have included Derek Wall, Jonathan Neale, the “young adults” author, Saci Lloyd, and science fiction writer, China Miéville. Audiences are never large but the local press has sometimes reported the meetings or carried interviews with the authors. They have also been an opportunity for authors to sell their books or get them stocked in libraries and in nearby bookshops.

In collaboration with the local Friends of the Earth group, Brent also organised a successful “Community Briefing” on the Arctic meltdown, with speakers from FoE and CCC. To ensure an audience they e-mailed local MP’s, councillors and leading members of community groups and unions, asking them to be “Invited Listeners” at the briefing (an idea stolen from FoE). The Leader of the Council was among the councillors who attended, and others, who sent their apologies, asked for a written report. Holding the meeting in the Pakistan Community Centre meant that leaflets were distributed by imams in the Brent mosques. The subsequent report was circulated widely, appeared on councillors’ blogs, and attracted a fair amount of comment, locally and in on-line discussion groups.

Still more ambitiously, Kirklees organise three educational workshops a year, the most recent being on “The Energy Emergency and the Developing World”, the World Development Movement’s “Carbon Capital” campaign, and the “Nine Planetary Boundaries”.

Sheffield Climate Alliance held a day-long “People’s Conference for Climate Justice” with films and workshops on topics ranging from “Prosperity without Growth” to “Women and Climate Change”. Suggestions from other groups include holding a debate between key national and/or local figures on topics like the value and impact of HS2, wind farms, or returning the rail franchises to public ownership.

Sheffield Campaign against Climate Change (SCACC) holds one or two major public events every year, including a “Live the Cool Life” conference in 2008 to coincide with Al Gore’s visit and a “Green New Deal” conference in 2009. SCACC coordinated these conferences but actively engage and collaborate with other campaigning and faith groups in the city. They fed back to 100 people about the Copenhagen UN talks and held a conference on Climate Justice co-organised with Cuba Solidarity. They also co-sponsor a series of Autumn lectures

in collaboration with the (Anglican) Diocese of Sheffield's Faith and Justice Committee. They have advertised and participated in other organisations events, for example with CND in a highly successful debate around Nuclear Energy, also in two local election hustings with FoE and the World Development Movement.

Getting out and about

Public meetings and similar events are crucial for maintaining the profile of the group, while leafleting for them is an important way of meeting and talking to the public. However, it has to be borne in mind that only 3% of the British public attend public meetings, and they are rarely young people. Clearly, other ways of reaching people have to be considered. These might include stalls at local festivals, film screenings, petitions, vigils, cycle rides, and stunts of various kinds. Kirklees offers some inspirational examples, which include a "die-in" on fuel poverty and an "extreme energy walking tour". The group supported CCC's climate emergency campaign with a "Zero Carbon cycle ride" where they met three of the district's four MPs in one day and asked them to support the climate emergency Early Day Motion – one of whom signed up! They also organised a hustings on climate change before the General Election and put together a "350 Messages in Bottles" installation at a local library.

The principle here is simple. We can't just expect people to come to us – we need to go to them. The following is just a small sample of things that have been organised, or could be organised, by local groups and networks:

- A stall outside a local mosque/ church/ synagogue / temple (arranged with the agreement of the relevant religious leaders)
- Leafleting a supermarket about the impact of climate change on food prices
- A screening of "The Age of Stupid" in a youth club
- A presentation to the Conservative/ Labour/ Lib-Dem group on the local Council
- A talk to a tenants' and residents' association, pensioners' group, allotment committee, or inter-faith forum
- A campaign to persuade a local supermarket or industrial warehouse to install solar panels on its roof.
- A talk for a class in a local school or college (see more in the section about engaging with students and young people)

Outreach can also mean supporting other local campaigns. These may be environmental, for example, about waste recycling or the felling of trees. However they may not be traditional environmental causes, for example anti-cuts groups or campaigns to defend the fire service, the NHS, or public transport services, but supporting these can also be valuable where you can justify your involvement with clear reference to the environmental impact or the arguments for creating "green" jobs.

Local media: reaching a wider audience

The local press will be interested in your activities if what you do is pictorially interesting and involves local worthies, costumes, placards, and children. If the papers' photographers don't turn up take your own photos and e-mail them to the picture editors.

Generally, it is worth developing a relationship with local journalists so that they come to you for a quick quote on relevant issues. Local and hospital radio stations are also often looking around for material and will offer you an interview if the topic is of direct relevance to their audience. The same goes for letters to the papers, which should be signed-off with the name of your group or network, as well as your own name. As with all local media, what you have to say must have an obvious local relevance and ideally relate to something happening in the locality. An event in the next borough or the next town will be considered beyond the radar.

Also it is important to publicise and amplify events using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. The national office will give practical advice about this if needed.

Finally, a video of a public meeting can often reach a wider audience than the event itself. Brent held a very poorly attended public meeting with a local MP among the speakers. The video of the event went onto several websites and the group was subsequently e-mailed from as far afield as Australia. You can be local without being parochial!

5. Working with Local Councils

Establishing a presence in your area will also mean developing a relationship with the local council. The extent to which this is possible – or positive – will depend, of course, on the political composition of the council and the degree of interest of individual councillors. Where you meet with a response from individual councillors it is worth cultivating them as your “champions” on the council or council committees. Invite them to join your management committee, to chair meetings, and give you advise on particular local issues. Without being cynical, they will often be more responsive if it means their getting a mention in the local paper.

Who's who

The Lead Member for Environmental Services (or the equivalent) is obviously a key person to relate to, but so can be the Lead Member for Education, Housing or Public Health – and equally importantly the council officers working under them. Many councils will have consultative bodies like a Sustainability Forum, a Climate Change Steering Group, an Environmental Forum, or a Residents' Sub-group on the environment, on all of which you should try to get representation.

You should also make a point of responding as a group to consultations on local development plans, whether, for example, to do with housing or schools (which offer opportunities to argue for food growing areas), industrial developments, or the location of incinerators. If you are pursuing a particular campaign you can make an address – a

“deputation” – to the council or its executive if you make a request in writing to the Secretary to the Council. Information on all these points can be found on your local council website.

CCC groups and allied networks have been involved in joint work with councils in a number of different ways.

Sheffield Climate Alliance put together a petition to Sheffield City Council calling on them to implement a plan for the creation of 10,000 local climate jobs. The petitions received enough signatures to be referred to the council’s Scrutiny Board and the Alliance is continuing to work with the council in identifying opportunities for creating climate jobs. More on this can be found at: <http://jobsandclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Running-a-Local-Jobs-Petition-The-Sheffield-Story1.pdf>.

The Alliance has also worked with the council to co-organise a public meeting on “Building Our Response to the Climate Challenge”, chaired by the Lead Councillor for the Environment and attracting nearly 180 people.

Derby launched a petition calling for the development of a strategy to tackle climate change and for the reduction of emissions “as soon as possible”. Among the nearly 500 people who signed the petition was the Leader of the Council (now MP for Derby North), Chris Williamson. In 2008 the Council agreed to radically overhaul its organisation and set-up a number of advisory and scrutiny committees with the aim of reducing its carbon emissions by 25% over five years . Its cross-party Climate Change Commission meets a minimum of five times a year and has co-opted members of the Derby group. The story of the Derby group and its engagement with the Council can be read at: http://derbyclimate.org.uk/?page_id=143.

Low Carbon Zones

Established networks may wish to discuss with their councils working together to create a Low Carbon Zone in their locality. Low Carbon Zones (LCZ’s) are defined areas where different agencies come together to encourage and facilitate greater energy efficiency through home insulation and local power generation using solar and wind power.

The agencies could include a local college who are able to provide training courses and seminars, campaign groups to help develop awareness of the issues (and, in the case of Transition groups, encourage local food growing), companies and shops who can offer discounts, and the council to assist in accessing funds for the project and improvement grants for some of its stakeholders. Among the stakeholders are private home-owners, Housing Associations, the council’s housing officers, and colleges and universities who are able to market their courses in relevant subject areas.

A useful model is the Furzedown Low Carbon Zone in Tooting, South London. This was initiated by members of the Greener Jobs Alliance and Transition Town Tooting, with advice from Sustainable Merton where a funded LCZ already existed. It is co-ordinated by Graham Petersen, the UCU's national environment co-ordinator, who may be contacted at GPetersen@UCU.ORG.UK for further information and advice.

Other useful information, and examples of the work of LCZ's, can be found on the Sustainable Merton website at <http://sustainablemerton.org/> and the Low Carbon Communities Network site at <http://lowcarboncommunities.org/>.

A note of caution

Working jointly with City, Borough or, for that matter, Parish Councils, along with other local agencies, is valuable both for what it can achieve and as a way of establishing your network as part of the community. It can also be a useful vehicle for raising public awareness of the need for carbon reductions. Be aware, though, that projects like this can be labour-intensive and time-consuming and may not yield proportionate results.

The importance of working with councils therefore needs to be qualified. Firstly, keep in mind that the main point of the exercise is to heighten public awareness of the need for the country as a whole to cut emissions. Use every opportunity to publicise what you are doing – and why – and engage with as wide a section of the public as possible. Secondly, you will need to decide whether involvement in complex, time-consuming projects is the best use of your limited resources or whether other methods of raising awareness might be more productive. Finally, avoid giving the impression that climate change can be tackled simply through changes in individual behaviour or the initiatives of local agencies. We need constantly to stress the point that a significant difference can only be made through the intervention of central government and that our over-riding aim is to build a movement to secure that intervention.

Despite the involvement of the Derby group in several of its committees, Derby City Council has not achieved its targets because many of the measures considered failed to offer sufficient financial savings. Nonetheless, the council was forced to rebuild its own Council House, at a substantial cost and to the highest environmental standards, and include a hydro plant sufficient to provide much of the electricity for the council and to export electricity into the grid during down times.

6. Involving Trade Unions

In recent years trade unionists have been among the most responsive sections of the public on the issue of climate change. This was evident during the 2012 Climate Jobs Caravan tour, during which many of the events were organised by trade union branches, TUC regions and Trades Councils, and much of the funding came from unions.

One Million Climate Jobs

This is a campaign for the government to create one million climate jobs to solve both the economic and the environmental crises. The report 'One Million Climate Jobs' sets out the detail (this is being updated in 2013). The One Million Climate Jobs campaign, initiated by the CCC Trade Union Group (CACCTU), now has the backing of five national unions, including the largest, UNITE.

The One Million Climate Jobs pamphlet can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.climate-change-jobs.org/node/14>. Copies of the printed pamphlet should be displayed on stalls and can be obtained through the national office. Single copies are £2.50 but bulk orders are £15 for ten, which means you can make a small profit for your campaign funds.

Two videos on "One Million Climate Jobs Now" – one lasting ten minutes, the other thirty minutes – can be ordered by e-mailing info@reelnews.co.uk and are useful for showing in meetings. The shorter version can also be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAO2Oa5iWa8&feature=youtu.be>.

A three minute video on the Climate Jobs Caravan visit to Lancaster can be screened from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8DLA069bAs&feature=em-share_video_user and provides an excellent summary of the campaign.

Other issues of interest to both trade unionists and climate activists

Trade union interest isn't simply confined to the potential for job creation. The TUC's GreenWorkplaces projects have generated a wide range of imaginative initiatives on energy saving at work, waste reduction, recycling, green travel plans, and many other ideas. There is also a growing interest among rank and file trade unionist like those who attended the CACCTU conference on "Confronting the Climate Crisis" in June 2013. A 2012 survey carried out for the TUC by Labour Research received 1,200 responses from workplace-based "green reps". It shouldn't be assumed, therefore, that trade unionists will only be interested in the Million Climate Jobs campaign, although obviously this is one topic that will open doors.

The TUC website includes a regular "GreenWorkplaces" newsletter, the "Go Green At Work" shop stewards/green reps guide, and lots more. Plus many unions now have green reps networks and resources. For further information go to: www.tuc.org.uk – click "Workplace Issues" and then "Green Workplaces".

There may be issues where union branches, regions or Trades Councils would be ready to team up with you to organise a public meeting. Examples would include the franchising of the railways network (see <http://actionforrail.org/>), rail fare increases (<http://www.togetherfortransport.org/farefail/>), flood defences (of concern to the Fire Brigade Union), and food prices. When relevant groups of workers are on strike the network could consider organising visits to the picket line, inviting a speaker to a meeting, and/or circulating collection sheets.

Making contact

We strongly urge you to try to involve trade unionists in local networks, ideally as delegates from branches or Trades Councils (sometimes called Trade Union Councils). The CCC Trade Union Group can provide speakers and may be able to put you in touch with members or supporters living in your area. E-mail kenmontague@msn.com or contact the office.

One approach is to offer to give a talk to a branch, region, or Trades Council meeting. Trades Councils are bodies of delegates from local union branches, whose brief it is to take-up wider social issues in their area. Consequently they may be ready to send a delegate to your network and publicise your meetings through their affiliated branches or County Associations.

Contact details of union branches can be obtained from the head offices of the relevant unions, a directory of which is on the website at www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/unions_main.cfm. This gives phone numbers and e-mail addresses of TUC affiliated unions, which are the great majority. Your local Trades Council may also provide addresses, or facilitate contact, with their affiliated branches. The locations of Trades Councils in the TUC's eight regions can be found at http://www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/regions_main.cfm.

The TUC regional offices can be of assistance in locating unions in their regions and should be your first port-of-call if there is something you want promoting among unions locally. Contact details can be found at www.tuc.org.uk/the_tuc/index.cfm?mins=58&minors=2&majorsubjectID=19. You are advised not to contact the TUC at Congress House directly as their officers are extremely busy and all the information they can provide is in this paragraph.

The Derby group has worked particularly hard in making links with trade unionists. Although many of its supporters are not sympathetic to unions it organised a meeting in support of Vestas workers, chaired by the secretary of the Trades Council, and it has helped build bridges in a number of other ways. The following is an account of its intervention in the campaign to keep open the Bombardier rail equipment plant and safeguard 1400 jobs in the town and many more in the region:

"In June 2011 Bombardier was set to lose the Government contract to build new trains to a rival company, meaning most of the work would be moved to Germany. In developing the climate connection some of the sharpest debates the Derby Climate Coalition had were around the Bombardier issue, and why we needed to relate to it. Some said it was not an environmental issue because there is no environmental case to prefer one company over another. Others were wary about working with trade unionists because of their agenda was for growth, leading to an increase in carbon footprints. The argument which won the day was that this country needs a thriving railway infrastructure, including manufacturing, if we are going to take people out of cars and planes and increasing the amount of freight carried on rail, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

"Over 10,000 people joined a local demonstration. The Derby group, in conjunction with

Climate Alliance and the Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Group, organised an extremely successful fringe meeting following a local demonstration of 10,000 people. The meeting included a contribution from the Derby North MP, the showing of the Million Climate Jobs film, a Right to Work component and so on. Alongside the TSSA union, we organised a general support meeting from which a Bombardier Community Support Group was set up. This involved a cross-section of the public, from business to left wing activists, and, despite some resistance to “outsiders” bringing their own agendas to the table, held regular meetings accompanied by a great deal of activity. The whole campaign was an opportunity for climate activists to work beyond traditional green boundaries and to make the connections between the need for investment in jobs and contributing to combating climate change.”

The story of the Derby group and its engagement with Bombardier can be read at

http://jobsandclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/AJC_Briefing-Sheet_The-Bombardier-Dispute-_5.10.122.pdf

7. Reaching out to Students and Young People

Universities and colleges

In most universities there are already established environmental societies, such as People & Planet, or simply a “Green Society”. Some have specific societies such as a Geography Society, which have relevance to climate issues, and all will have political societies who may be receptive to the idea of addressing climate change.

The easiest and best way to reach out to students is to contact the Chairs of relevant societies at universities and colleges in your region. Their details can be obtained through the National Union of Students at the particular university or college. Some may have Environment Officers, who will also be a good connection with the student body. A contact portal for People & Planet university groups can be found at <http://peopleandplanet.org/universities/groupslit/> and a similar facility for schools and colleges at <http://peopleandplanet.org/education>.

If you have someone in your group who is comfortable with being a speaker, you can arrange/ask if you can go to one of their meetings to do a talk, show a film, or lead a discussion. The Campaign against Climate Change national office may be able to make suggestions about suitable resources.

Once you’ve made contact, invite them to your events. Incorporate their campaign ideas, where possible, that come out of discussions with them. This is not only establishes a real connection with the group but also means that your local group or network will be representative of a broader swathe of your community. Perhaps a member of their group could become a delegate to your network.

Doing this will make it easier to relate to other community members, as well as easier to lobby local government. However, before making any move in this direction it is best to consult with the national office as we are developing our own relationship with People & Planet and the National Union of Students and may be able to advise you on particular campaigns or contacts in the relevant institutions.

Working with young people

Brent worked with the Borough Council and the College of North West London to hold a very successful one-day Students Conference on Climate Change during the College's Industry Week. Close to 200 school and college students and teachers attended and two of the sessions were chaired by councillors. A borough-wide competition for young people was run in parallel with the conference, offering prizes for the best projects with ideas for mitigating climate change or raising public awareness of the dangers. Local papers carried pictures of the Mayor presenting the prizes.

One of the lessons that came out of organising the Brent conference was the potential for working with the local Youth Parliament. Like Brent, many councils operate a Youth Parliament with terms of reference that include serving as the voice of local young people and influencing council policies that affect young residents. They may also compile portfolios that councillors work to and identify a key issue to be addressed by the council each year. Although most of the seats on Youth Parliaments are taken by representatives of schools and colleges, any resident aged 10 – 19 (sometimes 11 – 18) may seek nomination, and where you have supporters in this age range the Parliament can offer a useful campaigning platform. For more information see the UKYP website at <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/>.

You might want to give a talk in a local school or college.

It is generally useful to include a video to stimulate discussion. "The Story of Change" is an excellent short video on the importance of campaigning made by the US Makewav.es Community and can be downloaded from <https://www.makewav.es/story/447323/title/thestoryofchange>.

8. Final Words of Advice

George Monbiot has written that *"Climate change is perhaps the gravest calamity our species has ever encountered. Its impact dwarfs that of any war, any plague, any famine we have confronted so far. It makes genocide and ethnic cleansing look like sideshows at the circus of human suffering."* This should be a sufficient incentive for us to attempt to build broad, effective campaigning networks in all parts of the country.

However, faced with the gravity of the situation, and with so little time to make a difference, it's easy to forget that patience and forbearance are essential prerequisites for building an effective movement. Despite our own sense of urgency we need to understand why the climate crisis is not among the top concerns of most people. They often have more

immediate and personal issues pressing upon them and even when they care about climate change feel there is little they can do about it. We need to connect with their concerns and show what can be done – and what has to be done by governments to ensure the continuance of a viable planet.

Existing groups and networks have had notable successes which need to be emulated. Brent, Derby and Sheffield have all organised events attracting audiences of over 100 and Derby's contact list now extends to over 800 people. However, it has not always been plain sailing. Political disputes within networks have had to be resolved, meetings have sometimes been depressingly small, and, as Derby complains, "activists inside workplaces will tell you how their colleagues' eyes glaze over when raising green issues". We are all sometimes confronted by negative or diversionary opinions, some of which are addressed in the Shift briefing document at http://jobsandclimate.org/wordpress-cms/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/AJC_Briefing-Sheet_Putting-the-personal-first_22.08.121.pdf.

As a general principle, tolerance and philosophical acceptance are preferable to expressions of frustration or righteous indignation. The Kirklees group has a long history of autonomous and creative campaigning and shows an exemplary attitude when the response to their initiatives has been small: *"Numbers are great when we get them, but we don't get too obsessed with them. Lack of numbers, we think, frequently leads to despondency and groups disbanding. We'll just carry on doing what we're doing and sometimes we get a big turnout and sometimes we get a small turnout. C'est la vie."*

We can take hope from the fact that the perils of climate change are beginning to permeate the public consciousness. This was apparent from the number of ordinary people who expressed their concerns during the Climate Jobs Caravan tour in 2012. New forces – notably the trade unions – are also entering the movement. We need to seize on the opportunities that this offers to build our local groups and networks around the country. Finally, history shows that the political climate can change as rapidly as the geo-physical climate, and this in turn can throw up new challenges and possibilities.

When he discovered the principle of the lever, Archimedes famously said "Give me a place to stand and I will move the world". We stand in our local areas, but the leverage that we generate has to be applied to central government, and ultimately world governments. If – along with other people – we are successful we will not only move the world but, with a bit of luck, save it.

APPENDIX 1: EXAMPLE CONSTITUTION

The Aims and Constitution of Brent Campaign against Climate Change provide an example of a simple, basic constitution for a local network. It can of course be amended to fit your particular circumstances and there is always room for improvement. It might include, for example, specific reference to faith groups and other community organisations, or student unions.

AIMS

1. To promote within the London Borough of Brent the policies and activities of the national Campaign against Climate Change
2. To disseminate information about the policies and activities of participating groups and organisations
3. To raise public awareness within the borough of climate change and other environmental issues
4. To maintain a website, organise public meetings, film screenings and local campaign activities, and to provide speakers for schools and colleges, trade union branches, tenants' and residents' associations, etc.
5. To develop local climate policies and initiatives and to promote these within the consultation bodies of Brent Council, the Greater London Assembly, local trade union organisations, tenants' and residents' associations, and political parties.

CONSTITUTION

1. BCaCC is a non-profit making network and information exchange for participating environmental groups, trade union organisations, tenants' and residents' associations, and individual climate activists within the London Borough of Brent.
2. BCaCC is not affiliated to any political party.
3. Participation in BCaCC does not imply endorsement of all of the policies and activities of BCaCC or its participants.
4. The activities of BCaCC will be decided by an open Steering Group that seeks to be representative of participating organisations. Additional members of the Steering Group are to be endorsed and minuted by the existing members.
5. The quorum for Steering Group meetings is four existing members.
6. Decisions of the Steering Group will be taken on a simple majority. Where there is a failure to agree the Steering Group will convene a meeting of participating groups to resolve the issue.
7. BCaCC will hold an Annual General Meeting to review its activities and constitution.
8. In the event of BCaCC being wound-up all funds held in the bank account will be donated to the national Campaign against Climate Change.

APPENDIX 2: USEFUL WEBSITES

"A Rocha" Christian environmental movement: <http://www.arocha.org/gb-en/index.html>

Action for Rail: <http://actionforrail.org/>

Action for Renewables: <http://www.actionforrenewables.org/>

Alliance for Green Socialism: <http://www.greensocialist.org.uk/ags/>

Big Green Jewish Website: <http://www.biggreenjewish.org/>

Biofuelwatch: <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/>

Climate Change Emergency Medical Response: <http://www.climate-change-emergency-medical-response.org/>

Brent Campaign against Climate Change: <http://brentccc.wordpress.com/>

Campaign for Better Transport: <http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/>

Carbon Tracker Initiative: <http://www.carbontracker.org/>

Christian Ecology Link: <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/>

Climate and Health Council: <http://www.climateandhealth.org/>

Climate Bloc: <http://climatebloc.wordpress.com/>

Climate Change Emergency Medical Response: <http://www.climate-change-emergency-medical-response.org/>

Conservative Environment Network: <http://www.cenetwork.org.uk/>

Department of Energy and Climate Change:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change>

Derby Climate Coalition: <http://derbyclimate.org.uk/>

European Christian Environmental Network: <http://www.ecen.org/>

Frack Off Extreme Energy Action Network: <http://frack-off.org.uk/>

Fuel Poverty Action: <http://fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/>

Green New Deal Group: <http://www.greennewdealgroup.org/>

Greener Jobs Alliance: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/greenerjobsproject>

HACAN (Heathrow): <http://www.hacan.org.uk/>

Interact (Interfaith Action): <http://www.interact.btck.co.uk/>

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences:

http://islam.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=islam&cdn=religion&tm=101&gps=147_11_1262_615&f=00&su=p284.13.342.ip_&tt=2&bt=9&bts=9&zu=http%3A//www.ifees.org.uk/

Jewish Social Action Forum: <http://jhublog.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/the-jewish-social-action-forum-setting-the-agenda/>

Kirklees Campaign against Climate Change:

<http://kirkleescampaignagainstclimatechange.wordpress.com/>

London Climate Change Partnership: <http://climatelondon.org.uk/>

Make the Link Climate Exchange: <http://www.mtl-cec.org/>

No Dash for Gas: <http://www.nodashforgas.org.uk/>

One Million Climate Jobs Campaign: <http://www.climate-change-jobs.org/about>.

Also: <http://www.campaigncc.org/greenjobs>

Operation Noah: <http://www.operationnoah.org/>

Part-time Carnivore: <http://parttimecarnivore.wordpress.com/>

People and Planet: <http://peopleandplanet.org/>

People's Assembly Against Austerity: <http://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk/>

Raised Voices Political Choir: <http://www.raised-voices.org.uk/>

Sheffield Campaign against Climate Change: <https://sites.google.com/site/scaccweb/>

Sheffield Climate Alliance: <http://www.sheffieldclimatealliance.net/>

Stop Climate Chaos Coalition: <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/>

Student Hubs: <http://studenthubs.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

The Carbon Brief: <http://www.carbonbrief.org/>

TUC Green Workplaces Network:

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/index.cfm?mins=392&minors=87&majorsubjectID=2>

UK Youth Climate Coalition: <http://ukycc.org/>

Unite the Resistance: <http://uniteresist.org/>

10:10: <http://www.1010global.org/uk/about>