**Draft Air Pollution Campaign Charter**

Trade Unions need a clear response to what has been described as a public health emergency. Over 40,000 people die each year in the UK where the air that they breathe is a major contributory factor. A significant cause is pollution arising from work and travel to work. It is an occupational health issue that employers take little responsibility for. There is also very little recognition of this in national and local authority strategies. The demands in this charter provide a framework for unions to campaign for the health and the environmental concerns of the workforce.

1. **New Clean Air Act –** We support legislation that enshrines the right to breathe clean air into domestic law. It should set new, more stringent legal limits for ambient air quality, which reflect WHO guidelines. In relation to the workplace it should:

* Cover indoor and outdoor air pollution.
* Place duties on employers to monitor and adopt control measures where exposure standards are exceeded. Consult with the workforce, and where appropriate, their recognised unions, and, where requested, the appointment of environment reps.

1. **Establish a new Environmental Protection Agency –** The legislation needs to be backed up by a watchdog body that has the teeth to take public bodies and employers to court. In relation to membership there should be:

* Places allocated to representatives of the trade union movement.

1. **Skills and Training –** The Clean Air Act should place duties on national and local authorities to collect adequate information on air pollution, and proactively provide the public with that information. Employers should also be required to:

* Raise awareness and support workforce training on risks and control measures
* Support the development of an Air Quality apprenticeship at levels 2,3 and 4.

1. **Just Transition –** A clean air strategy will have implications for jobs and employment.

* Ensure the application of Just Transition principles across all government departments responsible for drawing up and implementing Air Pollution policy.
* Employers must consult in good time over product and design changes planned to implement new environmental standards that will have an impact on jobs.

1. ‘**Polluter pays’ principle –** Cleaning up air in the UK will require significant expenditure. It is crucial that the public are not expected to pick up the bill. For example, scrapping diesel vehicles must be implemented as part of a transport policy that does not penalise those least able to pay and those least responsible.

* Implement the principle in relation to companies subsidising the measures needed for a rapid transition to less polluting forms of energy and transport.