PCS Annual Conference 2014



BECOMING A GREENER UNION

Public and Commercial Services Union | pcs.org.uk

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INTRODUCTION

"...the climate threat makes the need to fight austerity all the more pressing, since we need public services and public infrastructure to both bring down our emissions and prepare for the coming storms"

Naomi Klein, speaking at the inaugural conference of new Canadian union UNIFOR



If there were ever two significant events to convince climate change deniers to accept that continued release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere is leading to climate change, it should be the increased instances of extreme weather, and the recent reports of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Last winter was the wettest since records began. Australia suffered severe heat waves, the North coast of America was frozen, and the Philippines suffered typhoon Haiyan – the most powerful typhoon ever recorded. Scientists say it's not possible to draw a conclusion that these 'weather events' are directly linked to climate change, but the UN IPCC is unequivocal in stating that the climate system is warming and it is "extremely likely" that human behaviour has been the cause of unprecedented changes since the 1950's. Significantly 97% of climate scientists across the world also agree that climate change is due to human activity.

Whether talking of steps to mitigate or adapt to climate change, as Noami Klein points out, we cannot delink this from the austerity agenda and what is happening to public services globally. And for the same reason, we cannot delink it from our trade union agenda.

In November last year, delegates at the PCS Green Forum heard firsthand the impacts of climate change on workers and the services they provide in forestry, aviation, public transport and the fire and rescue services. Each speaker underscored why climate change is clearly a trade union issue, and nothing could highlight better the correlation between the cuts in Defra and the Environment Agency undermining the latter's ability to respond adequately to the flooding situation as well as to carry-out their role in adaptation.

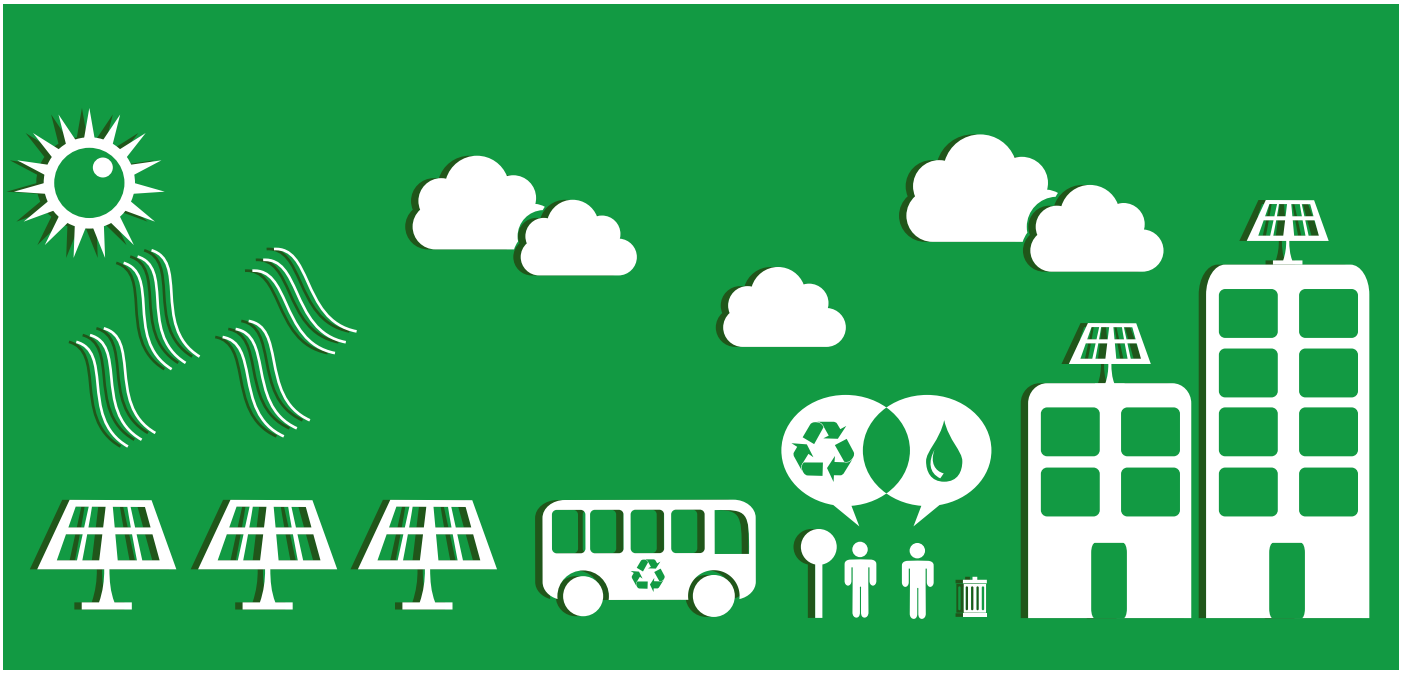
Over the past year, PCS has continued to play a lead role on green issues in the trade union movement, taking forward motion A93 passed at 2013 Annual Delegates Conference (ADC). This report outlines the numerous activities which have taken place – including the Green Forum - at the level of PCS as a workplace, across the government estate, and the campaigns we are involved with. It is especially pleasing to see the large number of environmental motions submitted to this years' ADC and a separate section being allocated to this on the conference agenda.

Central to PCS's green work is the One Million Climate Jobs campaign which is part of the union's alternative to the government's austerity programme. This is currently being updated and will be relaunched later this year. It serves as a timely reminder why climate change is a trade union issue, why it is part of the fight against austerity, and why unions need to engage with the green agenda to ensure safe, sustainable and decent jobs for all workers.



Chris Baugh,
Assistant General Secretary

PCS THE EMPLOYER



The PCS/GMB Joint Environment Committee (JEC) continues to meet twice a year to take forward work in this area. In addition to this, the Head of Facilities and Property Management and GMB Green Officer meet every few months to review progress on the annual environmental action plan. GMB green reps also continue to monitor and raise environmental issues across the PCS estate.

ENERGY & WATER USAGE

Unfortunately, due to the exceptionally cold winter of 2012/13 followed by warmer than average summer temperatures, the figures for both electricity and gas usage at PCS HQ have risen, when compared to previous years. This is undoubtedly down to the more extreme weather patterns experienced in the UK over the past year and is an indication of the impact of climate change on the workplace. Work has begun to identify where savings can be made if this trend continues but we are working with a plant room which, when built almost 30 years ago, was designed to cope with summer temperatures of up to 25 degrees, rather than the 30 degrees plus experienced last year. This meant that the air conditioning system was required to work harder and for longer pushing the energy usage up.

There is good news on the water usage front though with a 60% reduction at PCS HQ. This was due to water saving devices being fitted in the men's toilets.

WASTE & RECYCLING FIGURES

Our waste and recycling figures continue to fall with a further 16% reduction in 2013. This is largely due to the amount of paper and card which has been saved since we brought the printing of PCS publications in-house, as we have much greater control over the amount of copies printed. This is a welcome move and it is hoped that the introduction of the PCS document library later this year will lead to further savings as more and more materials are distributed and made accessible electronically.

GREEN PROCUREMENT

Although we have not yet received official confirmation we understand we have once again achieved a silver award from the Mayor of London green procurement code, thus maintaining our status as a member signatory of the green procurement code.

GREEN STAFF TRAVEL PLAN

Progress on drafting a green staff travel plan has been slow due to other priorities, but the evidence gathered from the results of the travel survey carried out in 2013 suggested a cycle to work scheme would be welcome. The JEC met with Cycle Solutions, who provide cycle to work schemes for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, Energy Saving Trust and London Fire Brigade, amongst others, and agreed to implement a scheme in spring 2014.

The scheme, which is fully HMRC compliant, is open to all PCS staff and it is hoped it will prove popular as staff can save over 30% on the cost of a bike. PCS will also benefit from savings in Employer National Insurance contributions of 13%, so it is a win, win situation. The green staff travel plan will be revisited over the coming months as and when time allows.

PCS WORKPLACES

CONSULTATION MACHINERY

Despite reporting in 2013 that the consultation machinery wasn't "dead but only sleeping", there's been little sign of it getting up and certainly not running. Work has been done through the Civil Service Forum consultation structure to re-establish a formal mechanism for discussing sustainability issues. However whilst agreement has been reached to set up a sub group for sustainability, this has not yet been formalised.

The Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) policy group, a joint government (Defra)/TUC body, has also failed to meet since July 2012. The TUC are pursuing a meeting of the policy group (which includes high level union officials) with Dan Rogerson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for water, forestry, rural affairs and resource management. A recent meeting of the TUSDAC working group agreed that the priorities for discussion are the future of forestry and flooding.

A commitment to invite PCS, Prospect and TUC representatives to attend a meeting of the cross-departmental sustainability practitioners forum was honoured last September. A presentation was made on the importance of workplace environmental reps with a view to engaging more departments in the workplace environmental audits. Some interest has been shown from DWP and discussions are currently taking place between the DWP Sustainability and Climate Change team, the unions, local reps and DWP environmental champions.

DWP has over 900 environmental champions across its estates, whose role it is to support the DWP in meeting the greening government commitments of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25%, reducing the amount of waste by 25% and reducing water consumption by 2015. This provides an opportunity for PCS green reps to work with these environmental champions to help make workplaces greener and perhaps encourage new members into the union.

HMRC also has a network of green volunteers and work is currently being undertaken to map what other departments have a similar role and how we can best link up with these networks to further the union's green agenda.

SUPPORTING GREEN REPS

A mapping exercise has now taken place of all PCS Green reps and we currently have 102 across 97 workplaces. There are also 370 members signed up to receive the Green e-news letter on a regular basis. In addition, the Green Forum Advisory Group is now in place (see report of Green Forum) and one of their primary tasks will be to focus on developing the reps networks at a regional level.

At the time of writing, we hope to have finalised the new green online course for members and reps to be able to showcase at Annual Delegates Conference. We had to change our approach on developing the on-line course but are pleased to have been able to enlist the support of colleagues at the University and Colleges Union (UCU) and are now launching this as a joint course.

UCU is also a leading union on green issues with policy closely aligned with our own. We'd like to register our thanks to UCU who have been invaluable in helping us develop ideas for the course. We hope reps and members alike will find it useful, educational but above all, inspiring to get involved in the union's green activities.

Work is also currently underway to develop a one day face-to-face training course to supplement the online course

RUSS SPOLLIN – PCS GREEN REP

DVSA & VCA (DFT) BRANCH

I'm the PCS Green Representative for Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) branch, executive agencies of Department for Transport (DfT). I live in Bristol where both agencies head offices are based and have been an active union green representative since I first joined the agency seven years ago. I have only recently officially joined my branch as a representative so am looking forward to taking on the new challenge and responsibility.

In 2007 a Sustainable Development Focus Group was formed which meets every quarter. The group has representatives covering all aspects of the agency, including managers from our facilities and operational departments, union members and representatives such as myself, and administration staff with responsibilities for reporting our sustainability data to DfT.

As a group we have achieved some significant practical changes, such as ensuring electricity for our head office comes from renewable resources, replacing all lighting systems with energy saving alternatives, introducing and increasing recycling facilities, and replacing cleaning and toiletry products with more environmentally friendly alternatives. Raising awareness of environmental issues in the workplace and recognising the role of the union has been crucial to our success. This has included organising workshops and roadshows to encourage sustainable travel, supporting events such as fairtrade fortnight with office fruit boxes, promoting healthy living and positive mental health.

and details will be circulated to all branches once finalised.

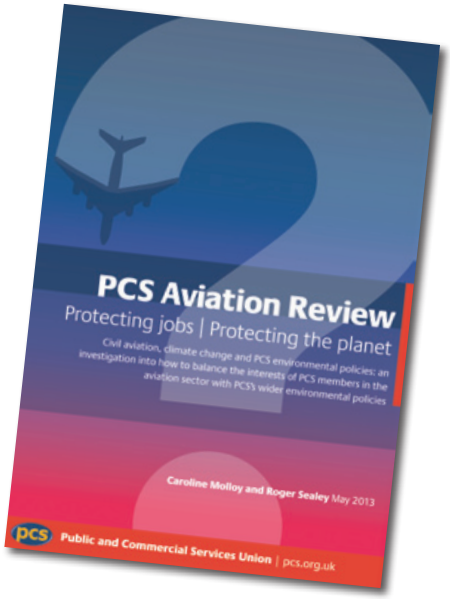
The green workplaces resource pages on the website are in the process of being updated and reformatted to make this more accessible. Unfortunately due to other priorities around the national campaign and fight against the governments' attacks on the union such as facility time and check-off, we were unable to make as much progress on this as hoped and work stalled through the autumn and winter. However we are aiming to get this completed over the summer and the new design will more closely follow the three strands of PCS green work: PCS the employer, Government estate, Campaigns, which should make this a far more accessible resource for reps and members alike.

A number of PCS green reps participated in the TUC's Climate Change Conference in October 2013. PCS raised concerns about the corporate focus of the agenda and lack of consultation with affiliates on preparing agendas for these events, in particular the lack of sessions for reps and opportunity to discuss policy on difficult environmental issues such as aviation, fracking and nuclear power. We will look to see how this can be further picked up through the TUSDAC working group. A specific event for reps did not take place in 2013 but the TUC will be hosting a half day conference for green reps on 11th July 2014.

AVIATION REVIEW – FINAL REPORT

The final report of the Aviation Review working group – *PCS Aviation Review: Protecting jobs, protecting the planet* was presented to and endorsed by the Aviation Group conference in May 2013. The report sets out the range of issues facing PCS members in the aviation industry but crucially shows PCS policy on aviation and climate change is not detrimental to members jobs and terms and conditions.

> PCS policy on aviation and climate change is not detrimental to members jobs and terms and conditions



Rather than an end to the review, the report is seen as a basis for ongoing discussion with the group on how the national union can best support their bargaining, organising and campaigning agenda whilst protecting both the environment and jobs in the sector. The report is also being used to inform debate within the trade union movement around energy dependent sectors and climate change, as well as to feed into groups campaigning against expansion of the airports industry.

Similarly, the report has been helpful in enabling PCS to engage in the Airports Commission review into the future of airport capacity. PCS submitted a compelling response to the Commission's "emerging thinking" in October, putting the case for maximising existing airport capacity, using larger aircraft, researching production of quieter and more fuel efficient aircraft engines including fuel types, and ensuring the use of the most fuel efficient routes.

The Commission has now released its interim report with clear intentions to expand in the South East and we are looking at how we engage with campaign groups aligned to PCS's position. A copy of the report is available from the PCS Aviation Group webpage at: **pcs.org.uk/aviation**

CAMPAIGNING ON GREEN ISSUES

SHALE GAS EXTRACTION – FRACKING

Motion A93 called on the NEC to work with the TUC, other unions and campaign organisations to implement the 2012 TUC congress motion on shale gas extraction ("fracking"). In May we supported Camp Frack II in Lancashire organised by an alliance of anti-fracking groups including trade unions. An important message of the camp was investment in one million climate jobs and PCS held a joint stall with Unison to publicise the campaign and our alternative to austerity.

In a rare – or more, brief – victory in Europe, PCS was part of a successful lobby which saw members of the European Parliament voting in favour of an amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) Directive calling for mandatory EIAs for all shale gas drilling, both in the exploration and extraction phase.

However this has since been overturned by the European Commisssion's Council of Ministers who excluded this requirement from draft legislation with the European Parliament voting in favour of confirming legislation revising EU rules on EIAs which do not have this mandatory provision for shale gas and other forms of extreme energy.

This is a serious setback for the adoption of a pre-cautionary approach to fracking.

PCS has also been active along with other trade unions in backing the protests at Balcombe to halt the attempts of Caudrilla to open sites there. PCS was represented by PCS CMSOA Group Green rep Clara Paillard at a meeting held at TUC congress in September against fracking with representatives from campaign groups such as No Dash for Gas and residents from Balcombe and Blackpool.

We have also had useful discussions with Friends of the Earth on how we can work more closely linking up our reps with FOE activities against fracking. As part of this, PCS recently signed-up to the "We need to talk about fracking" initiative being spearheaded by the renowned fashion designer Vivienne Westwood. This seeks to build a broad based alliance across campaign groups, celebrities and trade unions among others, calling on the government to put a stop to fracking until there has been an independent and balanced public debate on the industry. Perhaps not the most obvious bed fellows but we can take heart that it was such an unexpected mix of political groups, campaigners, religious leaders and individuals that saw a u-turn on the forests sell-off in 2011.

LOW CARBON- RENEWABLES AND ANTI NUCLEAR

PCS has continued to put the case for One Million Climate Jobs based on investment in renewable energy technologies as the only viable means for the UK to meet its greenhouse gas emissions target reduction of 80% by 2050 compared to 1990's levels – a legally binding target or 'carbon budget' established by the Climate Change Act 2008 - and the 2030 decarbonisation goal as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change.

We have been keeping a close eye on the progression of the Energy Bill and subsequent electricity market reform proposals which will shape the provision of low carbon energy in the coming decades with increasing concern. This is because when government talk of low carbon energy, they mean nuclear. PCS opposes the building of a new generation of nuclear power plants as set out in conference policy dating back to 2006.

In 2013, the government agreed a deal with a consortium led by French state owned company EDF to build a

ANGELIKA KONKO – PCS GREEN REP

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

Environmental Awareness Day

Angelika held an 'environmental awareness lunch' in our common room on Monday the 3rd of March. In Angelika's words: "It was a great opportunity to speak with the museum's staff about the environmental performance of our workplace and good chance to raise my colleagues environmental awareness. I prepared a table with information about the Fairtrade Fortnight and their new campaign on making bananas fair, leaflets from Friends of the Earth and some information on how the unions are working with other workplaces to help lower their environmental impact and help staff become more eco-friendly.

I ran a short activity with all members of staff who visited the common room named 'fortune sweetie'. Everyone received an elephant shaped (in relation to our mammoths exhibition) sweetie with a piece of environmental advice (e.g. putting silver screens behind radiators, etc.). It was a fun and discussion provoking exercise. I also had some freebies (recycled pens, pencils, coasters) and I made a poster which said " COMMON: room, sense, goal. Help protect our environment". One of many ideas of how to lower our environmental impact included installation of wi-fi at the entrance hall of the museum so that our visitors could use an online version of our map instead of the paper copy."

new nuclear power plant at Hinckley in Somerset, known as Hinckley Point C. This at a time when other countries are scaling back or curtailing their civilian nuclear capacity following the Fukushima disaster in Japan three years ago. Even France, Europe's top producer of nuclear energy is reviewing its nuclear programme and it is no small irony that England is bucking the trend and tying itself into a programme of new nuclear with France's own state owned company.

PCS remains opposed to nuclear power generation and believes this has no place as part of an energy mix towards a low carbon economy. Subsidies given to the nuclear power industry, currently under investigation by the European Commission as to whether this is a form of state aid, seeks to undermine investment in other forms of renewable energy such as wind, solar or tidal power. City analysts have even said underwriting this deal could prove to be "economically insane", with Liberum Capital stockbrokers quoted as being "flabbergasted that the UK government has committed future generations of consumers to the costs that will flow from this deal".

There are also serious concerns about security around nuclear, and the safe transportation and disposal of nuclear waste. Flooding is a major risk to a number of current UK nuclear sites due to rising sea levels and the impacts of climate change as witnessed over the winter. This includes the proposed new site at Hinckley Point. Defra has given assurances provision is being made in new build plans to protect against flooding and mitigate increasing risk as a result of climate change. However, following information released as a result of freedom of information requests, campaign groups such as Greenpeace remain concerned that the government and the industry is covering up the real extent of the risk from flooding and coastal erosion.

The new nuclear plant is expected to generate less waste than plants currently being decommissioned but there is no agreed plan as yet for the storage that will be needed for thousands of years. An opposition campaign in Cumbria including the Cumbria County Council saw off plans for a waste site or "Geological Disposal Facility" (GDF) in January 2013. However the Department for Energy and Climate Change launched a new consultation in September 2013 which sought to exclude County Councils from the process of GDF site selection. And you'd have to wonder if they all got their way, how long it will be before Caudrilla is off fracking into an underground nuclear waste storage facility.

ENERGY BILL REVOLUTION

We are facing an energy bill crisis in the UK with millions of people struggling to heat their homes, many of whom are in fuel poverty, and the situation is getting worse. This is not only because the price of coal, gas and oil remains high, but because the UK's housing stock is amongst the most energy inefficient in Europe.

The Energy Bill Revolution (EBR) is a public campaign calling for more energy efficient homes and lower energy bills. Run by an alliance of organisations including charities, environmental groups and trade unions, it is calling on the Government to use the money it gets from carbon taxes, such as the European Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Floor Tax, to make the UK's homes super energy efficient, thereby driving down energy bills, lifting people out of fuel poverty, creating new climate jobs and reducing carbon emissions.

The EBR estimate that over the next 15 years the Government will raise an average of £4 billion in carbon taxes, which if recycled, could help to insulate the UK's housing stock and lift 9 out of 10 households out of fuel poverty. This would also quadruple the predicted carbon emissions savings from the Government's new energy efficiency schemes and create approximately 200,000 jobs.

PCS joined the EBR in the autumn of 2012 and has been promoting the petition and encouraging members to email their MPs. If you have not yet taken action, please visit **www.energybillrevolution.org.**

FUEL POVERTY

The importance of the energy mix and its link to climate change processes is just as important for household energy needs. In the past year, PCS has been active in highlighting issues of fuel poverty, its link to climate change, the need for energy efficiency measures to address problems of poor insulation in British housing stock and the dominance of the "big six" energy providers inflating prices.

Fuel poverty is estimated by the Energy Bill Revolution to affect 6.59 million UK households based on the original definition for the UK of households having to spend more than 10% of their disposable income on energy services. This is an increase of 13% on the previous year. The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) revised its definition for England in 2013 and now a household is defined as fuel poor "if its income is less than 60% of the median income equivalised (after housing costs) plus energy expenditure, and the amount it needs to spend on fuel to maintain an adequate level of energy service is greater than the median of equivalised energy bill in the population" – see **http://bit.ly/FuelPov**



In short, a "household needs to be below the poverty line, and be in that half of the population facing the highest energy costs" to be in fuel poverty. This change in definition instantly reduced the number of households in England assessed to be in fuel poverty to 2.36 million (from 4.82million under the old definition).

PCS has developed a fuel poverty quiz highlighting both the economic impacts of energy prices on households, which are calculated to have increased 37% since 2010, and the link to climate change. This was presented at the PCS National Women's seminar in 2013 and run as part of a workshop at the Green Forum. We also submitted a motion to the TUC Women's Conference 2014 which was passed in March and calls on the TUC to campaign against fuel poverty and highlight its links to austerity; work with activist organisations, develop leaflets and trade union education courses around the issues; lobby for a freeze on energy prices; and to support the One Million Climate Jobs campaign to address the economic and environmental crises by creating jobs in renewable energy, public housing and public transport.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

PCS has been supporting the fairtrade movement since Annual Delegate Conference 2002 when motion A106 called on the union to use PCS members' power as consumers to encourage the use of fair-trade products in the workplace.

Since then PCS reps across the country have been encouraging workplaces to stock fairtrade products and actively promote the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Fortnight to highlight the initiative to members.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 was themed around the "Stick with Foncho" campaign, highlighting how pricing impacts the sustainability of banana farmers livelihoods and their cultures. Fairtrade Fortnights packs which are ordered centrally by PCS were gone within a day of the announcement going out to reps. PCS green rep Shona Cole requested a slot at the HMRC Shipley Branch AGM and branch officers all purchased a bag of fairtrade bananas which were handed out as members came in.

The annual reminder is still as relevant today as it was when first launched. Although almost 80% of consumers recognise the fairtrade mark, there is still a long way to go – only 33% of bananas sold in the UK carry the fairtrade mark and only 25% of coffee.

The fairtrade movement is about setting better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. We all have the power to create positive change for people and planet by eating, drinking or wearing fairtrade products. For more information please visit the Fairtrade Foundation website at: **fairtrade.org.uk**

TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

In September we co-signed a letter initiated by the Trade Justice Movement to Mr Roberto Azevêdo, the incoming Director General of the World Trade Organisation. The TJM is a network of more than 60 organisations including trade unions and represents 6 million individuals. PCS is affiliated and increasingly looking to engage with TJM to link up our green and international work, for example the WTO proposals for further deregulation that will undermine climate change mitigation activities. We have also been keeping a close watch on developments between Europe and the US on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement. This is designed to remove trade barriers and regulation across a wide range of economic sectors, including the public sector (NHS and education), in favour of big business. However it also carries serious threats to environmental protections and could pave the way for the importation of forms of dirty energy such as tar sands oil from the US and Canada. Friends of the Earth writing in December 2013 noted that the TTIP "represent one of the biggest threats we have seen in our lifetimes to an environmentally sustainable and socially just world."

PCS GREEN FORUM 2013

• No to Austerity – Yes One Million Climate Jobs
• Why climate change is a trade union issue



The third national PCS Green Forum took place in Leeds from 15th to 16th November 2013. It was attended by 42 PCS delegates and observers from sister unions, Friends of the Earth, Frack-off and Fuel Poverty Action who also provided an exhibition on fuel poverty. The forum was chaired by Karen Watts (NEC member and MoJ Group GEC) who, along with Chris Baugh PCS Assistant General Secretary emphasised the importance of this event for the union in developing its green agenda.

Delegates were consulted in advance on what they wanted from the forum and by far the most common answer was the opportunity to network, share ideas and to feel confident in explaining why climate change is a trade union issue.

With a packed agenda, the forum heard a wide ranging panel of speakers address the central question of why climate change is a trade union issue and the need for one million climate jobs. PCS reps Mick Hoban spoke on proposed changes to forestry and Group President Tahir Latif spoke about Aviation. These were supported with enlightening presentations from colleagues in sister unions TSSA on the need for public ownership of our railways, and the FBU on the impact of flooding on the Fire and Rescue Services.



Workshops run throughout the day focussed on:

i) Bargaining and organising around green issues, covering the role of green reps and conducting workplace environmental audits;

ii) Campaigning – delegates split between two workshops with one looking at fuel poverty and the other on fracking. Assisted by activists from Fuel Poverty Action and Frack-Off respectively, each group were asked to look at ways they could campaign on these, for example linking up with local community groups, with local media or their MP.

"All the topics, informative speakers gave me personally a great insight and start to becoming a site green rep"

ROB ELLIS, ESSEX BRANCH (JCP,DWP)

The forum elected Graham Bowers (Defra), Kate Duffy (DWP), Clara Paillard (CMSOA), Steve Ryan (HMRC) and William Young (HMRC) to the newly created Green Forum Advisory Group arising from motion A93 to 2013 national conference. They will support the NEC's Greening the Workplace Task Group in progressing PCS' green agenda, take forward the recommendations and next steps arising out of the forum, and play a key role in developing regional networks of green reps.

A full report of the forum along with a video of the day is available on the Green Workplaces resources page of the PCS website.

Next steps from the Green Forum 2013

i. Engaging workplace reps on green issues in branches, groups and regions

ii. Organising around green issues attracting new reps and members

iii. Development of training and updating resources for green reps

iv. Promoting environmental audits in the workplace

v. Establishing bargaining structures at departmental and Cabinet Office level

vi. Updating One Million Climate Jobs pamphlet and linking to tax justice

vii. Support and work with local campaigns groups on anti-fracking and fuel poverty

viii. Promote and develop unions green policies at Annual Delegate Conference (ADC)

ix. Promote PCS green policies and work with other trade unions, TUC and environmental campaigners;

x. Organising Green Forum 2014

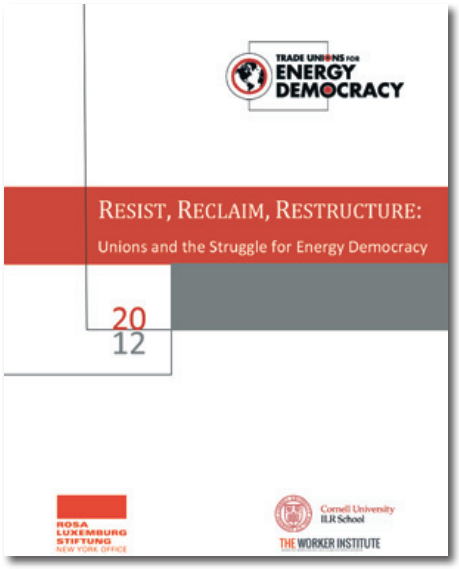
Members can visit the green pages on the PCS website for more information on the three strands to the union's green work – as an employer, in the workplace, external campaigns.

TRADE UNIONS FOR ENERGY DEMOCRACY (TUED)

In the past year, it's become increasingly clear that whilst PCS has a vast body of policy around green issues there is a need to link these up into an overall policy position, underpinned by the One Million Climate Jobs campaign. PCS has consistently talked about reducing harmful greenhouse gases by investing in the development of renewable technology and energy sources. However, an ideologically market driven dash-for-gas and forms of extreme or dirty energy such as fracking, is increasingly being pushed by politicians as part of the energy mix and a quick fix solution for UK energy needs and long term energy security.

As already highlighted, PCS has emphasised the links of the dominance of the big six energy companies to rising fuel prices and fuel poverty but increasingly, the answer to all these issues comes back to one of control and ownership. PCS does not currently have explicit policy around ownership of the energy sector but it is implicit in our anti-privatisation policy and support for public ownership of public services.

This year we are pleased to report the NEC's agreement to participate in a new initiative – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED). A global, multi-sector initiative, TUED is based at the Global Labour Institute in New York and works through national unions and their federations such as the TUC, and global union federations such as the International Transport Federation and Public Services International. The aim of the initiative is "to advance democratic direction and control of energy in a way that promotes solutions to the climate crisis, energy poverty, the degradation of both land and people, and the repression of workers' rights and protections."



A global debate about the future of energy provision

For PCS the initiative has resonance with a number of our policy areas, and growing work around energy issues as it relates to specific environmental campaigns such as anti-fracking, the One Million Climate Jobs campaign, and PCS's attempts to open a debate within the UK trade union movement on the energy sector and climate jobs. This also fits with our wider alternative campaign work.

TUED have a clear agenda of work and PCS has so far participated (via Skype conference calls) in meetings covering "Unions and the Fight for a Global Moratorium on Fracking" and "Sustainable Development in the Global South".

Future topics will include:

- Models of Energy Democracy
- Preparing for the COP 20 in Lima (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – Conference of the Parties)
- Public Financing Vehicles for Energy Democracy
- Coal and Climate Crisis

We also attended a meeting hosted through the TUC with TUED representatives and other unions involved in the initiative: FBU, GMB, UCU, and Unite.

Updates on our work with TUED will be reported via the website, green reps network and through branch briefings. We hope members will agree this opens up an interesting and exciting opportunity for PCS to participate in a global debate about the future of energy policy and provision both national and internationally.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In the coming year PCS will continue to work on taking forward the recommendations of the Green Forum 2013, and developing and implementing conference policy on green issues. Below is a brief outline of some of the issues/areas we will particularly be looking to work on.

BARGAINING AND CONSULTATION MACHINERY

We will continue to pursue the central negotiating machinery and the establishment of a formal mechanism where we can raise sustainability issues. We will also seek to replicate this at delegated level. A priority will be to assess the pilot workplace environmental audits exercise and to report on their outcomes with a view establishing standard practice across the government estate.

Groups and branches should also ensure space is given on agendas for green issues and that similar structures are agreed at delegated level.

YOUNG MEMBERS

In the autumn of 2013, PCS were invited (at no cost to the union) to send two delegates to the ETUC conference – Anticipating the Transition: engaging young workers in climate change today to reach 2050 goals. These goals are set by the European Commission which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of 80-95% by 2050 based on 1990 levels. The purpose of the conference was to introduce the findings of a study on union collective action around youth unemployment and sustainable development issues to inform union strategies in this area.

Acknowledging that green issues are not always high on the agenda for young members when concerned with jobs and training, the green agenda is important however in recruiting members and activists. We will be looking at how we can engage our young members around green issues and link their network to our green reps networks, sharing information and promoting the green reps role.

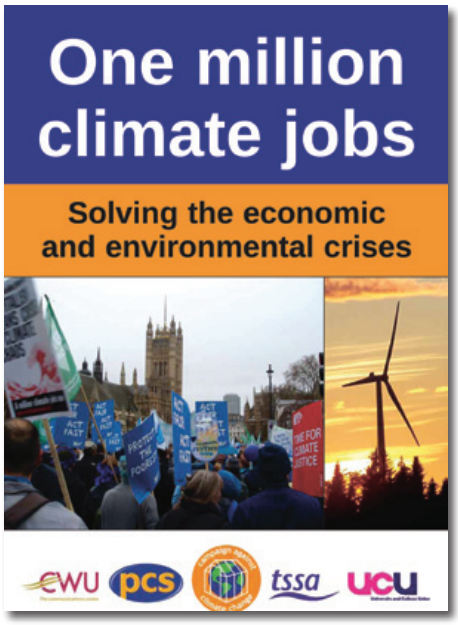
CAMPAIGNS

The One Million Climate Jobs pamphlet is currently being updated across all sections and will be re-launched later in 2014. A series of activities and events will be oragnised to highlight the new pamphlet and re-emphasise this as part of the PCS alternative and national campaign against austerity.

Fracking and nuclear are key areas where we will be looking to engage more closely with local campaigns such as in Salford or Balcombe and Hinckley Point C. We will also work with Friends of the Earth to look at where we can target local MPs where fracking is planned in their constituencies in the run-up to the election campaign. Similarly we will continue to work with Frack-off and No Dash for Gas. On nuclear we are looking to work as part of a broad based alliance, opposing new nuclear and waste disposal plans.

Following the successful endorsement at the TUC Women's conference of PCS's motion on fuel poverty, we will also be looking to work closely with Fuel Poverty Action and similar organisations highlighting links to climate change and equality.

Details of activities on all these and other campaigns linked to the PCS green agenda will be circulated to reps via the green reps network, branch



briefings, published on the website or where possible through social media.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Challenging climate change is a global issue and in response to feedback from the Green Forum we will be looking to better connect the PCS green agenda with our international work. There are organisations like the Trade Justice Movement which PCS is affiliated to which cross over both areas and we will do more to highlight their campaigns and our work with these.

The TUED initiative forms part of this and a good example of where we can link up PCS green work across borders. The International and European Trade Union Confederations also have established policies around green issues and again, as organisations to which we are affiliated, we will look to publicise their initiatives across the union.

SUPPORT TO REPS (TRAINING AND RESOURCES)

On finalising the green online learning course the next priority will be to complete the proposed one day face-to-face training and start to run this in the latter part of 2014. The Greening the Workplace Task Group has also done a review of current resources and again where needed these will be updated. In particular and in response to comments from reps, we are aiming to produce a set of fact sheets on key environmental issues. The website will be another priority to have completed and relaunched over the summer.

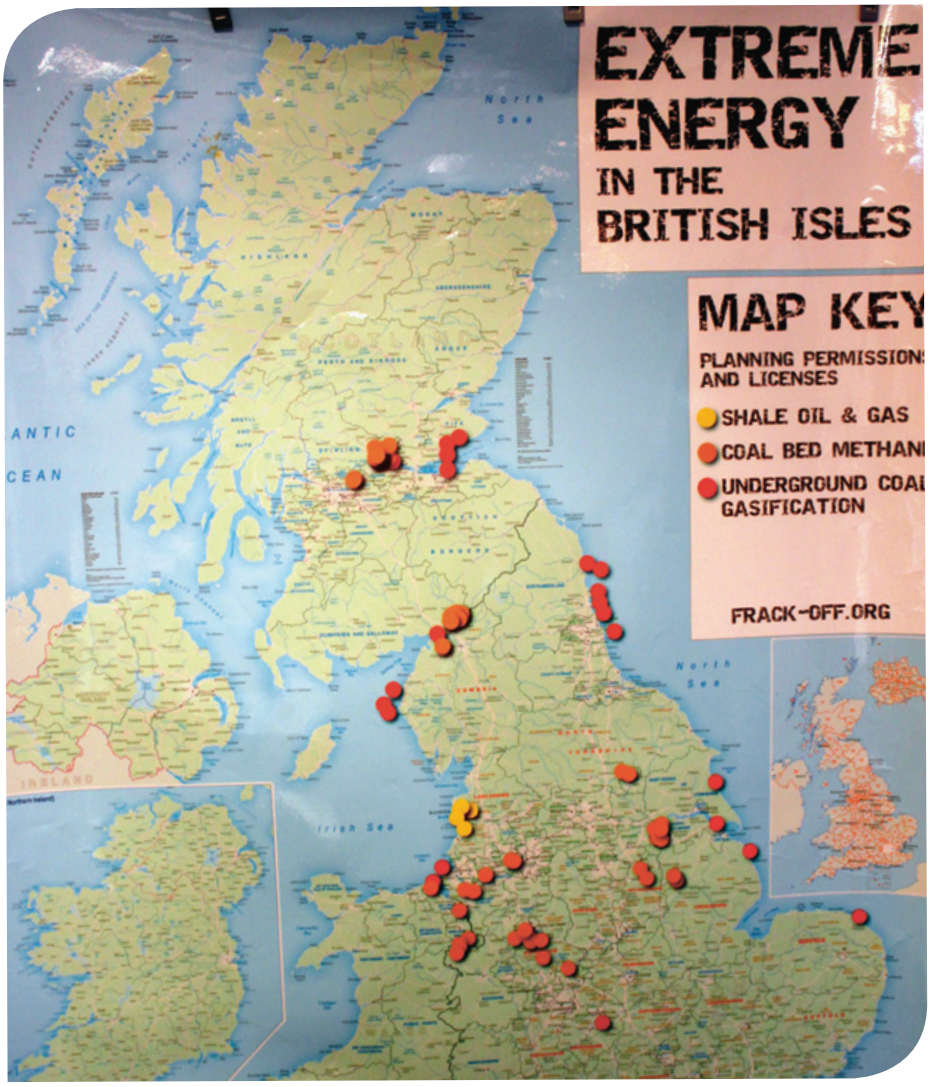
ENERGY POLICY AND CONSULTATIONS

PCS has a vast range of policy around a number of energy issues. To bring these together in a more coherent way, we are intending to produce an overall policy document setting out a PCS alternative based on One Million Climate Jobs that covers energy, energy efficiency and climate change. With discussion starting to open up with the TUC about looking at the needs of energy provision/security and climate change, this will provide a more comprehensive basis on which to input to the debate.

A policy statement will also form the basis for PCS to input to the wide range of energy policy consultations that emanate from DECC and the Environmental Audit Committee.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

David Cameron famously pronounced that his government would be the "greenest government ever". To the contrary, over the period of this coalition government their policies have led to a decimation of the insulation and solar industries, a decline in investment and support for renewable energy sources, and a reckless embrace of fracking and nuclear. Over the same time, fuel bills have risen 37% with increasing numbers of households in fuel poverty and reliant on food banks where even then, some have to take food that doesn't need cooking because of unaffordable energy costs.



In the run up to the next election, there is little indication to expect any radical change of course from the major parties. The Labour Party has been conducting a zero based policy review and PCS commented on the draft energy policy which looks at restructuring the current system. However this is a tinkering at the edges of breaking up the big 6 energy suppliers and they have ruled out any return to public ownership despite overwhelming public support for this.

Over the coming months, PCS will be continuing to put our case for one million climate jobs and publically owned energy at every opportunity, and as part of the wider campaigning as an alternative to the main parties consensus on an austerity manifesto.

For more information on PCS green activities visit **pcs.org.uk/green**

To sign up to the green e-group or request green materials send an email to **green@pcs.org.uk**



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