



Haringey Labour Climate Action

(incorporating Hornsey and Wood Green and Tottenham Labour Parties)

October 2021

We publish this newsletter four times a year for circulation amongst Labour Party members and other concerned people. We would welcome comments, suggestions and contributions from readers. Please contact hlcaction@gmail.com. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Labour Party.

What we stand for

Our general aim is promote action and change through raising awareness that:

- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent global survival issues - they are already destroying livelihoods and the planet, and need to be urgently and dramatically addressed to prevent further potentially disastrous consequences throughout the world.
- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent political issues - the main obstacles to tackling climate change are inadequate government and corporate measures, which in turn are due to short term-ism and putting profit before people and planet.
- Therefore tackling Climate change and environmental degradation provides an opportunity for social and political transformation to a green economy based on socialist principles of sustainable growth, equality, and collective social and global responsibility.

In this issue

	Page
Forthcoming events	2
Catherine West's Update from Parliament	5
COP26 and the Climate Crisis	7
Pause the Edmonton Incinerator (including a letter from David Lammy)	9

Forthcoming events

Enfield and Haringey Cop26 Hub

**On Line Launch Event
Tuesday 12th October
7.30-9.30**

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87486239930>

We're inviting you to be part of the COP26 Coalition Enfield and Haringey Hub – connect with and beyond the climate movement, mobilising for climate justice. This hub is a space to unite our movements and strengthen a supportive, powerful community as we advocate for critical system change. Join us. All welcome.

Speakers from Enfield Climate Action Forum, Black Lives Matter Enfield, Haringey Stand up to Racism, Enfield People before Profit, Enfield People's Theatre, Haringey Trades Council, Extinction Rebellion Haringey, and many more.

Securing a Just Transition for workers and communities Wednesday 13th October 7 to 9pm

Organised by Waltham Forest COP26 Coalition

You can find the details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4330065413729931>

As we need to rapidly decarbonise the economy at pace and scale, how can we ensure there are jobs in the new economy, with workers and communities protected in the process of change?

Speakers:

Graham Petersen, Greener Jobs Alliance

Suzanne Jeffery, Campaign Against Climate Change trade union group

Haringey Climate Rally

**Saturday 6th November
11am**

Crescent Gardens N22 (opp Haringey Civic Centre)

As world leaders meet in Glasgow for climate talks, let's send them a clear message:

We need a future that works for ALL of us! ACT NOW!

Speakers will include:

David Lammy MP for Tottenham

Councillor Mike Hakata, Cabinet Member for Climate Change

A school climate striker

A speaker from the Global South on the impacts of climate change now



Following this event



Global Day of Action Rally

**6th November
1pm at Trafalgar Square
March to Bank of England**

Supported by: COP26 coalition; Extinction Rebellion; Friends of the Earth (Tottenham & Wood Green, Muswell Hill & Hornsey groups); Haringey Climate Forum; Haringey Cyclists; Haringey Labour Climate Action; Muswell Hill Sustainability Group; Sustainable Haringey

Demonstrating for COP26

The Trade Union Caucus of the COP26 Coalition brings together activists from across the trade union movement. We are mobilising the biggest trade union climate mobilisation in UK history: **#WeMakeTomorrow**

Read more about why COP26 and climate justice is a trade union issue in [our briefing paper here](#) and about why workers should participate [on our website here](#).

The mobilisation is supported by:

BFAWU / EQUITY / PCS / UCU / UNISON / UNITE / NEU

Dates for your diary

5th November - Supporting Global youth strikes

More information available soon

6th November - Global Day of Action

Decentralised mass mobilisations across the world, bringing together movements to build power for system change – from indigenous struggles to trade unions, and from racial justice groups to youth strikers.

In the UK, primary regional demonstrations will take place in:

Glasgow / London / Belfast / Cardiff / Newcastle / Manchester / Sheffield / Nottingham / Birmingham / Norfolk / Cambridge / Bristol / Brighton / Leeds

London Rally, 1pm Trafalgar Square – see above

See <https://cop26coalition.org/gda/> for info

7th 10th November - People's Summit

Please contact Camille Barbagallo on cbarbagallo@waronwant.org for information about the People's Summit, movements assemblies and all any other COP26 Coalition issues.

Catherine West MP's Update from Parliament

In September, the Prime Minister attended the UN's General Assembly in New York and paid a visit to the White House to meet with US President Joe Biden. This was a crucial moment for Johnson as according to UN climate scientists, global emissions are set to rise by 16% by 2030.

Climate finance is one of the biggest issues for many developing countries and one that Johnson must lead on. The UK has a duty to help developing countries build resilience and adapt their infrastructure to meet the increasing demands of extreme weather. However, I do not believe this government has the strategic capability nor desire to do this. Whilst President Biden has vowed to double the financial aid given to developing countries vulnerable to the worsening climate crisis, Johnson's domestic green package is worth an underwhelming £4 billion and he has just cut the foreign aid budget.

All of this means that COP26 will be a critical moment for the world. Johnson must put aside his clownish and laissez faire attitude and become the leader that we desperately need. If not, he will go down as the man who squandered the planet's best last chance to avert global climate catastrophe.

Here are some of the things I've been doing in Parliament since your last newsletter:

Labour Annual Conference

At this year's Labour Annual Conference, my colleague Rachel Reeves, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, announced the Climate Investment Pledge – this is our promise that a Labour Government would invest £28 billion per year till 2030 for the Green Transition. We know that not acting now will mean spiralling costs in the future.

Net Zero Emissions and Green Investment

As part of Oral questions to the Treasury on 7th September, I asked the Exchequer Secretary and Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, questions on the impact of the government's aid budget cut and its leadership role ahead of COP26. I asked the Minister:

What fiscal steps are you taking to help achieve the Government's net zero emissions target?

The recent cuts to the international aid budget have undermined the UK's leadership in advance of COP26, so what urgent steps will the Treasury take to develop a carbon neutral programme of international aid going forward?

Green investment in the upcoming Autumn Spending Review

Lots of constituents have contacted me about the urgent need for green investment ahead of the autumn spending review.

Last year, the government announced plans to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030. It says it intends to

meet this target through domestic action, drawing on policies such as the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, which was set out in November 2020. However, Boris Johnson's flagship Ten Point Plan is not good enough – its flashy declarations reveal very vague policy and zero innovation. The funding announced in the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution is insufficient, with only £4 billion of the £12 billion investment being new money, with the rest being recycled from previous announcements.

We need an ambitious plan that meets the scale of the task we are faced with. That's why I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that green investment is at the front and centre of the upcoming spending review and that the government publishes clear and costed details of how the UK will meet its carbon emission targets. You can read my letter [here](#).

Some of my recent Written Parliamentary Questions

- To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to accelerate the conversion of the world fleet of commercial ships to green propulsion. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, what steps the Government is taking to support (a) low-income and (b) vulnerable families under that plan. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the compatibility of the Cambo oilfield in Scotland with the UK's upcoming role as President of the COP26 summit. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he has made an assessment of the environmental impact of the Cambo oilfield in Scotland. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the IEA report entitled Net Zero by 2050, A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector, published in May 2021, what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendation there should be no new investments in oil and gas production fields, coal mines or unabated coal power plants beyond 2021. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what support his Department is providing to local authorities to fund and increase the availability of electric charging points. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make it his policy to review all tax policy to ensure it does not incentivise oil and gas extraction. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what diplomatic steps he is planning to take to help safeguard the future of forests in (a) Latin America and (b) the Caribbean. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the proposal for a central bank digital currency. Response [here](#)

COP26 and the Climate Crisis



John Kerry signs the Paris Agreement for the USA with his granddaughter in April 2016

The UK is leading as the president of the 26th **Conference Of the Parties** (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow opening on the 31st October 2021 and closing on the 12th November. The UK is partnering with Italy who hosted Youth4Climate, 28th 30th September and the Pre-COP Summit, 30th September – 2nd October, in Milan. COP26 is the crucial event, delayed from 2020, as every Party (Country) promised by signing the COP21 Paris Agreement to have lodged by COP26 more ambitious **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs), which together should keep global warming to (only) 1.5°C above pre industrial levels.

Currently the combined pledges of the NDCs are putting the World on course to an unimaginable temperature rise of 3.9°C by 2100, whilst the current rise of just 1 °C has already disrupted the global weather systems, causing heat waves, cold spells, hurricanes and floods. Although the top emitters are **China, USA and Russia** every Country needs to do whatever they can, and the smaller UK could punch above its weight in terms of finance and innovation.

As host of COP26 Boris Johnson has been making excellent speeches, showing his grasp of the seriousness of the situation. Unfortunately it is well known that he is not walking the walk, and Fiona Harvey of The Guardian was clear that the carbon decisions the UK government are taking *“will do far more than any words of the prime minister at UNGA [UN General Assembly] to set the diplomatic tone for Cop26”*.

The USA is the top emitter that has come back to the table, with John Kerry saying *“We’ve reached a point where it is an absolute fact that it’s cheaper to invest in preventing damage or minimising it at least than cleaning up.”*

In Haringey there are many activities to influence COP26, ranging from a Global March on 6th November to a programme to get people in Haringey looking into the shortfalls of the NDCs of a Country they care about whilst celebrating the diverse cultures within Haringey. **Join us!**

Sydney Charles

References

Haringey Climate Forum on Haringey COP26 activities

<https://haringeyclimateforum.org/cop26/>

UN Repository of NDCs from the Parties -

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

Official COP26 web site - <https://ukcop26.org/> and **UN COP26 web site**

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/glasgow-climate-change-conference>

Timetable of the Conference <https://ukcop26.org/the-conference/presidency-programme/>

Youth4climate 28-30 Sept web site <https://youth4climate.live/>

Pre-Cop last negotiations 30th Sept to 2nd Oct <https://ukcop26.org/pre-cop/pre-cop-milan/>

The UK NDC

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20Kingdom%20of%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Northern%20Ireland%20First/UK%20National%20Determined%20Contribution.pdf>

Climate Action Tracker <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/warming-projections-global-update-dec-2018/>

Boris speech to the UN 22nd Sept. Fiona Harvey What he said and what he meant <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/ng-interactive/2021/sep/23/boris-johnsons-climate-speech-annotated-what-he-said-and-what-he-meant>

Pause the Edmonton incinerator

The campaign against the Edmonton incinerator is gathering pace.

Three MPs, Kate Osamor (Edmonton), Jeremy Corbyn (Islington N) and Iain Duncan Smith (Chingford) have agreed to sign a letter asking NWLA members to reconsider their plans for rebuilding the Edmonton incinerator. All North London MPs have been asked to sign.

Catherine West can't sign or support joint letters as a Shadow Minister but is working with Kate Osamor MP on widespread concerns about the incinerator. She has discussed the plans with the Haringey reps on the NLWA and will also raise them with the Haringey leader and CEO next time they meet.

It is concerning that Labour environmentalists are having work with opposition parties to put planet and social justice before support for Labour councillors. It is their unwillingness to adapt to the changes since the plan was formed that is making the old plans continue, risking Labour votes in the council elections and possibly even the continuation of a Labour Council in Haringey.



Over 200 activists and residents from all seven boroughs marched on Saturday 25th September from Edmonton Green station to the incinerator site in Advent Way.

This letter was sent by David Lammy to a constituent setting out his views on the incinerator.

Thank you very much for writing to me regarding the new Edmonton incinerator. I share the concerns of Tottenham CLP on this issue and have recently written to the North London Waste Authority to urge them to pause and reconsider their approach to the incinerator at Edmonton EcoPark.

While I appreciate that the new incinerator represents a considerable improvement on the existing one, due to the incorporation of Selective Catalytic Reduction and a combined wet/dry scrubbing system, I remain very concerned about the impact of the incinerator on local air quality. There is evidence for a causal link between waste incineration and negative health outcomes, due to the production of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other pollutants. Even with the proposed modern technologies, many smaller pollutants will be released by the incinerator. These can be just as dangerous as larger particulates. I also understand that start-up and shut-down of incinerators for testing, maintenance and following technical failures regularly lead to the production of POPs that exceed permitted levels, even in newer incinerators. I strongly believe that the NWLA should consider proposals that would further reduce pollutants.

I am also concerned that the current plans do not include a pre-sorting facility to extract recyclable materials from 'black bag' waste. Such technologies operate at other similar waste facilities and could considerably increase recycling rates in North London. Pre-sorting would also help to reduce the amount of plastic entering the incinerator, thereby reducing the amount of CO₂ and other harmful particulates the incinerator would produce.

Finally, I am concerned that the size of the incinerator currently planned is inappropriately large. The NWLA state that the size will be required based on an assumption of only 50% recycling rates and an increase in population size. I believe that the NWLA should be more ambitious in its recycling targets, based on the experience of other countries. We do not want to be in a position where the Edmonton site is importing waste to ensure the incinerator is running at capacity. I understand that it is possible that the NWLA could save money in the short and long term by building a smaller incinerator or a set of flexible incinerators, while also focussing on boosting recycling rates. A focus on waste reduction would also likely produce more jobs than current proposals would.

I thank you again for writing to me about this issue. I will let you know as soon as I receive a response from the NWLA.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. David Lammy MP
Member of Parliament for Tottenham