**Zine Text**

[Image description: the background of the zine pages are monotone blue photocopies of collages made from household materials. The front and back cover feature a flooded landscape that continues over the page. Spread 1 shows a town in a flooded valley and mansions on a hill. Spread 2 shows the world on a conveyor belt, stopped by a spanner in the works. Spread 3 features protest banners. The poster on the back shows pink fungi growing out of clockwork machinery, the roots clogging the cogs.]

 **Front Cover**
Earth Strike: Empower the Unions
Campaign Explainer

**Page 1**

Quick Context

So it’s no big secret that the world is on fire.
- Increasing greenhouse gases trap heat in our atmosphere
- Rising temperatures cause rising sea levels, fires, droughts, extinctions
- All of which will become irreversible if we can’t make drastic change by 2030

And whilst the global south is hit hardest, and working-class people everywhere are forced to risk their lives in these increasingly extreme conditions...
...The mega-rich can jet off to higher ground.

(Figures from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Carbon Disclosure Project)

**Page 2**

Big corporations love to sell the idea that climate change could be solved:
‘if only individual consumers would be more responsible!’

Which sounds mighty suspicious considering that 100 companies like these produce over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions themselves.

And how do they get away with it? Our government depends on this same capitalist system, which depends on environmental destruction in the name of profit.

To put the brakes on climate change, we need to put the brakes on capitalism!

**Page 3**

But how exactly do we... do that?
A little history of unions and striking

**Trade unions** are groups of workers organising together to protect their rights and fight for better conditions.

**Striking** is a tactic where workers refuse to work, aiming to bring the workplace to a standstill until particular demands are met by the bosses.

It was only by implementing these powerful and direct methods of industrial action that workers ever won the hard battles for the weekend, sick pay and basic health and safety.

Next stop: the right to a liveable planet?

**Page 4**

On a small scale, industrial action is a vital tool for challenging employers who treat workers badly as well as environmentally damaging workplace practices.
But looking at the big picture:

We need a general strike for the climate!
Only by withdrawing our collective labour can we shut down the systems responsible for climate change and have a say in the ways of living and working we build in in their place.

**Page 5**

Of course, they never make it easy. To start with, the UK has a whole host of restrictive Anti-Trade Union Laws

**Grounds for striking are limited**Workers can only strike over a direct dispute with their own employer that effects their own working practice, prohibiting actions in the name of broader political issues or in solidarity with workers elsewhere.

**The process is purposefully complex** For a strike to be legal, unions are required to hold a time-consuming postal ballot and a majority of those eligible must vote. In ‘essential services’, including health, schools, fire and transport, the bar is even higher - 40% of all those eligible to vote must vote yes. If successful, unions must give employers a two week notice period, decreasing the action’s disruptive power.

**Disruption is kept to a minimum**If workers can achieve strike action at all, they can only demonstrate outside their own workplace with a legal maximum of six picketers. In future, transport workers may even have to provide a minimum service during strikes.And that’s not all! Find out more at: freeourunions.org

**Page 6**
Empower the Unions is a campaign by Earth Strike UK, supported by Free Our Unions, that exists to:
- Fight against and to repeal anti-union legislation
- Support industrial struggles and highlight climate connections
- Build the power of our movement beyond the power of the anti-union laws.

Get involved!
Organise with us / Affiliate your union / Donate
Find out more and get in touch at
earth-strike.co.uk /@EarthStrikeUK / info@earth-strike.co.uk

Take this next step with us towards a general strike for the climate
(and a world that isn’t on the brink of anything)

**Back cover**

Earth Strike UK is a grassroots movement that aims to help unite the labour and environmental causes. We believe that large scale industrial action will be a vital tool in the struggle for climate justice.

Made up of trade unionists, climate activists and community organisers, Earth Strike UK is organised horizontally, with autonomous local chapters around the country as well as campaigns developed on a national level.

Find out more and get involved at:
earth-strike.co.uk
info@earth-strike.co.uk

Look out for future campaigns on:
- Organising in the workplace
- Building resilient communities

Pass on this zine or display the poster inside! Unfold to reveal.

**Back – Poster**

Empower the Unions!

Earth Strike

The World Needs a General Strike. Find out more at earth-strike.co.uk