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To: All Branches

Dear Colleagues,

Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) Newsletter No. 29 – November-December 2020

The Greener Jobs Alliance was launched to promote skills training and job creation to meet the needs of Britain's rapidly growing low carbon sectors and to green the whole economy. The transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy can drive sustainable economic recovery and job creation in every part of the country as well as making existing jobs more secure. But this requires a more strategic national and local approach to deliver the workforce skills needed and to stimulate demand for clean energy and energy efficiency services.

The Greener Jobs Alliance liaises at a national and local level to build the broadest possible support for the policies, investment, partnerships and commitments needed to drive the transition to a low carbon economy.

The Greener Jobs Alliance liaises with training bodies, colleges, universities, employers, local and national government, trade unions, housing associations, campaign and community groups – to build the policies, investment and partnerships needed to drive the transition to a low carbon economy.

The GJA runs a number of 'free' courses on the environment for Trade Union Reps in different parts of the UK which have been attended by a number of CWU Reps.

The GJA came into existence as a result of funding from Battersea and Wandsworth TUC.

The GJA Newsletter editor is Graham Petersen, also the GJA Secretary. Graham is well known to the CWU and has a long standing working relationship with the Union. He is a former TUC Tutor and Course Designer who created Safety Reps training courses and the successful TUC Occupational Health & Safety Diploma Course. He was the head of the Trade Union Studies Centre at South Thames College before retirement from the post.

Newsletter 29 - The GJA's November/December newsletter has been published following the flurry of Government activity around the 'Green Industrial Revolution' announcements. The GJA has pulled together a range of union and other critical responses.

This month, Prime Minister Boris Johnson broadcast to the nation his '10-Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' (copy attached). Except it's not. What's missing? A strategic plan to

reach net zero by 2050 and the public investment in jobs and skills to match. The UK, which is hosting important UN climate negotiations (COP 26) next year, is under national and international pressure to deliver an ambitious climate strategy that shows leadership, setting the bar high as countries around the world come to the table to pledge greater climate ambition. This isn't it. It's not only unions that have been critical of the plan. E3G a European think tank has also commented on the weaknesses <https://www.e3g.org/news/green-without-the-recovery/>.

A week before Johnson spoke, Labour launched its own plan for a Green Economic Recovery, calling for £30bn of spending over the next 18 months to create 400,000 new green jobs. This plan seems more focused on the here and now, the need to take swift action to deal with the economic fall-out from the pandemic and to kick start the work on the climate crisis. Even so, whether Labour is putting out short term plans or a full length strategy, the GJA believe it is essential for the Labour Party to keep focused on the radical building blocks needed to tackle the climate crisis:

- Public ownership of the energy sector – absent from this plan.
- Building green supply chains for UK manufacturing industries.
- Adoption of the Just Transition principle into UK law.
- A long term public investment strategy.
- Regional industrial strategies with strong partnership across unions, industry and communities.
- Prioritising the reduction of energy consumption as part of a low carbon building strategy.

Boris Johnson, with typical hyperbole, said, 'Imagine Britain when a Green Industrial Revolution has helped to level up the country.' As reported here, unions can't wait for Johnson's parcel to arrive, and instead, are organising in the UK and globally for urgent action on the climate crisis.

This is the final GJA newsletter of 2020 and GJA will continue to highlight concerns about the lack of a coherent strategy on green jobs and skills.

A copy of the GJA Newsletter No 29 is attached

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Yours sincerely



Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer