



WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

Title: Making equality-led climate action a core goal

Proposed by: Hackney branch

Proposer: Bonnie Groves

Signatories:

Barnet branch
Harrogate branch
Lambeth branch
Leicester branch
Southwark branch
Tunbridge Wells branch
Worcester branch
Harini Iyengar
Rebecca Lammers
Bisila Noha
Roshni Shah

Type of motion: Business motion

Motion text:

1 The Women's Equality (WE) Party conference *notes*:

2 With deep concern that policies to prevent irreparable changes to our planet and society as a
3 result of the climate crisis have paid little attention to intersectional gender equality.

4 WE believe:

5 Urgent action is needed to ensure that gender equality is at the heart of environment and climate
6 policies to achieve a truly sustainable and equal future for all.

7 WE resolve to add an eighth objective to Article 2.2.2. of the Constitution to the core objectives of
8 the Party, as follows:

9 *WE will push for equality at the heart of climate actions to ensure a sustainable and equal future*
10 *for all.*

11 WE will therefore change the word 'seven' to the word 'eight' in Articles 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 4.8.5, 7.6.1(i),
12 7.6.1(ii), 7.6.2(i) and 7.6.2(ii) of the Constitution.



13 WE further resolve to:

14 Appoint Steering Committee to work with the conference proposers and other WEP members to
15 temporarily appoint a Spokesperson and a Movement Builder for climate change to the WE Policy
16 Committee. These positions will then be elected in the usual manner for Spokespeople and
17 Movement Builders as soon as practical.

18 WE call for:

19 The four national governments of the United Kingdom to include gender equality as a priority
20 outcome of their climate crisis strategy and actions through:

- 21 a) A feminist Green New Deal that addresses historical inequalities, centres on social
22 infrastructure and ensures a just transition for women and the most marginalised to a net-zero
23 green economy;
- 24 b) The active inclusion of women from all backgrounds in terms of race, class, sexual orientation
25 and disability into climate consultations and decision-making processes; and
- 26 c) For the Conference Of Parties (COP)-26 President to include gender equality as a core aim of
27 the UN Climate talks in Glasgow in November 2021.

Motion rationale:

28 **Without a planet there will be no gender equality:** Irreversible climate change has already
29 happened in our patriarchal system that values profit and growth over the wellbeing of people and
30 the planet. The UN warns we have 10 years to avert a climate catastrophe.¹ WE cannot rely on
31 mainstream parties to make climate policies that work for women.

32 **Climate change is a feminist issue:** Climate change has the greatest impact on the poorest and
33 most marginalised.² With women making up the majority of the world's poor, including in the UK,
34 they will bear the brunt of the climate crisis. Women are more likely to experience poverty and have
35 less socioeconomic power than men. This makes it harder to recover from climate disasters such
36 as flooding, fires and drought, which affect infrastructure, jobs, housing, and food and energy prices.³

37 **Climate change is a man-made problem that needs a feminist solution:** To address the root
38 causes of the climate crisis, combat historical oppressions and tackle systemic inequalities
39 exacerbated and caused by the climate crisis, climate policies must be grounded in feminist
40 principles.⁴ No other party is doing this.

41 While Green New Deal proposals are gaining traction in the UK⁵, neither the Green's nor Labour's
42 proposals adequately consider women. Climate policies that promote equality must include women
43 at the table, promote community-led solutions, be embedded in foreign policy, and centre the needs
44 of all women across intersections of race, age, class, ability and sexual identity.⁶ They must invest
45 in the low-carbon care economy rather than solely in male-dominated renewables and tech
46 industries.

47 **WE must act and act now:** WE need to be the party that ensures intersectional feminism is at the
48 heart of climate policies, or risk spending decades correcting it. Given the urgency of the crisis, the
49 immediate formalisation and expansion of the existing climate change working group is necessary



50 to supercharge our policy work and ensure WE can influence climate debates in the immediate
51 future. But climate change is not going away. It needs a long-term policy response championed by
52 a Movement Builder and Spokesperson. This will build on WEP's commitments to addressing
53 climate change in our 2019 EU manifesto and link to our Feminist Foreign Policy.

54 **WE need a policy objective on climate change to grow the Party:** Critically, this objective will
55 help WEP gain votes in local and national elections where climate change is increasingly an issue
56 on doorsteps and in town halls. It will help us gain much-needed members and grow our party by
57 engaging younger generations who are disenfranchised with mainstream parties' climate policies.
58 WE risk becoming irrelevant as a 21st century political party if we do not have a policy objective on
59 climate change.

60 For WEP to achieve its mission of addressing all forms of inequality, WE need to ensure climate
61 policies in the UK and beyond work for all women. WE can – and should – be the party that
62 advocates for equality in the climate response.

References:

1. [IPCC Special Report Global Warming of 1.5°C](#); Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (8 October 2018)
2. [Why Climate Change Disproportionately Affects Women](#); The Global Citizen (5 March 2020)
3. [Climate change impacts women more than men](#); Mary Halton, BBC News (8 March 2018)
4. [A Feminist Agenda for a Green New Deal](#); (20 September 2019)
5. [Reducing the UK's Emissions: 2020 Progress Report to Parliament](#); Committee on Climate Change (25 June 2020)
6. [Towards a Feminist Green New Deal for the UK](#); Women's Budget Group & Women's Environmental Network (20 May 2020).