

**Madison Hoffos**  
**Daughter of Tracey Hoffos, local 712**  
**Region 4**

Labour unions possess many opportunities to improve and enrich the lives of not only those within them but also the global population. One of the most impactful ways that unions can make a difference is through the pioneering of climate change response. This can be done by promoting renewable energy, creating policies that prioritize sustainability, and educating both those in and outside the union on climate change itself.

The first way labour unions can lead the way on climate change is by supporting renewable energy. There are many ways that this is possible, such as converting utilities to more sustainable options like solar and wind power. The same actions can be applied to transportation options like buses, company vehicles, and mass transit. On a similar note, cycling can be promoted by creating areas where members/employees can safely store their bicycles. This is particularly sustainable because it requires no fuel source and bicycle parts can be maintained and then recycled at the end of their life span to minimize waste. The key is to limit the energy sources needed and to choose sustainable options.

An excellent way unions can act against climate change is to create policies that prioritize sustainability in conjunction with workers rights. Policies can range from renewable energy, changing how land developments are planned, minimizing food waste, and funding transit-promoting high-density housing.

An example of a policy that both helps labour union members and the environment is divesting pensions away from fossil fuels. This works by discouraging the use of fossil fuels but also making sure that pensions are not subject to the state of the fossil fuel market. Policies are by far one of the best ways to stop climate change, while improving the livelihoods of union members.

The final way that labour unions can prevent climate change is by using their resources to create opportunities for climate change education. Once again there is a range of ways that differences can be made. One way is to fund climate research at universities through direct grants to institutions or via scholarships and bursaries available to union members and their family members. Labour unions can also make information readily available on climate change, such as articles posted on their website which minimizes paper waste, regarding topics such as how to limit food waste, how to minimize one's carbon footprint, and affordable ways to use renewable energy forms in their daily life. Education is an effective way to prevent climate change since one cannot change what they don't know about.

In summary, labour unions can help stop climate change by encouraging the use of sustainable energy, fostering policies that prioritize sustainability, and creating educational opportunities that promote action against climate change. Labour unions have the power to improve the lives of future generations through the actions that they make today.