

WE NEED SOCIALIST CHANGE TO END CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Build the climate strike movement. For joint protests with trade unions on 15 April**
- **Build student unions in schools and colleges to democratically organise our movement**
- **Defend the right to protest**
- **Get the Tories Out! Our movement demands a general election to remove the incompetent government**
- **Take the control of our world out of the hands of the 1%. Nationalise energy provision, privatised utilities and public transport under democratic workers' control. Step up research on green energy, waste reduction and energy saving**
- **Fight for a democratic and socialist plan of production based on the needs of the people and the environment**

*Young
Socialists*

generationsocialist.net



socialiststudents.org.uk

On 15 March tens of thousands of school and college students walked out of lessons protesting against the Tory government's incompetence and inaction in the face of an impending climate catastrophe.

Our strikes show that millions of us are searching for a way to solve these problems. But the Tories and the right-wing in Labour offer no way forward - on the environment, but also poverty, homelessness, inequality, and youth services. We have to fight for a decent future.

Since 1988, just 100 companies across the planet were responsible for 71% of all emissions. Up until 2010, only 90 companies were responsible for producing 63% of the cumulative emissions globally since the year 1751!

This is what capitalism looks like - a system in which the creation of profit for a tiny minority of society dominates all else, including the health and protection of the environment and our planet. So it's very clear who is to blame for this environmental crisis: the capitalist class - the billionaires and big business bosses and the pro-capitalist politicians who protect their interests.

That's why we need a socialist alternative to capitalism. The fight for our future needs system change - from capitalism to socialism. Socialism means the decisions about how society is organised would be democratically made by the billions not the billionaires. The support for Jeremy Corbyn's 2017 anti-austerity manifesto indicates the enthusiasm for a bold programme. That should start with fighting to take into democratic public ownership the top 150 banks and corporations which dominate the economy, including those responsible for toxic pollution, deforestation, and other environmentally damaging practices.

On this socialist basis it would be possible to not only rapidly halt pollution, but also to fund and democratically plan mass investment into green technologies, while guaranteeing retraining and work for everyone whose job is at risk. Capitalism is incapable of this on the scale we need, as it stubbornly prioritises profits above everything else.

JOIN SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Text JOIN with your name & college/
university to 077493 79010

[www.socialiststudents.org.uk/
join](http://www.socialiststudents.org.uk/join)

Email - socialiststudents@gmail.com

WHAT NEXT AFTER MARCH 15?

OUR STRIKES ARE A SHOW OF OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH AND GIVE A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WE COULD WIN WHEN WE GET ORGANISED. BUT WE NEED TO ESCALATE OUR STRUGGLE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

START ORGANISING FOR APRIL 15 NOW!

Organising general student meetings or just groups of interested students in the schools and colleges gives us the chance to discuss further action. This could include sit-down protests, lunch time walk-outs and protests at school gates between now and the next round of international climate strikes on 15 April.

15 April is in the school holidays - but why not organise a local demonstration on that day? Why not plan to visit all the local schools, colleges and unis in your area to get people to join in? Why not contact workers too - at your school, but also in shops, bus depots, fire stations, etc? Why not contact the local trade unions and trades councils to back these protests? Trade unionists have a record of helping students organise effective and safe protests.

SET UP A STUDENTS' UNION IN YOUR SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

The best way we as students can fight for any kind of change - either in our schools, or nationally - is by getting organised democratically through mass collective action. A students' union set up in your school or college would provide a means for students to organise their walkouts and co-ordinate them with other schools and colleges. It would be a place to democratically discuss how students can best fight on a number of issues - yes, building the environmental movement, but also ending cuts in education, for student involvement in determining school curriculum, fighting against cuts to youth services and responding to youth violence, and more.

Socialist Students is in solidarity with the Students Union in Spain. Their mass strike action, linked up with the trade unions, has forced the government to withdraw attacks on education. The Students Union has also led strikes by millions of students and workers against sexism in the courts.

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

The students faced with detentions and exclusions for participating in the climate strikes must be defended. When students walked out against the war in Iraq in 2003, Socialist Students helped them organise to defend their right to protest and build links with trade unionists who fought with them for that right. Please see the Socialist Students website for model campaign material, including to get support from trade unions.

LINK UP WITH THE TRADE UNIONS

By linking up with the trade unions, young people could build a potentially colossal movement against climate change. Mass collective working class action - specifically, strike action has the power to not just shut down the roads but to shut down the whole country.

From the teachers and students in our schools and colleges, to the bus and train drivers on our transport networks, to those who create all the goods and services in our society - it is the working class which has the power to bring all of society to a halt. And the trade unions which organise workers are key in escalating our struggle against climate change.

"I wholeheartedly support these strikes. PCS organises nearly 200,000 workers and I think it is vital that we mobilise to support these climate strikes and fight for a secure future for workers and young people today and tomorrow!"

 Socialist Students
 @Socialiststudents
 socialiststudents

**Chris Baugh, PCS Assistant
General Secretary**