

Historical TUC motion propels the BFAWU to the forefront of the battle against climate change!



Hello!

After moving the historical climate change motion at the TUC, being at the forefront of campaigns around anti-fracking and representing members from an industry responsible for emitting some of the largest amounts of CO₂, we felt it was our duty as a trade union to inform and inspire our members to take a more active role in combatting the detrimental effects of climate change.

Climate change issues cover a massive spectrum and it can easily become overwhelming if you're not sure where to start.

Our plan is to give you information on different areas, with practical advice on what you can do at home, work and further afield to make a difference. It's also important to realise that difference can be as big or as small as you can manage, everything helps!

We will include examples of what's already happening in workplaces, cities, nationally and internationally and we'll give you ideas to get started and provide links so you can read on and find out more!

The newsletter will be published every three months just after the food worker and will be emailed to all of our contacts – if your reading this as a hard copy in the workplace and want to be added to the email listing please email

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Welcome to Green Stuff

Hello and welcome to the first edition of *Green Stuff* — The BFAWU's official newsletter on all things environmental, intended to bring you articles and features on the issues facing the environment as we continue to put economic and production growth over care and concern for our world at the detriment of the people living on it.

We will include reports on areas of concern, explanations of current issues and notification of the rallies and events we are organising (or which others are mounting) which will promote a more balanced view of our environment.

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What's fracking and how does it affect me?

Fracking is an unconventional way to extract oil and gas from shale rock. As you can see from the picture the process involves drilling down and then out horizontally. Explosives are used to break up the rock and huge quantities of water mixed with sand and toxic chemicals are pumped in to open up the rock and let the gas out.

Most of this gas is collected at the surface as is the waste fluid from the process which is now extremely poisonous.

Burning the fracked gas creates carbon dioxide and contributes to global warming on top of that methane gas is what comes up and some of it leaks – methane is 86x worse for the environment than carbon dioxide!

Hundreds of tankers are needed to bring in water and take away the flow back waste. The other major risk is to your supply of clean water – fracking drills through and under the water table and often deep into aquifers, then poison is dumped down the wells – in America thousands of people and animals have been poisoned.

Lastly fracking has been shown to cause earthquakes.

There are a number of planned fracking sites around the UK and you can find out more information about their activities and how you can help here – www.frack-off.org.uk
Information from Frack free Leeds has been used in this article



Greener Jobs alliance

GJA was formed as a partnership body inclusive of trade unions, student organisations, campaigning groups and a policy think tank. It campaigns around the issue of jobs and the skills needed to transition to a low economy

GJA has a number of free online courses available covering –

Climate change awareness

Air quality and why it's a trade union issue

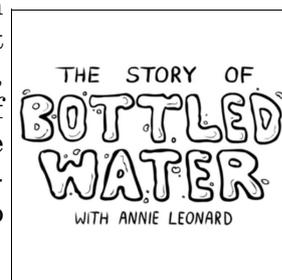
The website also has a constant stream of resources, information and updates on the work being done around the environment, employment and skills by the groups working alongside GJA. Visit their website www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk for more info.



Sam Vickers at the Kirby Misterton fracking site

The story of stuff

A great website which has a number of short films on talking through the environmental impact of how things are made, used and wasted. One of the best videos on the site is the one on bottled water—click on the picture to watch!



Putting Green Issues first for our children and our children's children

What's happening around the branches?

Some of the employers we work with are going above and beyond to reduce their carbon footprint, lower their emissions and make their workplaces better for the people working for them, the communities around them and the environment overall, each edition will have examples of employers doing what is right!

Aunt Bessies in Hull have their very own wind turbine!

The base of the structure is 40 meters in height – though when one of the blades is at its highest point it reaches 67 metres!

The turbine will help to naturally generate a fifth of the energy Aunt Bessies uses and all of the energy it generates will be used on site!



In addition to this by 2025 100% of their packaging will be made from recycled packaging and/or be recyclable/compostable in the home – they are already over halfway there!

Photo credit Rich Addison

Manor Carlton/Premier foods

In 2016/17 they set challenging targets for each of the sites to reduce their energy, water, waste and carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂(e)) emissions. They encourage colleagues to play their part through a 'Green Matters' initiative, an internal environmental campaign which has seen the identification and training of 54 Environmental Champions across the business, who have helped deliver a reduction in CO₂(e) per tonne at eight out of nine sites, bringing overall reduction to 10.2% compared to the previous year.

The energy champions include some of our reps and branch secretaries which is great and they have all attended a 3 day accredited training course – environmental management systems ISO 14001:2015 and at the time of publishing they were following up on the training with a national conference to be held in Birmingham - watch this space for a full report back and an update on what measures are being put in place on the sites next issue

Greggs – national

Greggs are really leading the way in terms of their environmental work, they jumped at the idea of adapting our Health and Safety reps into Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) ones as its what they have called their Health and Safety department for years!

They are the only 'retail' business to have completed the ISO 14001:2015 and as you can see below they regularly have inserts in their weekly newsletter covering environmental issues,

All shops and bakeries have an environmental plan and energy champions and they have recently updated the energy information on their intranet system so shops can monitor their energy usage and proactively make reductions to it! Each month the shop teams decide which area of the environmental plan they will focus on – real-



ly giving ownership to everyone to make a difference

Greggs have set a target to re-

duce their carbon footprint by 1% this year – 65% of their carbon footprint comes from the electricity they use as a business so that's a major focus, new shops now have automatic motion sensed lights so that they are not left on unnecessarily.

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Why eat seasonal food?

www.eattheseasons.co.uk tells us there are a number of good reasons to eat more local, seasonal food;

- It helps to reduce energy needed to grow and transport the food we eat
- To avoid paying a premium for food that is scarcer or has travelled a long way
- To support the local economy
- To reconnect with nature's cycles and the passing of time

But most importantly because;

- Seasonal food is fresher so tends to be tastier and more nutritious!

So what is in season?

There are loads of foods in season over the next few months here's just a few of them;

Carrots, peas, lettuce, beetroot, tomatoes, new potatoes, onions, spring onions, runner beans, radishes, melon, apricots, strawberries, lamb, haddock, salmon, prawns

You can find out more at the eat the seasons website!



Food miles what are they?

Food miles is a term which refers to the distance food is transported from the time of its production until it reaches the consumer. Food miles are one factor used when assessing the environmental impact of food, including the impact on global warming.

Strawberries

when from Spain have a journey of 958 miles. UK strawberries are losing out to imports even during the British strawberry season. Importing one kilogram of out-of-season strawberries from California is the equivalent of keeping a 100 watt light bulb on for eight days



Buy local, in season to reduce the footprint! !

Links to more Information..

www.frack-off.org.uk

www.drillordrop.com

www.eattheseasons.co.uk

www.shrinkthatfootprint.com

www.thestoryofstuff.org

Short video on banning the bead;

<https://storyofstuff.org/movies/lets-ban-the-bead/>

<http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/interere>

What energy democracy looks like;

<https://youtu.be/A2c9vsJeGFM>

<http://eatseasonably.co.uk/what-to-eat-now/calendar/>

<http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/>

Free courses on green issues

http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31

We will support the newsletter with

@BFAWUGreenstuff - on Facebook

@bfawuS - on twitter

As always if you have an article, something interesting going on in your workplace or local areas, or feedback please get in contact with us via sarah.woolley@bfawu.org using 'green stuff info' as the subject!

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