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**To: All Branches**

Dear Colleagues,

## **"Cutting Carbon, Growing Skills" – New Guide From The TUC's Unionlearn:**

"Cutting Carbon, Growing Skills" (green skills for a just transition) - is a new guide from the TUC's Unionlearn operation and shows how the trade union movement will be leading the way in supporting the fight against climate change, helping workers build the skills that will be part of the solution. The guide equips union reps with the essentials to engage their members and consult employers on greening their workplace. It includes:

- What is a just transition and why is it a trade union issue?
- How are new green jobs and skills vital to the economy?
- How can Union Reps play a part?
- What training is available from unions?

This new publication is an excellent resource for the coming years.

Climate change and environmental issues at work are increasingly moving up the trade union agenda. Unions are working together and forming partnerships to tackle what is seen by many as the biggest issue of the twenty-first century. And one aspect of this is the way that unions will work to ensure workers have an opportunity to develop the new skills needed for a low-carbon economy.

Developing green skills at work has the potential to offer a wide range of opportunities to workers across the UK, and the trade union movement will be leading the way in supporting the fight against climate change and helping workers build the skills that will be part of the solution.

The TUC is calling for a just transition for workers and this new publication from Unionlearn explains the facts around what just transition is and what unions are doing to ensure their members are not left behind. It also explores the role of the trade union reps, the training available and the skills that will be needed in the future.

Through information and case studies, along with signposting to courses and resources, this booklet aims to be a practical guide to union reps and members that will give them the tools needed to be part of the solution, as the world faces up to the climate crisis.

Throughout Cutting Carbon, Growing Skills, there are stories of initiatives run by unions and reps that show what can be done, and this will encourage others to follow their lead by organising activities and projects or develop skills of their own.

The TUC hopes the booklet will inspire a new generation of reps to get involved with environmental issues in their workplaces and support working people benefit from a just transition where clean, green jobs support the growth of a low-carbon economy that will see trade unions leading the way.

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time. The TUC Congress motion 'Climate crisis and a just transition' passed in 2019 recognised that "The Earth's temperature has already risen by one degree above pre-industrial levels. The autumn IPCC report warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Net zero cannot be achieved without urgent investment in new, low-carbon energy generation. Congress believes climate change is a trade union issue. The future of our planet is at risk if we don't organise now to force governments to cut emissions in line with the IPCC report." (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an [intergovernmental body](#) of the [United Nations](#) that is dedicated to providing the world with objective, [scientific](#) information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced [climate change](#), its natural, [political](#), and [economic impacts](#) and risks, and possible response options).

In July 2019, the TUC issued a statement supporting the decarbonisation of the economy. The statement also made it clear that this transition away from fossil fuels could not be done at the expense of workers.

A copy of "Cutting Carbon, Growing Skills" (green skills for a just transition) is attached.

Yours sincerely



**Dave Joyce**  
**National Health, Safety & Environment Officer**