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## BFAWU Green Reps Network meeting January 2024

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### What is happening in branches?

Greggs have a plan to get to zero carbon, they have measures in place to reduce what goes into Landfill, have started looking at Eco Shops with different initiatives in place to reduce the carbon footprint, utilising technology to reduce the use of paper. Lorries and other vehicles are more environmentally friendly, and it is high on the agenda.

How to reduce plastic in ready meals is a conversation being had across some of the sites as the containers can't just be switched with cardboard that can be recycled as it would go soggy and not be fit for purpose, especially if the meal inside has any liquid in it.

How do we ensure our industry gets greener and more efficient together rather than some businesses running off in front who have more profits to utilize or are larger national companies with more resources

It was agreed that we need more information about what is happening at sites so that best practice can be shared, that branches should be challenging companies on their policies, especially when they are saying to the world how well they are doing, when reality is often very different.

Which companies are reselling food within their shelf life to reduce waste or have other initiatives in place. Not recycling as a company things like cardboard is wasting money, financial incentives from the government encourage companies to do the right thing.

We need to say what is being done well and what isn't, share best practice, looking at things like pallet wrapping, is the material biodegradable? What fuel is being used, are there charging points for cars, is there a cycle to work scheme and so on.

### Green Foodworker

Rather than just have one dedicated version a year, every edition should have a green section in it, championing those who are leading the way, educating people about green issues and why it is a trade union issue all year.

### Induction workbook

It was agreed this would be a great idea, explaining the role, how it can be implemented in different types of branches, what is working well, have checklists included, what to look for in policies, what to check for in the workplace etc. would all be good to have in there.

### Resources/Campaigns

Need information about what a Green rep is, what can be done in workplaces and ideas for sites, education about climate change and green issues not only here but world wide.

A Microsoft form should be circulated and put on the website for members and reps to fill in to feed in what is happening in their workplaces so that it can feed into the unions work in the area.

### Training

A 3-day course was put on by Stockport college, 3 Thursdays in November held all day 9.30- 4.30. The course is looking to be re-run this year and those interested in being Green reps are encouraged to attend as it covers:

- Understanding the climate and environmental emergencies and identifying the impact on your workplace.
- Working with the branch and members to identify sustainability issues that need to be raised with management.
- How to carry out workplace environmental audits.
- How to review and develop workplace environmental policies and agreements
- Awareness raising and promotion of green workplace practices.

### AOB

The impact of ULEZ schemes was discussed and the pressure members are under to purchase new cars that they may struggle to afford or charge. Some employers have electric charging points in employee car parks but are saying it is unaffordable with the cost of electricity to provide the charging for free. Reps should ensure that should charges occur when at work, that it is policy bound that employees only pay the cost price, employers should not be profiting on employees charging their cars.