WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS FOR WORKING PEOPLE

1. YOUR OWN AND YOUR FAMILY’S HEALTH
Your health and the health of your family are impacted by carbon pollution. Fossil-fueled power plants and autos/trucks/planes emit pollution that may cause coronary disease, asthma attacks, cancer and other serious health threats. Outside workers are dying in heat waves and suffer permanent disabilities from heatstroke.

2. HEALTH CARE COSTS VS. WAGES
Unions fight hard for health benefits. Because of increased disease due to carbon pollution, health care costs escalate, coming right out of your paycheck as your employer shifts rising health coverage costs onto employees. Every dollar spent preventing air pollution would save $30 in future health care costs, according to a 2011 study.

3. JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Climate change is a job destroyer. A planned transition to a renewable energy society and economy will create many more healthier, good paying jobs than by continuing to rely on fossil fuels. Worldwide, green energy production is poised to spawn a multi-trillion dollar industry, and create millions of jobs. But U.S. workers won’t benefit from the future green economy if elected officials stubbornly cling to dirty fuels and climate denial.

4. DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WORKERS
If we start now, we can put in place the laws, public policies and contract language needed so that workers and communities most impacted by the transition to renewable energy don’t pay a disproportionate price for changes we know we must make. We can also open opportunities for those who have historically been unable to get those better jobs.

5. ADAPTATION COSTS MORE THAN PREVENTION
If we fail to act today to slow the rate of global warming, it will cost us many times more in dollars, homes, jobs and lives to respond to, or survive and recover from the impacts of extreme weather and other consequences of climate change.

6. TAXPAYERS (YOU) PAY FOR ADAPTATION
Adapting to climate impacts, such as rising seas, destructive wildfires and catastrophic storms will cost trillions of dollars. First responders put their lives at risk. Too many have already died. Their efforts are ultimately funded by us, the taxpayers.

7. FORCED MIGRATION
Global warming and extreme weather destroy homes and livelihoods that force people to flee their countries. Unchecked, global warming will increase forced migration and the number of climate refugees.

8. LEGACY
Failing to take urgent action now condemns our youth and future generations to more miserable, dangerous, shortened lives. The actions we take (or fail to take) will determine the world our children and grandchildren will live in. What legacy will we leave to future generations?

Want to know more? Want to get involved? FACEBOOK.COM/LABOR4CLIMATEJOBSJUSTICE

If we want to avoid the worst consequences of runaway climate change, we must start now to create the public policies, laws, regulations and contract language that assure that working and poor people are not roadkill on the path to a renewable and sustainable energy system.

Rise with us for a Just Transition. Join the March! JOIN THE MARCH!