**AGM January 29th. 2019 - UCU Head Office, London.**

The CWU have been involved with the Greener Jobs Alliance since it was launched was launched and support the aims of to promoting skills and job creation to meet the needs of Britain’s rapidly growing low carbon sectors and to green the whole economy.

There is agap between proven science and our government policy. If we are to prevent the UK and the world from running to increasingly dangerous levels of global warming how can the CWU and unions affect the UK industrial strategy will be needed to get us to net zero carbon?

Following the morning’s committee meeting came the AGM, there was a report back from the GLAs work over 2018 and a discussion of the plans for 2019 by Graham Petersen, GJA Secretary.

All of the big unions were at the AGM and two areas were prioritised for 2019/20, Just Transition and climate justice across economic policy (obviously) and air pollution with occupational health. With the support of CWU (1) and the unions the GLA is influential nationally and increasing at international environment meetings. An essential part of this work is that industrial strategies put workers interests at the heart of policy. The CWU with two of the largest UK fleets and many thousands of buildings have a large effect on the UK environment; this will be embedded by extending the environmental training programme (1). Personally, I think this should be for all CWU reps not just SRs, we all have an interest in the air that we, and our families, breathe. The GJA has consistently pointed out the failure of politicians address the risks to workers from air pollution which has led to the Trade Union Clean Air Network (2) the Charter (see later report) will be used to raise the CWU and other unions profile during 2019.

There was a presentation from David Powell, Head of Environment and Green Transition, at the New Economics Foundation, on climate justice and industrial strategy. David spoke about the ‘Green New Deal’ movement; see under international below, and the challenge of the length of the working week which Labour will be pushing over next twelve months. All unions agreed on the importance of prioritising climate justice and industrial strategy.

Sampson Low, who is the Head of Policy at UNISON, outlined their six main concerns:

* Public services on adaptation.
* Just Transition for energy workers (they don’t want to lose jobs).
* Hydrogen as a low carbon fuel.
* Public ownership of the large energy suppliers.
* Fuel poverty and energy efficiency
* Local government ethical procurement.

Internationally - Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is becoming one of the worlds most talked about politicians and promotes the concept of a Green New Deal to put the USA at the forefront of green technologies to exceed (not drop) the Paris climate treaty commitments while boosting the economy and reducing economic inequality. Leading the creation of millions of federally-funded jobs which employ people whilst boosting economic productivity; transitioning to greener energy sources whilst reducing the divide between the haves and have-nots. This can make the U.S. economy carbon neutral while promoting economic and environmental justice and equality. There are many different issues that are important and climate change goes to the bottom of the list but it will become a priority; making the U.S. economy carbon neutral but promoting economic and equality. All from AOC sounds eminently sensible so we can expect to see the Mail, Express, Telegraph, the BBC et-al associating her with the “extremist” Corbyn and belittling her at every opportunity.

The GJA (3) will continue to lobby for the policies and commitments needed to cut air pollution and drive the transition to a low carbon economy; advocating clear national policies and incentives working with universities, employers, local authorities, the CWU and other trade unions.

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1 February 2019.

**Sources:**

1. LTB 033/19
2. LTB 035/19
3. [www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/)

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