

BUILD ON THIS CLIMATE STRIKE

Today's global action is magnificent, and provides a base we must urgently build on if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Every day brings new climate calamities. Beyond these looms the risk of cascading 'tipping points' and runaway warming. Millions of people are suffering under the impact of extractive industries, pollution and climate change. We know the problem facing us is not technological, but political. A mass movement against climate change is emerging.



The global school students' strikes and XR have shifted the debate on climate. Today can be the beginning of a process where we bring to bear power that can win.

Strikes are potentially an extremely powerful form of direct action. Almost nothing happens without workers working – no goods are made nor services are produced. Strikes can create a crisis for businesses, industries and governments.

The scale of climate strikes in Britain isn't yet enough, but today's action has forced the workers' action onto the agenda of unions and employers. Today's successes and examples can be used to build for more in the future.

Alongside building participation in climate campaigning, we need to fight to end or defy the repressive British anti-union laws which deter unions from calling strikes over climate, and build stronger unions in every workplace.

JOHNSON HAS TO GO

The Tory government is thrashing around, taking increasingly anti-democratic measures in an attempt to resolve the divisions and crisis caused by Brexit and its lack of majority.

It's high time we put them out of our misery. The Tories won't take effective action on climate because they are tied to big business interests. Johnson is mates with climate deniers like Trump and Bolsonaro. They back anti-union laws that infringe our right to strike. And who can forget Johnson buying water-cannon to use against demonstrators.

A radical Corbyn-led Labour government would help a just transition from a carbon economy, as well as helping workers' rights, public services and poverty. But the rich and powerful won't give up without a fight. We will need powerful and radical movements on the streets, in workplaces, colleges and communities whoever is in office.



Join a day of anticapitalist discussion on the politics of the climate emergency, in London on Saturday 26 October. Speakers include Brendan Montague, Clara Paillard, Lola Seaton, Paul Allen, Zita Holbourne and activists from the school strikes, Extinction Rebellion, Reclaim the Power and Scot.E3.

See www.endgames.earth for information and tickets. Free professional childcare available.

THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

A movement that wants to win can't avoid politics, because politics is about power: the power to win and the power of climate enemies. But what politics?

OPPOSE FOSSIL CAPITAL

Everyone can see that the government is not taking enough action to radically reduce emissions, but why? It is not simply corrupt or inept. States compete by encouraging capital accumulation, so protect the interests of polluting and exploitative corporations. Their pursuit of profit and economic growth at any price is no accident, it is the essence of capitalism.



The repression of anti-fracking protesters who disrupt fossil fuel extraction shows that the state puts capital before people. We need mass direct action against both fossil capital and its state backers.

JUST TRANSITION

A minority of wealthy individuals and corporations are responsible for the vast majority of atmospheric carbon, yet they are the ones with the greatest stake in the status quo. The rich are already planning to insulate themselves from the worst effects of climate chaos while failing to prevent it - and to repress the rest of us. The global majority will have to take them on to protect our environment. Diversifying our movement and mobilising that global majority means a just transition is vital. It must offer secure green housing, jobs and transport for everyone. This will need

programmes of publicly funded investment and the retraining of workers whose livelihoods currently rely on carbon intensive industries. There are already trade unionists making this case through campaigns like One Million Climate Jobs and Scot.E3.

ANTI-IMPERIALISM

Colonialism and imperialism have always gone hand in hand with extractive industries and environmental destruction. Fossil capital and the arms industry profit from imperialist conflict and competition. Imperialist states fight to control natural resources, build extractive infrastructures that destroy the conditions of life for indigenous peoples, and routinely violate the flimsy and inadequate international agreements on emissions. The climate movement must be anti-imperialist and stand in solidarity with indigenous people against incursions by extractive industries. Campaigns demanding that corporations and public institutions divest from fossil capital and the arms industry are gaining ground, from university campuses to workers' pensions.

MIGRANT SOLIDARITY & THE FAR RIGHT

As climate chaos and war displaces millions of people in the Global South, imperialist states are militarising their borders against the survivors of their own policies. Many on the far right are climate deniers, promoting carbon-intensive industries. Brazil's recently-elected far-right President Jair Bolsonaro poses an existential threat to the rainforest and to indigenous peoples. Others are using the climate crisis to justify genocidal racism, blaming people from poor countries, who have contributed little to this catastrophe but face the worst consequences. Climate change is an international crisis that demands an internationalist solution. We need to oppose the far right, build solidarity with migrants and opposition to border controls.