Green Transitions in the US and Europe: Breadth, Depth and Worker Agency

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Overview

- Goals of Project and research
- Data
- Findings
- Interpretation of findings
- Cases

Goals of Project

- Identify action-oriented initiatives
 - Initiatives that require the expenditure of human and financial resources
 - Justified in terms of climate change
 - Examine promising cases in more depth
- Map these to form basis of database
- Link to union/green alliances e.g. Greener Jobs Alliance, Blue-Green Alliance
- Organise meetings/seminar

Data Collection USA

- Driven by architecture of US labour
 - Very fragmented
 - Generally decentralized
 - Deep and crosscutting divisions
 - Across unions
 - Within unions
 - Multiple internal constituencies

Data collection: Europe

- Focused on European sectoral union level (based in Brussels)
- Collecting and analysing reports/websites of European sectoral unions to identify initiatives
- Interviewing most relevant organisations in depth (e.g. Industria-ALL Europe, EFBWW, ETF, EPSU, ETUI)
- Mapping initiatives

Findings USA

- A bit over 50 initiatives, ranging from the national to the local level
 - Some initiatives, such as CS, may be subject to debate
 - Includes all sectors (manufacturing, construction, services, transportation, communications, infrastructure)

Findings Europe

- 34 detailed cases so far, mostly national but some European level
- Most interesting cases in particular sectors (e.g. transport, metal) and countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Belgium, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Spain) and some regions (e.g. North-Rhine Westphalia, Brussels), few across Europe with some exceptions (e.g. ETF)

Now What?

- Content of initiative/climate policy?
 - Depth, Breadth and Worker Agency
- Why an initiative?
 - External and internal factors
- Impacts of Initiative?
 - Policy outputs and outcomes
 - Depth, Breadth and Worker Agency
- Why those Impacts?
 - External and internal factors

What kind of Initiative? Depth

light green, less egalitarian; retrofitting without subsidies for poor

deep green, less egalitarian; net zero buildings for the affluent

light green, more egalitarian; retrofitting with subsidies

deep green, more egalitarian; net zero buildings for all

What Kind of Initiative? Breadth

narrow scale, narrow scope; greening a single building; producing a green product

broad scale, narrow scope; greening the life cycle of a single product

narrow scale, broad scope; greening a city broad scale, broad scope; greening a global production networkbroad scale, broad scope; greening a global production network

What Kind of Initiative? Worker Agency

grey
objecthood workers as
providers of
grey skills

green
objecthood workers as
providers of
green skills

grey agency unionized grey companies green agency
- unionized
green
companies

Stock Taking and Next Steps

- Items produced/completed
 - Publications
 - Conferences
 - Public events
- Next Steps
 - In depth case studies
 - Connections with the global scale
 - Connections with local/municipality level
 - Link to Green Transitions in Built Environment

Thank you