

Template Branch motion on Climate Change and supporting the Green UNISON campaign

This Branch recognises that:

- The Climate Emergency is real. Affects all workers, their families and their communities.
- Extreme weather events themselves, and the impact of extreme weather events on the cost of food and energy, affect the most disadvantaged groups disproportionately.
- The services we provide are not only impacted by climate change but will also require significant adaptation to reduce our carbon footprint and to meet the UK-wide net zero targets by 2050.
- A Just Transition is essential to ensuring that no worker, community, or sector is left behind in the shift towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy. This includes investing in training, upskilling, and supporting those affected by changes in the workforce.

Therefore, this branch, via the usual trade union mechanisms, resolves to:

1. Fill and support the new rule-book position of Branch Environmental Officer (EnvO) as soon as possible, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to drive change.
2. Declare a Climate Emergency within the branch and actively encourage and persuade our employer(s) to make a similar declaration if they have not already done so, and to take concrete action to address climate change.
3. Set Climate Change as a standing branch agenda item
4. Support the EnvO to engage with the employer, health and safety officer and other branch officers on climate change and a just transition to Net Zero carbon emissions that leaves no-one behind (see UNISON's Bargaining on green issues in the [workplace guide here](#)).
5. Seek to negotiate additional facility time to ensure the EnvO role
6. Sign up to the national Green UNISON newsletter to get updates on additional resources and materials to support this area of activity
7. Mark Green UNISON week (September) each year with a member focused event.
8. Work in partnership with other unions, environmental organisations, and local community groups to maximise the effectiveness of our climate actions and advocate for a sustainable future for all workers and communities.