



Annual Report 2020

1. Background

The GJA was launched in 2010 to campaign around the issue of the jobs and skills needed to transition to a low carbon economy. Our work combines supporting local projects through to advocacy at regional, national, and international level. We are a loose coalition of trades unions, student organisations, environmental groups, and individual supporters. We believe that a focus on the workplace and the need for worker / union engagement means the GJA helps to fill a large gap in climate change work.

2. Main areas of work in 2020

The 2020 work plan that was agreed at the February 2020 AGM identified 3 main priorities.

- Support Green New Deal (GND) bargaining by working with unions to provide resources to incorporate in local regional and national bargaining
- Build the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) campaign and continue to raise awareness of the link between air pollution and occupational health
- Identify opportunities for regional projects that support cross-union activity around green skills and related just transition work

The pandemic impacted significantly on our plans, including the work that we had anticipated around union conferences and COP26 in Glasgow.

3. Green New Deal Bargaining

The GJA contributed towards the production of resources to support union engagement. This built on the work that had been done producing union training materials. It included:

- TUC / Unionlearn 'Cutting Carbon, growing skills' [Unionlearn booklet explores green skills for a just transition | Unionlearn](#) (May 2020). This provides guidance on how to incorporate training and skills development in GND claims.
- UCU / SOS Green New Deal for Colleges and Universities: a bargaining guide for UCU branches (July 2020). The guide is for members only, but details of the project can be found here [UCU - New green new deal bargaining course for reps](#)
- A UCU 'Future we choose' wallchart (June 2020) providing a snapshot of climate activism and the solidarity we will need to build across borders to achieve climate justice [UCU - The future we choose](#)
- Wales TUC 'Greener Workplaces Guide'. (November 2020). Due to be launched in Spring 2021 and is a comprehensive update of the TUC Go Green at Work publication. It will be a key resource for Green Rep training courses.

4. Trade Union Clean Air Network

TUCAN was set up in 2019 in conjunction with the Hazards Campaign, and now includes 13 trade union affiliations. During 2020 we published a newsletter and developed other resources on the website [TUCAN – Greener Jobs Alliance](#). We held an event during National Clean Air Day in October. We also did a presentation on 'Air Pollution in Manufacturing' in conjunction with Global Action Plan.

Working with the Healthy Air Campaign, we have lobbied around the proposed Environment Bill and called for action following the findings of the Ella Kissi-Debrah coroner inquest. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic meant that we were not able to utilise the Particulate Matter (PM) AM250 monitor purchased to investigate workplace exposure levels.

5. **Regional Green Jobs and Skills projects** - The failure of Government industrial strategy made it necessary to focus on opportunities to promote good practice at local and regional level. GJA was actively engaged in projects that include:
- **Yorks and Humberside** – The Regional TUC was successful in getting the Yorkshire Climate Commission established in October 2020. It will look at energy, housing, transport, and the decarbonisation of industry. GJA, a member of the Working Group, has argued since before the Paris Agreement in 2015 for the establishment of just transition bodies at national, regional, sectoral, and local level to ensure a worker voice.
 - **London** – A Recovery Commission was established with Regional TUC membership. There will be a Green Jobs and Skills stream and GJA has been involved with the regional Environment and Sustainability group established by the London, Eastern and South East (LESE) Region TUC to support this area of work.
 - **Liverpool** – Meetings took place with UNITE and City of Liverpool College to identify green apprenticeships and other vocational education opportunities. Projects on green infrastructure have been identified linked to the climate strategies of the 2 mayoral authorities
 - **LB Wandsworth** – GJA and BWTUC were involved throughout the year in discussions around the Council's environment strategy. A meeting has been arranged for early 2021 to discuss a green jobs and skills plan.

6. **Communications**

Newsletters – During 2020 we published 6 editions of the newsletter. This is the only UK cross-union newsletter which provides regular information on the climate crisis with a trade union movement focus. It is sent out to our email list that currently has 600 supporters.

Breaking News and other resources - Additional posts to our email list supplemented the newsletter coverage. A range of material was published on climate emergency declarations. The web site had over 7,000 hits during 2020 and the online courses continue to be accessed.

7. **GJA 2020 Financial Summary**

Income 2020 - £300 (Balance c/f £13,951.07) Total £14,251.07

Expenditure 2020 - £4,566.39

The GJA ended the calendar year with a balance of **£9,684.68**

Details of the accounts are available for inspection. The income for 2020 was reduced because Covid restrictions prevented musical festival server team contributions. We are grateful to UNITE for offering to fund our newsletter from November.

With an annual expenditure of under £5,000, most of the work carried out was unpaid. The main expenditure was the £1,800 spent on the web site and communications. The Secretary received £1,200 as an honorarium of £100 per month.

8. **GJA Post Holders in 2020**

Chair – Quinn Runkle / Meg Baker (SOS-NUS), **Secretary** – Graham Petersen (BWTUC), **Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor** – Philip Pearson (Unite), **Treasurer** – Graham Petersen **Steering Group** – Linda Clarke (UCU), Sam Mason / Tahir Latif (PCS), Paul Atkin (NEU), Carl Jerromes (UNITE), Pete Murry (Green Party TU Group) Marianne Quick (UCU), Muna Suleiman / Denis Fernando (Friends of the Earth), Mel Evans (Greenpeace), Sophie Lethier (SERA). **Web Designer** – Wendy Mayes

Graham Petersen, GJA Secretary, January 2020