

# Global Climate Jobs Network

## Technical Conference

### Call for Papers

Climate jobs and green new deal movements are springing up around the world. This is a call for papers for an international conference on the technical aspects of the jobs that will be necessary, in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The conference will be on zoom, over three days, and contributors will be able to participate from all continents. We want papers from engineers, scientists, system modellers, designers, architects, planners, educators and trainers, foresters, soil scientists, trade union researchers, NGO researchers and other specialists.

### The Climate Jobs Approach

We want contributors to think about the technical and technological implications of a “climate jobs” approach. This approach involves several features:

Massive government spending on public sector, direct employment to make possible reductions of 95% in CO2 emissions, and deep reductions in other emissions, within 20 years. In South Africa or Britain, this would be something like one million jobs a year, or in the United States 8 million jobs.

People who lose their jobs in old, high carbon industries would be guaranteed training and well paid, permanent work in climate jobs.

The work would begin from year one, starting with training a new workforce and shovel ready projects. Over twenty years many new technologies would become possible.

Public sector bodies would share intellectual property across borders.

Profits would be less important. Technologies that are necessary but currently “unrealistic”, could be developed rapidly at scale even if the cost was very high for many years. For example, alternative methods of making steel, substitutes for cement, or expensive forms of renewable energy like marine power and concentrated solar could enter mass production.

We could also move beyond the market, with regulations of many sorts. So we could think about the sort of rail, bus and electric system needed if all flights of 5,000 kilometres or less were banned. Or what could be done if we banned the manufacture of concrete, or F-gases?

Or contributors to think about the details, and the implications, of a building code that required new buildings to have greatly reduced energy use, and to burn no fossil fuels for heating or cooking. In this, we would like not only papers that argue this would be a good idea but think about how that code would be worded in different places, and what technologies and materials would be required, and what research would be required.

### **Possible topics**

Here are some topics we suggest. This is not an exhaustive list, but it will give you some idea of the range of papers possible:

Design and construction of new low emission buildings; Insulation and conversion of existing buildings; Electrical heating in buildings; Air conditioning and ventilation; Public transport; High speed rail; Electric vehicles; Electric trucks; Green hydrogen; Design, operation and regulation of shipping; Air traffic control; Steel production; Aluminium production; Plastics production and regulation; Pulp and paper; Conversion of offshore oil and gas industry; Batteries; Electricity Storage; Fertilizers and Manure; Soil Regeneration; Forestry; Livestock; Food manufacture, distribution and waste; Solar water heaters; Concentrated Solar Power; Solar PV; Wind turbines; Marine Power; Geothermal; Construction and operation of grids; Finance; Contracting; Workforce management and deployment; Calculating costs and the number of jobs needed; Training; and Trade Unionism. Additional areas may include controversial technologies such as nuclear energy and CCS.

We welcome papers with a wide scope, but we particularly welcome papers with a narrow scope. So, we would be very interested in a paper on the relative merits of concentrated solar power and solar PV in Oman, the main considerations in a massive increase in training electricians in England, the possibilities of pump storage of electricity in Norway, the future of livestock production in Northern Kenya, the difficulties with independent power production in South Africa, the challenges facing geothermal in Philippines, and so on.

### **Inclusive, Free and Participatory**

We are holding this conference on zoom because we want contributors from all over the world, and heavy participation from countries of the Global South. So, the conference will be free, and with no transport or accommodation costs.

This will not be a conference of talking heads and audiences. Each contributor will submit a paper of 1,500 to 2,500 words two weeks before the conference. For the first day you will be in a specialist workshop of six people. All of you will have to read each other's papers, and you will spend the day discussing all the papers and helping each other to edit and improve them. You will also develop such further topics as occur to you.

There will be a limited number of places for climate jobs activists who are not contributing papers. Some of these will act as workshop facilitators others may attend workshops as non-participant observers.

On the second day there will be generalist, "transversal", workshops of six people each. Again, you will read the papers of all the other people in the group and help each other edit and improve. But you may also want to discuss more general aspects of a climate jobs approach.

On the third and final day there will be an opportunity for contributors and observers to engage in discussion.

The workshops will be recorded, but the discussion will not be in response to questions. There will be few plenary sessions or talking heads, and equal space and time for all participants. People will take turns talking, and everyone will talk.

### **Publication**

We hope to find ways of publishing many of the papers swiftly in peer reviewed, open access form.

### **Joint Papers**

We welcome joint papers.

### **Language and Time Zones**

We cannot afford translation for small workshops. English will be the working language for the majority of workshops. But where we can have four to six

people who need to work in another language, we will make spaces. Do not be deterred in applying by language. Within those limits, we will try hard to put people together.

Any global workshop conference has to cope with time zones. In practice, workshops will have to be for Africa, Europe and Asia; for the Americas, Africa and Europe; or for Asia and Americas.

### **Organizations backing the conference**

Alternative Information and Development Centre (South Africa), Climaximo and Empregos para o Clima (Portugal), ScotE3 (Scotland).

### **How to apply**

Please send an abstract of less than 200 words, and a description of yourself in less than 100 words, to [climatetechconference@gmail.com](mailto:climatetechconference@gmail.com) by the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.