GMB ANNUAL CONGRESS
SUNDAY 3rd JUNE – THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2007

CEC SPECIAL REPORT 2007

THE GREEN AGENDA AND GMB:

CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBAL WARMING, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Climate Change, Global Warming and the Green Agenda is affecting us all. It affects the way we work, how we travel, the equipment we buy and the energy we use at home and in the workplace.

The issue is now at the forefront of the national and international agenda. So far in 2007 there have already been two intergovernmental conferences on Climate Change which have created important policy developments: the European Union has agreed to generate 20% of electricity by low carbon sources by 2020 and the UK government published the Climate Change Bill in March.

Climate Change and Global warming are now covered daily in the media and by politicians across the political spectrum - from the far right to the far left.

GMB has an important role to play in developing the Green Agenda: to understand what is happening and to inform and protect our members during the transition. We also have responsibilities to our fellow workers in the UK and globally, especially in the developing world where they will be hardest hit by climate change.

This CEC Special Report The Green Agenda and GMB is a first step in informing GMB members, officers and staff of the challenge ahead and sets out recommendations on how we can meet that challenge.

The Green Agenda is a complex issue; it has implications for every one of us in every aspect of our working and private lives. This report is in two parts; Part 1 explains the Green Agenda and Part 2 looks at the role GMB should play in meeting the challenges it presents. In conclusion, it puts forward recommendations for the establishment of a GMB Environmental Working Party to develop a GMB Green Agenda Policy and report back to Congress 2008.

Part 1: The Green Agenda

What is The Green Agenda? Why is it important? What are Global Warming, Climate Change, Carbon Footprints and Sustainable Development?

Global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases, carbon footprint and sustainable development: why are these terms becoming so important? What do they mean to us generally and how do they affect our working lives? Why is climate change on the news and in the papers almost every day? Why is every political party leader competing to express more concern than the next over climate change?

To start we need some explanations of what is happening to our planet.

A layer of gas called the ozone layer protects the earth from the sun's excess heat and energy and has generally kept the Earth's climate in balance since the Ice Age. But the ozone layer is being damaged by the greenhouse gases which result from burning fossil fuels in industrial processes, transport farming and domestic energy and these are now taking their toll.

What are the Greenhouse Gases? Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4) Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrous Oxide (N_2O)

According to many experts damage to the ozone layer and global warming is leading to a change in our climate. The ice caps are melting, summers and winters are getting warmer; this winter was the warmest winter on record – overall rainfall is reduced but much heavier and leads to more frequent flooding. The industrialisation of large parts of the developing world means that the problems of global warming are approaching the point of no return.

What will a change in temperature mean to the UK and globally?

In 2006, the Treasury commissioned a report by Nicholas Stern[1] to look at the economic implications of climate change for the UK. It concluded that Climate Change was a global issue, which would not only have effects on the climate, but would also create a serious risk of major disruption to the economy and social activity, on a similar scale to that of the two World Wars in the 20th century.

[1] Stern Review : The Economics of Climate Change www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Stern states on current trends global temperature will rise by 2-3°C during the next fifty years. The main impacts will be:

- Melting glaciers will increase the risk of flooding in China, the Indian Sub continent and South America.
- Declining crop yields especially in Africa
- In higher latitudes there will be more cold related deaths, while the rest of the world will suffer more deaths from malnutrition, heat stress and diseases such as malaria.

This will also have effects on the climate and water resources across Europe. For example Southern Italy will become more like North Africa, suffer water shortages and no longer support much of its existing agriculture, while Southern England's climate will become more like Italy and suffer from severe water shortages.

If temperatures rise between 3° and 4°C there will be increased flooding and coastal erosion affecting South East Asia and Britain. Major cities such as London, New York and Tokyo will be subject to flooding from their adjacent rivers, while many small islands in the Caribbean and Pacific would disappear all together. Stern estimates that 200 million people would become displaced and up to 40% of world species would become extinct.

Our Carbon Footprint is best described as the invisible footprint that we leave when we use energy and resources.

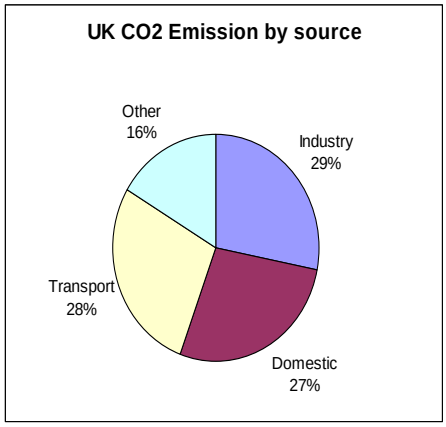
Emissions Country	Total CO_2 (MTns)	CO_2 Capita (Tns/person)
USA	5,773	20
UK	541	9.2
China	3,783	3.2
India	1,106	1.1
Uganda	1.4	0.7

The average Briton produces 9.2tonnes of CO_2 per year and we need to reduce this by 20%. The European Commission "You Control Climate Change" website[2] *explains how to calculate your personal carbon footprint.* The average American emits ten times more than the average Briton and between 100 and 250 times that of the poorer African countries.

Sustainable Development is a way of trying to deal with climate change and global warming while continuing to maintain and improve living standards of the population. It requires reducing energy use, conserving natural resources such as water and minerals and recycling or reusing waste materials.

Where do the emissions come from?

The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO_2) which comes from the burning of fossil fuels in homes, at the workplace, in power stations and in transport.



What are Governments doing to meet the Challenge?

Today nearly everybody accepts the scientific evidence for Global warming and the Green Agenda is now taken seriously. Governments have tried to agree on ways of reducing greenhouse gases globally.

The 1997 Kyoto Summit is the most well known where most governments including the UK agreed to reduce CO_2 emissions to 1990 levels by 2012 - the exceptions were the USA, India and China.

In March 2007 the Government published its Draft Climate Change Bill [3] which aims to reduce CO_2 emissions by 60% by 2050 through a legally binding target. It will set targets over 5-year periods and provides new Government powers to control emissions.

What are the key areas where we need to make changes to how we conduct our lives?

- The use of resources and waste
- The use of Energy
- Transport

These affect all of us at work, at home and socially and will be the one of the main drivers of changes to jobs and in employment in the next decade.

The Trade Unions Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) Greening the Workplace[4] identified the same three key areas as affecting jobs in the workplace. It also identified changes would take place in construction and manufacturing. GMB has large membership in all these areas.

[2] http://www.climatechange.eu.com/

[3] www.defra.gov.uk

[4] Greening the workplace 2005 : www.tuc.org.uk

Resources, Waste and Landfill

We dump too much waste in landfill sites and are running out of sites. As the waste rots it turns into Methane - another greenhouse gas. The UK and EU governments have introduced measures to reduce the use of natural resources and the amount of waste dumped in landfill sites.

To combat this the Government has introduced:

- UK Landfill Tax
- Higher Local Authorities Targets for recycling household waste
- The EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive
- The Aggregate levy

Jobs in Recycling

Experience with a number of local authorities has been that the introduction of recycling reduced jobs in waste collection, but resulted in more jobs overall. A report for London ReMade[5] suggests that 9 new jobs per 1000 tonnes recycled are created by a kerbside collection and sorting scheme that recycle materials such as glass, paper, cans, plastics and textiles.

Ship Recycling: At the other end of the spectrum ship recycling and scrapping is a large international problem. For too long redundant shipping has been dumped on the beaches of South East Asia to rust and be stripped of valuable recyclable materials.

This uncontrolled environment allows dangerous and poisonous materials including asbestos, mercury, lead, and cadmium to be dumped into the sea and enter the food chain causing local and global health problems.

In 2006 Defra consulted on Ship Recycling and the GMB[6] argued strongly that specialist facilities for the recycling of ships should be set up in the UK as we have the ability and the skills to deal with ship recycling safely

Energy

One of the main sources of CO_2 emissions is burning fossil fuels such as coal and gas to produce electricity.

The Conservative administration had a free market approach to energy and the chart illustrates the results of this policy; coal diminished from 64% of electricity generation in 1990 to 38% in 2006, this includes imported coal as well as indigenous UK coal, while gas has risen from 1% to 32%, resulting in a much earlier run down of UK North Sea gas reserves causing the UK become a net importer of natural gas from 2006.

Nuclear rose from 21% to 28% in 1997 but since then has slowly declined due to the closure of the old Magnox generators. Electricity from Renewables including hydro, wind, marine and biofuel has managed to rise from 2% to 4%. However, it is still behind schedule for the 10% Kyoto target by 2010. Yet countries such as Denmark produce 16% of the electricity by wind power

Trends in UK Electricity Generation by mix

Fuel	1990	1997	2006	2010 Est
Coal **	64%	37%	38%	25%
Nuclear	21%	28%	21%	22%
Natural Gas	1%	28%	32%	37%
Renewables	2%	2%	4%	10%
Oil	11%	3%	2%	2%
Other	1%	2%	2%	4%

www.dti.gov.uk/energy

The Labour government introduced a number of measures that affect energy generation and usage:

In 2003 the UK Energy White Paper set even higher targets for the UK that included reducing UK emissions by 20% below 1990 levels and for 10% (18% in Scotland) of energy production from renewable resources by 2010 .

Renewables Obligation Requirement requires all UK electricity suppliers to obtain 10% of electricity from renewable sources such as wind or marine power.

Energy Review the government is expected to announce this Review during 2007. It is predicted that this will include a new build of nuclear power stations, investment in clean coal with carbon capture and more renewables.

At the 2007 European Summit the EU agreed that all Member States must generate 20% electricity from low carbon renewable or nuclear sources by 2020. Ordinary light bulbs will be withdrawn from sale by 2012.

Other Taxes: A number of other taxes, levies and directives aimed at reducing energy use have been introduced to encourage companies to reduce the use of energy and resources.

These include: UK Climate Change Levy: a tax on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector. UK Emissions Trading Scheme: the world's first economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme. UK Energy Performance Commitment for companies in non-energy intensive business in the private and public sector using more 3000MWatts of electricity.

UK Building Regulations: from 2006 all new buildings must comply with improved standards of insulation, energy efficiency with reduced CO_2 emissions

[5] Estimating job creation: Anne Gray, Sue Percy and Irene Bruegel www.londonremade.com
[6] www.gmb.org.uk

and all new central heating boilers must be energy saving condensing boilers.

Planning: A number of planning authorities require new buildings to be energy efficient, low emission buildings using renewable or microgeneration.

Jobs in the Energy sector

This transformation of the Energy Sector resulted in over 220,000 job losses in the UK mining sector. There were 171 deep coalmines in 1981 and only 6 today. If the go ahead for new nuclear stations is delayed employment in this sector will fall dramatically after 2012 when the closure programme for Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors (AGR) begins.

On the positive side there are many new jobs being created in renewables wind, marine and in microgeneration. However, these are in design, installation, and maintenance rather than in manufacture.
The Government estimates that around 400,000 people are now working in environmental technology industries.

The DTI published predictions[7] on jobs in the renewable wind sector concluded that with the right level of investment the number of jobs will rise to 17,000 between 2003 and 2020 and could even be as high as 30,000.

Defra and the devolved agencies operate schemes such as Warm Front and Affordable Warmth aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock; installing central heating and insulation in thousands of homes across the UK and providing jobs and training for many people.

Transport

Transport is a major source of greenhouse gases in the UK which continue to rise, despite improved efficiencies in fuel consumption and design in road vehicle, rail and aeroplane design.

In the modern world the concentration of services and out of town shopping as well as work opportunities abroad and global business require more travel. Reduced motoring, plane travel costs and tourism growth offers more opportunities to travel for leisure and pleasure

Congestion and traffic pollution are an increasing problem. Vehicle population in the UK has increased 10 fold since 1945, from 3m vehicles to 30m today and still rising. In 1950 annual road usage was 51.bn kilometres per year, reaching 410bn in 2000 and an amazing 502bn kilometres in 2005.

National Rail: Despite the huge problems created by Privatisation and fragmentation Rail usage in the UK has risen considerably. Over 1.1bn rail journeys were made in 2006; the highest number of passengers travelling since 1946. Capacity is being reached on many lines and the Treasury and Network Rail will spend £2.4bn over the next two years to tackle overcrowding by investment in additional rolling stock.

	CO_2 Emission per passenger km
Air	231g/km
Rail	61g/km
Road	100g/km – 200g/km

Source DfT

The EU target for CO_2 emissions from transport is 148g/km by 2008 and the UK is not on target to meet this; CO_2 emissions in the UK are about 3% above the EU average – partly caused by UK motorists choosing to drive larger cars.

The Eddington Report: the Government-commissioned Eddington Report[8] was released in Autumn 2006.

The main findings were:

- A staggering 61bn journeys are made per year and increasing.
- The transport network is becoming overloaded.
- A 5% reduction in travel time could generate around £2.5bn cost saving to the nation the equivalent to 0.2% of GDP.
- Transport delays and unreliability have direct cost to individuals and business. Elimination of existing congestion could be worth £7-£8bn per annum.

The main conclusions were:

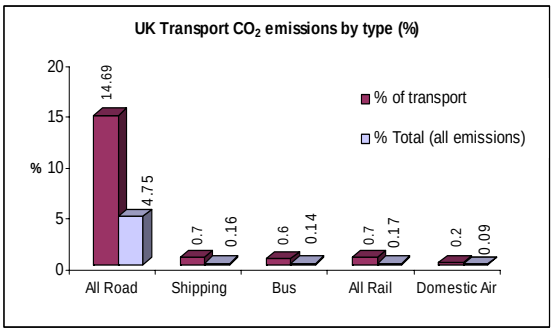
- The Government should adopt a sophisticated transport mix to meet both economic and environmental gains
- It recommends investment in all modes of transport, in towns and key corridors, favouring public transport in towns and national road pricing.
- Small schemes often have a better pay back than large schemes.
- To do nothing would mean that by 2025 in most large towns and cities traffic would be at "stop go" all day.

While aviation looks like one of the lowest producers of CO_2 today, it is forecast to increase by 20% over the next decade. It is two and a half times more polluting because it creates damage higher in the atmosphere. Trains and buses are more efficient but a car with 3 or 4 passengers may also be very efficient.

[7] Renewable Supply Chain Gap Analysis Mott MacDonald and the Bourton Group Nov 2003

[8] The Eddington Transport Study 2006 : The case for action www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/eddingtonstudy/

The chart shows road transport is the biggest source of emissions. Yet a quarter of all car journeys are only 3.2 kilometres (2 miles) in length



Source: Department for Transport (DfT)

A number of measures have been introduced to reduce road transport use and the effects on congestion and the environment.
These include:

- London Congestion Charging
- Vehicle Excise Duty (Road Tax) based on emissions and vehicle size
- Biofuel Obligation requirement
- National Road Pricing Scheme proposals

Aviation: The Chancellor doubled Air Departure Tax (ADT) from February 2007 from £5.00 to £10 on short-haul flights to £20 on long-haul flights, which is expected to reduce UK flights by 4%.

Jobs in Transport

As the numbers of journeys increase a number of new jobs in aviation, bus, rail, and light rail and congestion schemes will be created.
Examples of the new jobs are at regional airports. *Greening the Workplace* estimate that the UK light rail & tram systems such as Nottingham produced 2,538 new jobs along with regeneration to cities and outlying estates.
In addition to the environmental benefits the London Congestion charging scheme created about 500 new jobs in administration installation and maintenance and enforcement. Approximately 100 additional buses were introduced within and around the congestion charge zone creating a further 300 driving jobs.

Other work related issues

Homeworking and Teleconferencing: Modern technology enables work to be undertaken from home. Employees can work more flexibly; travel less frequently and outside peak times.

Manufacturing: With the right investment in the Green Agenda UK manufacturing can benefit from new and technologies such as renewables, clean coal and carbon capture, fuel cell transfer. Without the investment technology will be manufactured outside the UK.

Skills: The Green Agenda in itself will generally have a neutral effect on the number of jobs in the UK, but will create new jobs, and change or make the old ones redundant. This means the UK workforce needs to be equipped with new and revised skills.

The Sector Council for energy, waste and recycling has undertaken a number of projects mapping out job profiles, skills, training needs and qualifications for each the sectors. New NVQ/SVQ level 1-4 qualifications will provide employees and companies with recognised training paths to make them "*Green Ambassadors*" for the sectors.

The London Energy Partnership[9] found that there is a skills gap in all job categories associated with renewable energy skills, including town planners, designers, surveyors, trainers, installers and maintenance engineers.

It is important that the UK invests in Green Agenda Skills or the jobs will go to other countries willing to invest in the technology - as was the case of onshore wind power in Denmark.

What happens if the measures are too stringent or not coordinated? Some measures can be counter-productive. For instance, if the Climate change levy is set at too high a level or the emission-trading cap is too low the effect on large industrial users might be to close plants in the UK and transfer production to low wage countries that don't have climate change measures.

This would not reduce emissions but transfer the pollution overseas at the expense of UK jobs. The same applies to aviation. Setting environmental taxes or restrictions at too high a level; means the same number of flights will continue, but they will just land at other European airports such as Amsterdam or Paris, losing UK jobs while failing to reduce global emissions.

The Tories' proposal to limit flights to one tax free flight per person per year and tax all other flights could well have the same effect on UK jobs and socially exclude people on low incomes as well as creating a huge administrative bureaucracy.

Biofuel - without a coordinated approach the UK will not be able to supply sufficient biofuel which will be supplied from countries that destroy forests.

"Food air miles"- boycotting fruit and vegetables from Africa may not reduce CO_2 but result in poor African people losing their livelihoods. Growing vegetables in greenhouses in Europe can produce more CO_2 emissions than growing them in Africa and flying them to the UK.

Therefore it is important to have a fair and balanced policy: Sustainable Development that balances the needs to reduce emissions while maintaining growth in the economy both in the UK and worldwide.

[9] www.lep.org.uk

Part 2: How can GMB address the Green Agenda?

The Green Agenda will have a wide and varied effect on jobs and the workplace which are as important and significant as take-overs, mergers, outsourcing and offshoring have been over the last decade.

What is the role of a trade union in the Green Agenda?

The main role for Trade Unions will be their traditional one: to assist with the change, to ensure the transmission is as smooth as possible and the protection of our members in difficult times.
As a union that represents workers in all sectors of the UK economy, GMB has an important part to play in the Green Agenda.

What has GMB been doing?

- GMB Bargaining Brief on the Green Agenda
- Research Department made presentations at all 2006 Section Conferences
- Labour Party Conference Fringe Meeting emphasising the need to involve the workforce in the sustainable development
- Involvement in the Energy and Utility Skills and the London Energy Partnership to help identify skills needed to tackle the new areas of work in energy and recycling.
- In the Regions: GMB Stewards are involved in environmental issues at their workplace such as:

  At BAE Systems plant at Brough in the Midlands and East Coast Region the GMB Health and Safety Committee has added environmental issues to their responsibilities.

  Pilkington Glass agreed to implement a charter for Sustainable Development into their production and working practices after discussion with GMB Liverpool Region

Trade Unions for Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC): GMB was one of the founding members of TUSDAC. Through this organisation and its regular meetings with Government Ministers and advisers, GMB has been able to press for action on a number of issues including:

A balanced energy policy including nuclear, clean coal and renewables, an integrated Transport policy including aviation and the need to link energy and environment policies to UK Manufacturing and skills needs.

TUSDAC conducted an online survey of union members which demonstrate a high level of interest in environmental issues by union members: a majority of respondents (95%) felt that the Government should be doing more to combat global warming while 82% of respondents felt trade unions should be doing more to protect the environment.

Worker Involvement: The survey results show that trade union members are concerned about the environment.

Experience tells us that involving the workforce is the key to change. It is the employees who will have to change their way of working, the job they do and their whole approach to the workplace. The workforce is good source of ideas and inspiration.

Where changes take place in the workplace; to jobs, introduction of new policies and procedures, such as green transport plans, home working policies or a complete change of job it is important that they are explained, understood and negotiated properly and seen to be fair.

TUSDAC supports Workplace Environmental Representatives having statutory rights and suggests the following should be included in their duties:

- Undertake environmental audits
- Access to information about environmental impacts, complaints etc.
- To be consulted on environmental matters, as part of an Environmental management system
- Paid time off for training – for 2 to 5 day nationally accredited courses
- Communicate with members and other local stakeholders
- Develop trade union approach to environmental matters – i.e. collective responsibility rather than individual fault
- Carry out Environmental Risk Assessments.
- The right to paid release for sustainable development and environmental training.

Trade unions can play a key role in promoting sustainable development at work. This must include well-designed trade union education programmes; accompanied by sufficient time off to undertake training.

Changing the culture in the workplace will encourage and help make changes at home and in their lifestyle outside. Very often the best and simplest but most effective ideas come from the workforce. A Workplace Environmental Committee is a good method of involving the workforce in the Green Agenda.

Trade Union education plays a key part in this process and GMB must look at ways of improving information and training provided to workplace representatives.

What you can do At home you can reduce your carbon footprint. The best way to reduce your carbon footprint and save money is to insulate your house properly. Loft insulation and cavity wall insulation will do more to reduce your energy use and lower your carbon footprint than anything else.

At the back of this document you will find a table showing simple but effective ways of reducing your carbon footprint.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Developing Sustainable Workplaces

The Green Agenda is a vast subject which will have dramatic effects on the work place. The trade union movement must train and equip its officers and workplace representatives with the knowledge and understanding to deal with the Green Agenda

GMB has 240 full time officers and over 20,000 branch officers and workplace representatives including stewards, safety reps and learning reps. They must be given the tools to deal with the issues and changes that Green Agenda will bring, enabling unions to play an effective role in developing sustainable workplaces.

The Green Training Agenda

GMB Officers and representatives must be able to respond both to employer led changes and to be able to raise their own issues and concerns. This involves:

- Extending the role of the trade union representative to include environmental protection.
- Promoting environmentally friendly measures, such as energy saving, waste strategies and travel plans.
- Involvement in environmental monitoring and management systems.

Environmental courses run for Trade Unions are one of the best ways of learning more by attending specially designed courses and sharing experiences with people from other companies and areas of work.

GMB should encourage officers and workplace representatives to attend one of the TUC courses. We should also consider running some GMB courses.

This will ensure that the sustainability agenda is a genuine two-way dialogue, not one just led by the employers or changes to legislation.

Paid Time off for Training: One of the biggest problems is that employers are reluctant to provide paid time off for stewards to attend environmental courses. Too frequently employers still do not see these issues as important until they are faced with change or new legislation.

What can GMB members do?

At work GMB members can become Health and Safety and Environment reps.

- Form an Environmental Committee.
- Include environmental issues on the agenda of the safety committee.
- Ask to attend a Trade Union Environmental course. Ensure that GMB members' voice is heard in the workplace.
- Look at Green Travel Plans and other ways of making the workplace more sustainable.

GMB as an organisation

GMB is the fourth largest Trade Union in the UK with around 600,000 members plus their families across every sector of the UK economy. GMB is:

- A medium sized employer with just over 600 officers and staff
- A nationwide organisation operating from over 70 offices across the UK owning over 50 properties
- It operates car fleet over 350 vehicles.
- It has a turnover of over £52m per year and procures goods and services worth £2m per year.
- It has investments of £12m

So what could GMB be doing as an Estate Owner, Property Manager and Employer?

A number of measures can be introduced into the workplace to improve sustainability. These include how items are used, recycled, reused or disposed of.

How can we control the heating and lighting better? Introducing measures such as turning down the thermostat overnight, using energy saving bulbs and switching lighting, equipment and machinery off when not in use will reduce emissions and can also save money.

Procurement and purchasing: GMB purchases a wide range of products and services from pens to computers. As a trade union we also have a global responsibility to workers in developing countries so need to consider issues such as International Labour Organisation (ILO) Standards and Fair trade.

Office refurbishment: consideration should be to be given to larger projects and improving office sustainability.

- Can the windows be replaced with double glazed ones?
- Does the heating need replacing?
- Can better controls be fitted?
- Could microgeneration be viable?
- Can water saving toilets and taps be fitted?

Office locations: When looking to open new offices or to relocate offices it is much better for staff when offices are located near good public transport and with the ability to cycle or walk to work.

Green Travel Plans: GMB organises hundreds of meetings and conferences per year. Travel by public transport can often be cheaper, safer, and more environmentally friendly than using the car and just as quick and convenient as flying and work can often be undertaken while travelling by train.

Car Fleets: GMB has a car fleet of around 350 vehicles. When replacing the car fleet consideration could be given to the emission levels and tax bands. By moving down a band and leasing cars with a lower range of CO_2 emissions it may be possible to save between £20 and £40 per vehicle per year dependent on size and fuel type. Changing the model of car can result in a car fleet saving of anything from £7,000 to £16,000 per year.

Promote the Green Agenda within our own organisation

This does not mean that we have to turn all the car parks in Regional offices into vegetable patches or that Regional Secretaries should exchange their GMB cars for new bikes.

However, it does mean examining what we do as an organisation and seeing what changes we can make to the way we act and manage GMB.

CEC RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS 2007:

Establish a CEC Environmental Task Group to develop a GMB Green Agenda Policy and report back to Congress 2008 on progress on the following:

- Place Energy and Environment on the Agenda for every workplace claim irrespective of the industry or sector
- Promote the use of energy saving in Local Government, Schools and Hospitals
- Conduct an Environmental Audit of all GMB offices and workplaces
- Investigate the energy savings that could be provided by taking advantage of new communications technology for meetings and conference calls
- Investigate feasibility of introducing microgeneration such as solar power or wind generation into suitable GMB offices

Carbon Footprint

The aim of the government is for all of us to reduce our carbon footprint by 20% to achieve our Kyoto targets. *DEFRA will be issuing a new Carbon Footprint guide in May 2007.*

A full list of what people can do is available from the "You Control Climate Change" website[10], but here are some simple steps everyone can all take:

Action	Potential CO_2 saving per year
Install loft and cavity wall insulation	*up to 630kg*
Replacing a car with a fuel efficient model	*up to 660kg*
Change to train travel for 1000km	*up to 110kg*
Walk or cycle for short journeys	*up to 240kg*
Turn down thermostat by 1°	*up to 300kg*
Turndown the thermostat while out or at night	*up to 400kg*
Install double glazing	*up to 350kg*
Switch off five 60watt bulbs when not needed	*up to 270kg*
Put energy saving bulbs in the 5 most used lights	*up to 250kg*
Boil only the amount of water you need for drinks	*up to 25kg*
Install a low-flow showerhead	*up to 250kg/person*
Fix or turn off dripping taps	*up to 20kg*
Reduce vehicle speed from 70mph to 60mph	*up to 35kg*
Buy larger bottles of water	*up to 9kg*

[10] www.mycarbonfootprint.eu and http://www.climatechange.eu.com/