

# Come to Climate Camp 2009!

In 2007 Climate Camp was at Heathrow, to protest against the planned new runway. Last year thousands of people camped at the site of the new coal fired power station being built at Kingsnorth, casting a big question mark over new coal in the UK. Then in the spring of this year thousands of people swooped on the city whilst the G20 was meeting in London: tents were pitched and the carbon trading centre in the hub of the financial district shut its doors for the day.

Come to Climate Camp 2009 from 26 August to 2 September, inside the M25.

"Build: Learn how to construct a wind turbine, erect a marquee, or cook for two hundred people. We aim to make the camp a model of sustainable living, and we need you to help us do it.

"Meet: Concerned about climate change? You're not alone – join thousands of people from all walks of life to share ideas, make friends and start taking collective action.

"Learn: Discover alternatives. Get up-to-speed with the science. Learn the skills you need, from composting your waste to talking to the media. Whatever your interest, with hundreds of workshops there's sure to be one for you.

"Take Action: Find like-minded people. Get trained-up. Make plans. Whatever you want to do, there will be people here to show you how".

There will be a meeting on Sunday 16 August near the Vestas St Cross factory to talk about Climate Camp: phone Bob, 07843 945 005 for details.

Workers' Liberty • [www.workersliberty.org](http://www.workersliberty.org) • 07775 763 750

## Organising for the long haul



Already the campaign has won Vestas workers an extra two and half weeks' pay for two weeks' less work, and some increased redundancy pay. It has put the Government on the defensive over renewable energy. It has forced Vestas to suggest they may reinstate the redundancy rights of the workers sacked for occupying.

And, most important, it has turned Vestas workers into a force to be reckoned with, able and willing to stand up for their rights. There is a lot yet to fight for.

We now have to prepare for a long haul. We should constantly be on the alert for twists and turns which may enable us to raise the tempo again, but for now we are not in the same mode as in the first week or so of the occupation, when there was a surprise every few hours.

Even if we cannot for the moment turn the pickets at the St Cross factory into a full-scale blockade, we have to maintain them in a steady, organised way. They are the essential centre of the campaign, and the basis for being able to move more energetically if Vestas try to move stuff out through the marine gate and over the cycle path.

Even small new tactics can have an effect. We started a presence at the back gate only this week (10 August). Within hours it had Vestas management so agitated that they were erecting fences all across the back of the factory.

Rallies, street stalls, demonstrations, protests at council meetings, lobbies of councillors, new poster campaigns, fund-raising benefits and socials, workplace visits - a constant variation of tactics can keep workers and the community mobilised as we move towards the next day of action at 9 September.

All this requires even more organisation than the earlier stages of the campaign: reliable rotas and telephone trees to ensure that the maximum number can participate at a manageable pace.

**Workers' Liberty discussions on socialist politics:  
every evening 7.30pm at the Bargeman's Rest  
(after the 6pm Vestas factory gate rally).  
All welcome.**

## Why you should join RMT

A song from the USA, "Solidarity Forever", tells us: "they have taken untold millions which they never toiled to earn, but without our brain and sinew not a single wheel can turn". The punchline is: "The union makes us strong".

With modern technology, workers do miracles in production. One individual alone couldn't do them. Production requires a whole team working with the same goal in mind.

It is the same with unions. A good trade union enables workers to be a collective power, rather than a scattering of individuals, each more or less helpless in face of the centralised power of the top bosses. That is what the RMT is doing at Vestas. Workers who haven't yet joined RMT should do so. If you have criticisms of the RMT, discuss them with other workers who are RMT members and express a collective opinion.

One worker alone can be picked on, intimidated, fired or bought off. In a union we stand together and act together through a democracy we should have control of. Divided we are nothing, but united we are strong.

In the best unions, workers are always in control of their own struggles and negotiations, through their own elected committees which provide regular information and reports to the whole workforce.

Unions are not always the best. We've seen that with Unite. Some Vestas workers joined early in the campaign, but the union officials have been slow to offer help.

The answer is always to get in to the union, organise as strongly as you can at workplace level, and insist that the union must serve the members, not the officials.

## Why join a socialist group?

Many of us have decided that we don't just think it wrong that Vestas bosses can treat workers as disposables. We don't just think it wrong that Vestas can accelerate or delay wind turbine production according to what is most profitable.

We think that production in general should be regulated by democratic decisions for the common good, not by private profit. We think that workers - the people who produce the wealth - should control production collectively. We think human beings should develop a sustainable relationship with the planet by cooperative planning, not pillaging the planet for maximum profit.

We don't just think it right to fight the Vestas closure. We think it right to stand up and fight every time workers are exploited and abused. And we think that only by doing that can we win a world of democratic cooperation - in other words, socialism - in place of competitive profit-gouging.

We can do that most effectively, we believe, by joining together in a socialist organisation.

A socialist organisation supports its members and allows them to function better as activists than they could alone. Organisation, unity, and coordination make for strength.

We discuss ideas together and decide on a collective course of action. We pool our experiences and our knowledge. We educate ourselves in the history of working-class struggles and the theory of how capitalism works. We provide practical assistance to each activist, or small group of activists.

For example, the three members of the Alliance for Workers' Liberty (AWL) who came to the Isle of Wight in mid-June to raise interest in a campaign against closure at Vestas could only do that because they got help from the organisation. In deciding how to start and what to do, they were helped by advice and education from more experienced members of AWL.

An effective socialist organisation works as the memory of the working class, transmitting lessons from one struggle to another. To be useful, the memory must be accurate. The organisation must be able to argue out difficult and complex issues; to dare to be unpopular when necessary; to be stubborn under pressure; to recognise, record, and learn from its own mistakes. To do all that, it must be democratic, and it must ensure a high level of political commitment and education among its members.

People new to socialist politics often find it hard to understand why there are different socialist groups, and why we argue among ourselves. The reason is that ideas are important. Different socialist organisations have to be able to work together where we agree. We've done that quite well at Vestas. But sometimes we disagree, and there is no answer then but to debate the issues properly.

If you want to go on after the Vestas campaign to help other groups of workers stand up for their rights and develop the power of collective action, then you should join a socialist organisation. You should also make an informed decision about which organisation to join. Examine the different ideas and ways of organising. Read about the debates. Talk to the activists.

**Next national day of action in support of the  
Vestas workers  
9 September  
Keep up to date:  
<http://savevestas.wordpress.com>**