



**Hornsey & Wood Green Labour Party  
CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**October 2019**

**We intend to publish a 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 [Chrisjbarker46@gmail.com](mailto:Chrisjbarker46@gmail.com). Opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Labour Party.**

**What we stand for**

CCEG's 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.

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## Forthcoming events

From Muswell Hill Sustainability Group <https://mhsgroup.org/>

### Welcome inside a local Green Open Home!

**Free house tours:**

**Sunday 3rd November (10am, 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm)**

**Saturday 9th November (10am, 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm)**

Booking is now open for free visits to of stylish, low-energy 'green' homes not far from you. On **Sunday 3rd November and Saturday 9th November** meet householders who've improved comfort and cut energy bills, and pick up ideas for your own home.

The houses on show in Muswell Hill, Crouch End, Alexandra Park, Highgate and Tottenham include an Edwardian villa, a 1920s former London County Council property, a top floor flat and the Meadow Orchard Community Garden's cob and straw eco-building. See further details of the homes [here](#).

Tours last one hour - numbers on each tour are limited so please [book your place here](#).

**Wednesday 13th November, 19.00 – 21.00.**

**Highgate Society 'Waste Not, Want Not' event.** 10a South Grove, N6 6BS

This meeting will address the 'waste hierarchy' - how we can reduce, reuse and recycle more waste. Speakers lined up are:

- Carina Millstone, food waste prevention charity Feedback
- Leigh McAlea, TRAIID - a charity aiming to stop clothes being thrown away
- Ian Kershaw, Haringey Council - Council's role in tackling plastic waste
- Ursula Taylor - North London Waste Authority - what happens to our waste?

A Q & A session will follow.

Free event - please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/waste-not-want-not-tickets-72838713553?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Saturday 16th November, 10.00 to 16.30.**

**Climate Emergency: from declaration to action**

UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL.

This free event will look at the role of local climate action groups and local councils in responding to the climate crisis. As well as a small number of speakers, there will be workshops to share and develop ideas.

Further information at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-emergency-from-declarations-to-action-tickets-75109122407>

## Catherine West MP's Update from Parliament

Some really exciting green policy initiatives and ambitious zero carbon targets came out of Labour's Brighton conference.

A Green Industrial Revolution that will see a seven-fold increase in offshore turbines backed up with £6.2 billion funding to jumpstart a home-grown renewable industry.

An electric car revolution that will see 400,000 of the dirtiest cars taken off the road, the whole of the government's car fleet become electric, massive investment in rapid charging points across the UK and interest free loans to support families to make the transition.

And a Green New Deal motion overwhelmingly passed from the conference floor including a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, something the chief political correspondent for the Financial Times described as 'one of the most radical policies by a mainstream political party in my lifetime'.

We have to be radical because we can't afford not to be. The climate emergency Labour forced Parliament to declare was an acknowledgement that our planet faces irreversible collapse if we don't act now. A Labour Government must work with businesses, with trade unions, with scientists to make that ambitious target a reality.

This month I've taken part in a meeting on Labour's Green New Deal at the Wood Green Social Club and joined Haringey's Living Streets meeting where we discussed how to do our bit on tackling air pollution. More must be done to support the Mayor of London's ULEZ so more people can switch to non-diesel vehicles and public transport, walking and cycling can be promoted in Haringey. Now Parliament's sitting again, I'm submitting Parliamentary Questions to ask if the UK Government will follow Ireland's example in setting out proposals to eliminate single use plastics.

Finally, I've just launched my own climate change consultation to hear the thoughts of Hornsey & Wood Green residents as I am keen to do anything I can to further the cause in Parliament – whether that's asking Parliamentary Questions, seeking to



Celebrating Car Free Day outside Labour HQ on Middle Lane as one of the Haringey streets closed to traffic.

bring forward a Private Members' Bill or pushing ministers for action. I've already had a number of interesting responses including thoughts on airport expansion, sustainable food policies, home energy efficiency schemes, education in schools and much more. [Please do let me know your thoughts and share as widely as possible.](#)

**Catherine West MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green**

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## **Labour Party initiatives on energy and climate change**

The national Labour Party has set out an impressive set of policies to deal with the present emergency when it wins power at the forthcoming general election.

The overall aim is to secure net zero carbon emissions by 2050. But John McDonnell says Labour Party will bring forward significantly the 2050 target by raising billions through green bonds and supporting a Europe wide green new deal programme.

### **Renewable Energy**

Labour will *triple* solar power, *double* onshore wind and increase offshore wind projects by *seven-fold*. The plan is to deliver 52GW of offshore wind by 2030, the equivalent of 38 coal power stations. Marine power could be harnessed through a series of tidal lagoons and barrages. Government bonds will provide £6.2 billion to jumpstart a home-grown renewable industry.

As Labour rebuilds our hospitals, they will include solar panels and energy efficient schemes, with a fleet of low emission ambulances.

Labour aims to remove households' dependency on the national grids, with solar panels, ground and air source heat pumps becoming the norm, not a novelty.

### **Energy Efficiency in Existing Homes**

There will be a large-scale green retrofit programme to make existing homes as energy efficient as possible, driving down costs particularly for households in fuel poverty.

Currently, three million private rental homes in England are below Energy Performance Certificate band C and over 250,000 are in the least efficient F/G EPC bands. In its first term, Labour will upgrade four million homes to Energy Performance Certificate band C, investing £2.3bn per year to insulate homes.

Local authorities will take over from the utilities and control Eco programme cash.

A nationwide register will identify landlords who fail to properly insulate properties.

### **Energy Efficiency in New Build**

Labour will build a new generation of high-quality, energy efficient/zero carbon, affordable homes for sale and for rent. This will include offsite production, ensuring cleaner, quicker construction of versatile, draught-free, energy efficient homes.

## **Cars**

Labour will invest £300m to support the creation of 'community car clubs'.

A vehicle scrappage scheme will take 400,000 of our dirtiest cars off our roads and there will be 2.5 million interest free loans to buy EVs.

£3.6 billion will be invested into building charging networks. That's 72,000 charging points in towns and along motorways.

Labour will make £3 billion of equity finance available to the automotive sector to invest in electrification of their plants. New investment in this plant and machinery will be exempt from business rates.

## **Finance and Funding**

Reforms to the finance sector will ensure that it stops investing in industries which contribute to the climate emergency.

The green bonds issued by a National Investment Bank will provide low-cost finance for small business and infrastructure. This bank will be linked with a network of regional development banks, a publicly-owned RBS and a new Post Bank based in post offices across the country. They will be mandated to make profit to support the missions of Labour's green industrial strategy.

There will be many large scale beneficial investment opportunities in the UK under Labour. Foreign investment will be regulated to ensure they support a Green Industrial Revolution.

## **An International Approach**

Labour will work with other countries and social movements across the globe, reforming major international bodies to enable them to coordinate the global response to climate change.

To ensure environmental justice, Labour aims to provide citizens of the Global South with free or cheap access to our new green technologies.

Happy campaigning!

**Nicky Gavron**  
**Greater London Assembly Member**

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## **Reaching out to Tottenham**

We are planning to expand the Climate Change and Environment Group from being a group of the Hornsey and Wood Green Labour Party to be a group for the whole of Haringey.

Tottenham CLP is to vote on a motion proposing a merger with Hornsey & Wood Green Climate Change and Environment Group at their next GC on 30 October. Assuming both CLPs agree, the resulting borough-wide alliance - to be called Haringey Labour Climate Action - will strengthen members' capacity to ensure Haringey Council delivers on its recent climate emergency declaration. Looking forward to some dynamic teamwork!

## **Solar panels on reservoirs Floating more ideas**

As keen readers of this Newsletter will know, I had wondered about floating arrays of solar panels on the reservoirs in the Lee Valley, similar to a scheme Thames Water has already installed on a reservoir at Walton on Thames. Potentially these schemes are huge, 5 MWp and upwards, roughly the equivalent of panels on 5,000 homes.

The good news is that Thames Water is on the case. They are getting tenders for floating PV arrays on four reservoirs, including the Banbury and the William Girling Reservoirs in the Lee Valley. This could amount to 100MWp of renewable electricity.

Once they have the tenders they can see whether the projects are viable and announce the result early in 2020. But as well as the floating PV, there would be other renewable possibilities such as providing heating for new housing developments taking heat from sewage – already being tested in south London. Because water companies pump large amounts of water – 2% of UK's electricity goes on water treatment – choosing when to pump this water is in effect a way to smooth electricity demand.

Wind turbines are another option for land around the reservoirs but that would need a change of government policy (or a change of government?).

These are very positive developments. But who will benefit from these installations? Yes, UK carbon emissions will come down. But, if we are not careful, the offshore owners of Thames Water will gain most. As virtually all households in London get their water from Thames Water, we should be asking for public benefit from these schemes – from cheaper electricity for hospitals and London's transport to improved wildlife habitats around reservoirs.

So I think it would be useful to have a meeting of interested parties (Thames Water with GLA, Local Authorities, colleagues from the London Energy Transformation Initiative and community groups) to discuss options and ideas next spring. What do you think?

**Alan Morton**

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## Labour's Green New Deal

The ideas behind a Green New Deal have evolved for several years, on both sides of the Atlantic, and will continue to evolve as Labour firms up its messages for the next general election. One definition of a Green New Deal is: 'a comprehensive plan for stemming the breakdown of earth's life support systems' according to Ann Pettifor in her book '[The Case for the Green New Deal](#)' (Verso 2019)

Can ordinary people take back control? Her case is that the population holds the power to pressure governments to stop making taxpayers pay for the finance sector's losses, whilst never benefitting from profits. The framework of the monetary and economic systems can be realigned from private profit to environmental and employment projects for the public good once voters understand that this is really doable.

Is there a magic Money Tree? The Case for the New Deal presents learned and comprehensive detail on the nature of the global financial system and the everyday creation of money is indeed a magic money tree for rich financiers.

Ann Pettifor explains how there is more than enough money available from credit creation, loan finance, savings, cessation of fossil fuel subsidies, and from targeting tax revenue on carbon emissions, to reach the 1.5° target for 2030 we need to avert the climate emergency.

Could the global money system be changed so quickly? Ann Pettifor cites examples of previous sudden realignments such as leaving the Gold Standard and Bretton Woods. She attacks the accepted 'truth' that growth is necessary, or that GDP is important, referring to Japan which was successful on quality of life measures, whilst having zero growth in the early 2000s.

Could jobs be redirected quickly? Yes, if the emergency is taken seriously, as happened under Roosevelt's US New Deal, using millions of Americans to rebuild the broken economy. The UK industrial revolution is another example where, for instance, 4,400 miles of railway track was laid between 1845 and 1852.

### Evolution of Labour's Green New Deal

- Ann Pettifor is a member of the [Green New Deal Group](#) working across parties since 2007, and liaising with the [US Green New Deal](#) movement.

- Labour's [The Green Transformation](#) of Sept 2018 describes policies for UK Energy, housing, transport, fresh water and farming, fishing, habitats and wildlife management. It explains how to work across UK government departments, and across countries.
- The [UK Climate Emergency bill](#) of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 was called by Labour. (Starts at 13.47, with the unopposed vote at 18.59).
- The Labour Party Conference motion [Green New Deal](#) of Sept 2019 focuses on policies to boost green jobs, ban fracking, democratise ownership of energy and transport and low carbon homes. It asks for co-operation internationally to ensure the cost of decarbonisation is borne by the wealthiest, as 10% of people are responsible for 50% of emissions.
- The [Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill](#) of Sept 2019 tabled by Clive Lewis and Caroline Lucas explains how the Bank of England and the Treasury can be required to use monetary and fiscal systems for public good.
- Labour's [Green Industrial Revolution Consultation](#) to end Dec 2019 is a consultation on an industrial strategy that should be sensitive to the region-specific opportunities and risks from decarbonisation.

Labour needs to urgently embed in the consciousness of the voters the narrative that a Green New Deal is doable and urgent. 'Work in progress' policies, such as the role of nuclear power, carbon capture & storage and Heathrow now need to be agreed and in terms that will convince voters that they can take back control of our money and environmental protection.

**Sydney Charles**

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## Haringey Council use of glyphosate and neonicotinoid pesticides



The Greater London Authority have committed to ending the use of toxic herbicides and pesticides in parks and public spaces in London. Accordingly, they want local authorities to make the same commitment to ceasing the use of these poisonous chemicals.

Specifically, the GLA wants local authorities to stop using the herbicide Glyphosate which is marketed with the brand name 'Roundup'. Research has shown that Roundup is toxic to human DNA even when diluted to

concentrations 450 times lower than used in agricultural applications.



The Mayor of London's Environment Strategy commits the GLA group to reducing its own pesticide use. Proving that going pesticide free is achievable, in 2016 Hammersmith & Fulham became the first London borough to do so.

Following on from the GLA's commitment, the CC&E Group are asking Haringey Council to commit to ending the use Glyphosate, and also the use of Neonicotinoid pesticides which are killing bees and other pollinating insects, vital to the cultivation of food crops.

**Judy Webb**

## **Mayor's manifesto consultation**

Please respond to Sadiq Khan's manifesto consultation. Deadline 29<sup>th</sup> November. It will be followed by a policy forum event in January. The document can be found here: [labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/sadiq-khan-2020-mayoral-policy-consultation-document.pdf](https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/sadiq-khan-2020-mayoral-policy-consultation-document.pdf)

There is a section on Environment and Climate Change and questions for the consultation are on page 23. Responses should be sent to [londonpolicy@labour.org.uk](mailto:londonpolicy@labour.org.uk)

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## **World Car Free Day**

After one of the biggest ever climate change protests in the UK, Londoners are being encouraged to get out, explore the city on foot and be more aware of the global impact of so much driving pollution.



22<sup>nd</sup> September was World Car Free Day when all over the world city roads were closed to motor traffic to show people how much nicer places are without cars and how much more healthy they are without toxic fumes. In London practically the whole of the City was closed to traffic as was a large area of Southwark south of the river. The aim, according to the mayor, is to encourage Londoners to 'reimagine' their city as car-free, and get around by either walking or cycling. Sadiq Khan launched the day cycling across Tower Bridge.

*Middle Lane 22<sup>nd</sup> September*

18 London boroughs joined the event including Haringey where two roads were closed: a short section of Middle Lane near its junction with Park Road and the Town Hall Approach Road in Tottenham. Streets were turned into play areas and

Haringey's Smarter Travel team attended. Communities were encouraged to apply to turn their road into a 'play street' and a number were established.

The Car Free Day idea originated in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis but it was in 1994 that it became a worldwide project. It has been growing ever since. The London events this year have certainly been the most extensive so far. Here's hoping that next year we can see even more closed streets. In September 2008 Haringey organised the closure of Wood Green High Road for a day. It would be good if they could do that again.

## **Wake Up. Act Now!**

That's a key message of Extinction Rebellion's recent two week Rebellion (7<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October). The demands of the April Rebellion are not being met. Government is not acting as if there is an emergency.

As we in Labour already know – the Science is clear about the climate emergency. In the Labour Manifesto there is a commitment to a reduction of greenhouse gases to net Zero by 2030.

XR has been focusing on the three main messages:

- Government must tell the Truth about the Climate Emergency
- Government must act on this truth and bring emissions to zero by 2025
- Government must set up and be led by a Citizens Assembly for ecological and climate justice.

At time of writing XR's two week rebellion is coming to a close (for now). So what is being (has been) achieved?

XR has been out on the street staging road blocks, and a whole range of non- violent disruptive, dramatic protests in London ( and internationally) targeting Government Departments across the capital and the financial sector. Protestors have simultaneously been engaging with passers by - giving out thousands of leaflets and stickers and explaining the issues to all who will listen.

What people know and have seen in the media varies enormously. But the inclusion of an XR spokesperson (the academic, Rupert Reed) on BBC's Question Time would certainly not have happened without the impact of this rebellion. Most of the mainstream press (with the exception of the Guardian) has unsurprisingly been negative and focused on the inconvenience to the public rather than the issues which we all will face.

Looking ahead, Labour must support the parliamentary bill which XR have drafted, called the Climate and Ecological Emergency (Declaration, Emissions Target and Citizens' Assembly Bill). With MPs' support this can become a private members bill. You can read the Draft on the XR website and get loads more information at:

<https://rebellion.earth/>

We have a massive task ahead! Business as Usual is not an Option!

**Marilyn Taylor**  
**Alexandra Ward**