

Wakefield Just Transition Forum

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GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION COMES TO WAKEFIELD

Friday September 20th is a Global Day of Climate Action and it is coming to Wakefield.

Wakefield Just Transition Forum are organising a lunchtime action in Jubilee Gardens, outside County Hall in Wakefield. Running from 12 noon to 2 pm, students, workers and shoppers can come to learn about the global climate crisis and discover what difference they can make through their own action. They can also come and share some lunch created from waste food with support from the Real Junk Food Project.

Spokesperson Stuart Boothman said “The climate crisis has been building up for years, but now thanks to the Youth Strikes for the Climate and Extinction Rebellion, people are listening. By working together in every town, in every area, we can begin to tackle the problem.”

Stuart went on to say “We see these actions in the big cities like Leeds and Manchester, but to have real national impact, we need to see action in places like Wakefield. We need to spread this message and engage with people everywhere.”

Friday September 20th is the start of a global week of climate action that includes the UN climate Action Summit on September 23rd. There will be actions all over the world, with Youth Strikes for the Climate taking the lead on Friday.

Catherine Porritt, Secretary of Wakefield Trades Council explained the idea of Just Transition. She said “In the 1980s and 90s, we saw unjust economic changes when the mining and steel industries were decimated, leaving whole communities and regions on the economic scrap heap. A Just Transition puts people at the centre of the change to a zero carbon economy. As carbon intensive jobs are replaced with low and zero carbon jobs, workers need to be retrained and redeployed into the new jobs and not left to rot as they have been in the past. The zero carbon society must benefit everyone, not just the rich.”

Stuart Boothman finished by saying “If you want to join in, if you have questions, if you are just curious – come along on Friday lunchtime and find out for yourself.”

Notes for the Editor.

- Wakefield Just Transition Forum is a broad network of groups and individuals from across the district. It includes Wakefield and District Trades Council, Wakefield Friends of the Earth, the Labour and Green parties, faith groups and many others.
- Wakefield Just Transition Forum aims to encourage and enable people, businesses and organisations to move to a zero carbon economy without leaving anyone behind.

- The group can be found on Facebook as “Just Transition Wakefield”
- Following the event on Friday 20th, the group are holding a launch event in the Town Hall on Friday 27th September. More details to follow.
- For further information before the event, please contact Catherine Porritt at WFandDistrict-TUC@gmx.com.
- During the event, please talk to Stuart Boothman.