

R21-04 A motion for the Students' Association to publicly reject the UK Whitehaven Coal Mine Project

Owner: Léa Weimann, Association Environment Officer

State in effect from: Immediately

Review Date: n/a

Note:

1. This motion notes that we are in a Climate Emergency and that according to the International Panel on Climate Change everything possible should be done to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
2. The UK government has set the target and commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050.
3. The Whitehaven Coal Mine is a new project that is proposed in Cumbria and was approved by Cumbria County Council in October 2020.
4. The Whitehaven Coal Mine would be the first UK deep coal mine in 30 years.
5. Despite its declared commitments to address Climate Change, the UK government has not decided to call on the decision of the Whitehaven coal mine and has not cancelled the project yet.
6. It is noted that a public petition has been started asking the UK government to revoke the permission to mine on British soil:
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/568475?ref=theprepping-com>
7. This motion notes that public pressure and recent developments have led to plans for the Whitehaven Coal mine to be suspended by Cumbria County Council and that councillors will reconsider the planning application for the coal mines on the grounds of Climate Change.

Believes:

1. We believe that despite the coal mine project being temporarily suspended this does not mean that the project is cancelled yet, which is why it is important to maintain public pressure against the project from around the country.
2. We believe that the decision to build a new coal mine in the UK goes against the UK's commitments to address Climate Change and threatens our future by locking us in to a high-carbon economy.
3. We believe that fossil fuels should be kept in the ground where possible and new projects like the Whitehaven Coal Mine rejected.
4. We believe that it necessary to speak up against the Whitehaven Coal Mine and share petitions that call on the UK government and Council of Cumbria to cancel the project.
5. We believe it is the duty of the Students Association to inform students about this national project that has far-reaching effects into the future and encourage students to speak up against it.

Resolves:

1. This motion resolves to publicly reject the Whitehaven Coal Mine.
2. It resolves that the Environment Subcommittee as well as any other subcommittee of the Students' Association can publicly share and speak up against the Whitehaven Coal Mine on their official social media pages should they wish to.

3. To recommend to the Association Councils and its members to speak up about the Coal Mine and share the petitions against the petition that asks the UK government to stop the coal mine in Cumbria:
 - <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/568475?ref=theprepping-com>
 - https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-cumbria-coal-mine?fbclid=IwARoDqb09r2hFUoCwCANDgH6bsF_Zc1EmmYvujuuLCRPhHKUMQGCGva4irc

Proposed by: Léa Weimann, Association Environment Officer

Seconded by:

Abi Whitefield (Postgraduate Academic Convenor)

Dan Marshall (Association President)

Emma Walsh (Director of Wellbeing)

Amy Gallacher (Director of Education)

Noah Herfort (Environment Sustainability Board Student Representative and Environment Subcommittee Member)