

GMB Congress 26

Motions on Climate Change

<https://www.gmb.org.uk/assets/media/downloads/3834/final-agenda-2026.pdf>

pp. 150, 151

293. CLIMATE CHANGE/JUST TRANSITION

This Congress recognises the threat posed by climate change. To supplement GMB policies and campaigns on the issue, Congress agrees the following:

The CEC is instructed to consult with branches, regions and young member groups on the setting up of a network of GMB reps interested in campaigning on the issue of climate change. The network of reps to be open to accredited GMB reps. This would not have any formal decision-making powers but could act as an advisory body to the CEC or Regions. The network would supplement the work of GMB structures in the energy and manufacturing sector.

The CEC is instructed to produce proposals for consideration at Congress 2027.

PRESTON P42 BRANCH

NORTH WEST & IRISH REGION

294. CLIMATE SERVICE

This Congress recognises that over the years there has been extensive criticism of Trade Unions defending “dirty jobs” like GMB’s promotion of the fracking industry and defence of North Sea Oil sector in Scotland.

The problem is not the Trade Unions promote and prioritise jobs per se, but that they have failed to identify and articulate broader long-term interests of workers and how jobs can be sustainable. To achieve this, workers need to have a say over the nature and type of work that they do and play a role in determining the future of their industry

The recent growth and utilisation of AI technologies across many industries comes with additional environmental challenges that need to be considered. AI requires powerful computer processors to operate, and these require cooling and temperature regulation which takes a lot of energy resource which will impact on climate change.

GMB have not yet made climate change a major area of bargaining and negotiation on behalf of its members. GMB has approached

climate and environmental issues as non-adversarial and separate from core industrial relation issues. British labour law does not allow for workplace climate action i.e. the right to strike is limited to a narrow range of employment issues. However, GMB can challenge these constraints through building campaigns which link climate and employment demands together.

Therefore, this Congress calls on the GMB to:

- Build climate campaigns and bargaining models that embed employment security as a key climate and sustainability demand.
- Include, where applicable, the impact of the use of AI on climate change as part of those models, and ways to mitigate such impact.
- Build further understanding through Workers' political education as a crucial step in developing a climate bargaining approach.
- Ensure that development of the political education programme develops concrete understanding of the ways in which workers, firms and sectors are exposed to present and future climate impacts and the development of worker-led strategies.
- Put climate bargaining at the Centre of everything GMB does including channeling greater resources to research climate impacts on sectors, members, and to climate campaigning.

X34 GMB@PCS BRANCH

LONDON REGION