International Metalworkers' Federation
Cutting emissions transforming jobs
Working in green jobs for a secure future
Who are we?
Industrial trade union federations representing workers in the metal, chemical, energy and mining sectors in Europe and globally.

Key demands
- A strong, legally-binding, comprehensive global agreement ensuring ambitious reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Social justice and long-term employment policies as an integral element of climate policy

Environmental protection
We recognise that climate change affects us all. Trade unions were the first environmentalists. We understand the link between jobs and the environment. We are all part of the solution. We want to reduce emissions (a social cost) while increasing employment and protecting the environment (a social benefit).

Sectoral concerns
We want a fair global climate regime. Climate change legislation should ensure a level playing field and eliminate the possibility of carbon leakage. We need advanced technologies for materials and processes, a fair regime for technology transfer, and an international fund for research and development. Largest emitters should lead.

Sustainable job creation
Industrial change is happening. Workers must be prepared and protected. Clear distinctions between the green and traditional economy are impossible. There are vital economic and industrial links between sectors. ‘Greening’ skills in all sectors and worker participation are key. Future greener jobs must be decent and unionised.

Sustainability: a labour view
Sustainable development is based on three dimensions: environmental, social, and economic. Without neglecting the other dimensions, trade unions focus on the social dimension. By promoting trade union values of economic development, a fair distribution of wealth, social welfare, equity, peace, and human rights we can create a complete framework for sustainability.

Just Transition
We support the International Trade Union Confederation’s position on Just Transition. Our present jobs can in many cases be sustainable, but changes will come. The costs and benefits of protecting the environment should be shared fairly. Just Transition is a message of hope: decent work and social justice can co-exist with environmental protection.