



Environmental Caucus

of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council

The **Environmental Caucus** of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council is forging alliances between unions and the community to educate and work on solutions to the effects of climate change. Several unions from the San Diego region are working with the community to educate and take action on climate change and win policies that support green jobs and a just transition to a green economy.

Active 1st Year! In our first year, the Environmental Caucus has held numerous public events and has been recognized by local and national media. Some of our activities included:

- Developed the Mission Statement and Resolution, which was adopted by the Labor Council (reprinted on back);
- Developed a Transit Resolution for San Diego and adopted by the Labor Council;
- Planned an Interfaith Forum with leaders of faith and environmental organizations in conjunction with the Pope’s visit to the US Congress;
- Members of the Environmental Caucus worked with environmental and community groups to protest the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP);
- The Environmental Caucus held a booth at Balboa Park’s Earth Day;
- Hosted and moderated two screenings of the film *This Changes Everything*;
- Testified at SANDAG hearings for stronger transportation measures;
- Testified at Southwest Water Board;
- Helped plan and marched in support of the Paris Climate Summit, Balboa Park.

We produced several educational pieces “Top 10 Reasons Union Members Should Care about Climate Change”, “The Climate Crisis: A Threat to our Health & Our Lives”, “Simple Effective Ways Unions can Support the Environmental Caucus”, “Climate Action and Green Jobs”, and more. At our meetings we had speakers from the Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego 350, the American Lung Association, Climate Action Campaign, IBEW, CNA-NUU, and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation. Join us!

Join Us!

The Environmental Caucus meets at
5:30pm
3rd Wednesday of each month
AFT offices:
3737 Camino del Rio South #410
San Diego, CA 92108

For more information

Contact Jim Miller, Chair:
miller229@earthlink.net
www.unionyes.org/
environmental-caucus/



Solidarity march for Paris Climate Summit, Dec 2015



Richard Barrera and Masada Diesenhouse (SD350) “Flush the TPP” rally, April 2015



Interfaith Forum Coalition on Environmental Justice, September 2015



Hosted screenings Nov & Dec 2015



Protest against Trans-Pacific Partnership, June 2015



Earth Fair Balboa Park, April 2015

Healthy Communities & Green Jobs!

Over for more!



INTERESTED IN TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE? ...SIMPLE EFFECTIVE WAYS LOCAL UNIONS CAN ENGAGE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE NEW SDIC-CLC ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

- Publicize Environmental Caucus events to your membership.
- Write an article in your next Local Union newsletter or e-newsletter. We can provide a draft to get you started.
- Invite a Caucus member to present to your Local at a membership meeting or other Local Union function.
- Spread the word by telling others about the Caucus.
- Sign up for the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council action alerts to find out about upcoming Caucus events and actions.
- Send a representative from your Local to attend Environmental Caucus meetings (see front of flier).
- Share Environmental Caucus educational materials with your members. They will be linked to the Labor Council web site or email Chair Jim Miller at miller229@earthlink.net

San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council Environmental Caucus Mission Statement

In 2010, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council passed a “Resolution in Support of Preserving Environmental Laws and Building Environmental Partnerships” which declared that the Council “supports outreach and partnership with the environmental community in order to strengthen efforts to fight for a better quality of life for all working people; and supports efforts to preserve environmental laws; and condemns efforts to weaken and undermine environmental laws; and declares our labor community to be stronger when working together with environmental allies; and urges the California Labor Federation and other labor councils and bodies throughout the nation to adopt the same position as this Council.”

That resolution affirmed labor’s support for existing environmental laws and recognized the impact that environmental pollution, the water crisis, and climate change have on workers’ lives and health while noting that the negative effects of the climate crisis “will disproportionately impact disenfranchised communities with the least resources.” Hence, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council committed to promoting smart growth, green jobs, and real partnerships with the environmental community in order to work toward environmental and economic justice.

Since 2010, the science on climate change has only presented us with more and more severe warnings about the dire consequences of continuing on the same course. As a historical force for progressive change and social justice, the labor movement can, and must, play a powerful role in calling for swift action to address the climate crisis and in producing tangible solutions that will ensure we are strengthening, not weakening, our middle-class as we transition to a more sustainable economy. The idea that the market is the only thing that truly matters in human existence is a central obstacle to achieving economic and environmental justice. We know from experience that the labor movement must be at the table to shape the conversation if we are to effect positive change for working people.

Historically, we have been sold the myth that we must choose between good jobs and a clean environment. This is a false choice and has been perpetuated by a multi-billion dollar corporate network that dominates the political and public sphere. Thus the challenge is big and the answer is to change the game. Any successful movement to address the looming threat of climate change must also involve an accompanying revolution

in values, a paradigm shift. As Naomi Klein put it when speaking to one of Canada’s largest labor unions last year: “climate change—when its full economic and moral implications are understood—is the most powerful weapon progressives have ever had in the fight for equality and social justice. But first, we have to stop running away from the climate crisis, stop leaving it to the environmentalist, and look at it. Let ourselves absorb the fact that the industrial revolution that led to our society’s prosperity is now destabilizing the natural systems on which all of life depends.”

In that spirit, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council Environmental Caucus is committed to:

- Engaging our members and the community about labor’s role in advocating for tangible solutions to the climate crisis that simultaneously strengthen our middle-class.
- Letting our members know that good green jobs don’t kill construction projects, in fact in some cases it actually increases opportunity.
- Insisting that those who might be displaced should be retrained for the new economy as well as ensuring that the green economy is creating union career opportunities to ensure a just transition for working people.
- Building and sustaining real partnerships with the local environmental movement and community groups committed to economic and environmental justice.
- Pushing for bold new political and policy initiatives that move beyond lip service to effectively address the two great issues of our age—historic economic inequality and climate change

Purpose of the Caucus: With these global goals of the mission statement in mind, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council Environmental Caucus’s specific purpose is to:

1. Educate our members and the community about the pressing environmental issues of our day and possible solutions to the present crisis.
2. Build strong alliances and partnerships between labor and other environmental and community groups.
3. Serve as a policy body inside the labor council that assures that labor’s agenda always includes an environmental focus and that labor’s issues are always present in larger discussions of environmental issues.
4. Promote progressive labor/environmental legislation.