

# GO green at work

- Trade union members are championing environmental issues in the workplace
- The Green Workplaces project provides training and networking opportunities across the South West
- Advice and resources are available on the project web site and from the team
- Green reps can be the link between staff and management to encourage change through the workforce
- Unions can reach out to new members who feel strongly about the impact on the environment
- Unions can work with employers to improve business performance and reputation
- Unions can help organisations achieve environmental accreditation
- Unions are calling for statutory recognition for green reps giving them time and facilities to do the job.

## Workers need a voice in changing times

There are many issues we need to re-think from the way we keep warm and cool to the food we eat. Unions have long been a force for progress and they must raise the case for the environment now.

The way we work and the jobs we do will change to meet the environmental challenge. Workers have a right to be involved and real, lasting change is only possible when staff are fully engaged.

### Skills

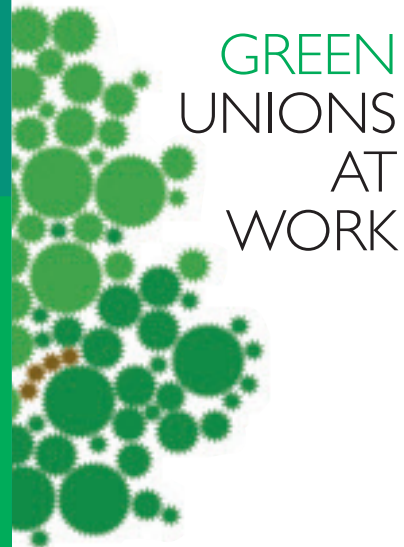
Trade unions are helping workers to meet future challenges by providing new training opportunities. Climate change will require new skills and will open up career opportunities. The future can be bright if we build green and decent employment.

## Growth within environmental limits

The South West RDA aims to develop a low-carbon economy that respects the limits of natural resources. Businesses that learn to live with environmental protection in mind will become more resilient and successful. Making change now will be easier and cheaper than waiting and will protect future jobs.

### Greening South West Workplaces

The South West TUC Green Workplaces project is supported by the South West Regional Development Agency. The project is helping unions develop their involvement in environmental issues at work with a growing number of workplace environmental champions and reps across the region.



## GREEN UNIONS AT WORK

Take action to change the climate at work

# GROWING GREEN UNIONS AT WORK

## The climate challenge

Climate change is a growing concern to us all. The evidence for global impact caused by human activity is now overwhelming.

## Workplace role

Workplaces emit around a third of all emissions with another third coming from transport and a third from our homes. International action is vital and we need to change the way we live and work.

Trade unions can take the lead in helping people to work differently.

**Waste:** Union members at a Royal Mail centre had a clear out of their depot and raised around £500 for charity from recycling the waste.

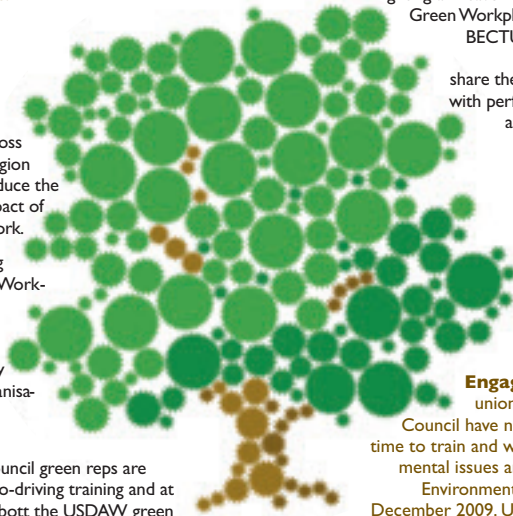
**Travel:** Reps across the South West region are working to reduce the environmental impact of travel to and for work.

Travel plan training run by the Green Workplaces Project led to the Unison rep at Gloucestershire Constabulary becoming the organisation's Travel Plan Co-ordinator.

At Bristol City Council green reps are promoting staff eco-driving training and at Tesco Newton Abbott the USDAW green rep is piloting a voluntary car sharing scheme.

**Energy:** The BECTU Organiser and Chief Electrician at Princess Theatre, Torquay introduced energy saving measures, particularly around lighting and saved £1,000. The TUC Green Workplaces Project and BECTU have organised workshops to share the lessons learned with performance venues across the region.

**Engagement:** Trade unions at Bristol City Council have negotiated facility time to train and work on environmental issues and signed a Joint Environmental Agreement in December 2009. Unison, Unite and GMB Green Reps make up the team.



## Project Team

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## Go green at work

Get in touch with the Project Team at the South West TUC

Arrange for them to visit.

Sign up for the next

Green Rep course in your area.

Invite a speaker from the project to your next union meeting.

Order a copy of *Go Green at Work* a handbook for green representatives.



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