

17TH SEPTEMBER 2009* NATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH VESTAS WORKERS

SAVE JOBS * SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

VESTAS WORKERS FIGHT ON FOR 600 JOBS

Vestas has started rapidly shipping blades from stock in Southampton to the USA. Two ships carrying 90 blades each have sailed from Southampton recently and a third is currently being loaded with 109 blades. Our best information is that Vestas may try to ship out the wind-turbine blades left in their factories in the Isle of Wight on 31 August or within the days after that. Protest against the movement of those blades, and of the moulds which Vestas also wants to move, is the chief leverage that the workers have with Vestas. Around 11 blades, worth about three quarters of a million pounds, were unfinished on 20 July when workers occupied the St Cross factory, to resist closure, and bosses sent home workers from the Venture Quays for fear that factory would be occupied too. Now – it appears – the blades have been finished.

On Friday 4th September at 7am, workers and around 30 supporters from the mainland set up a camp to blockade the Marine Gate and prevent the blades being removed from the factory. This camp will not supercede but compliment the well-established Magic Roundabout Solidarity camp at the main gate. Four blades were removed by barge from the factory at Venture Quays, East Cowes, but Vestas was definitely stopped from removing the blades at Newport, because they had sent two barges, one can take about 6 blades, the other 4 blades. Our thinking is that, seeing the size of the mobilisation, Vestas decided not to attempt removal.

We had information about the barges leaving Southampton, giving us two hours to mobilise. The barges could come twice a day and it has been normal practice in the past for the barges to come and collect blades during the night – the only time they don't move the blades is (ironically) when it's windy. We have the power to prevent the blades being moved too... In the future, there will also be two hours' notice, and with determined solidarity we know that this should be enough time. People Power for Wind Power. Whose Factory? Our Factory!

**Workers demand the government steps in.
If they can nationalise the banks, why can't they
nationalise Vestas to save the jobs and industry?**

Wind turbines are a profitable industry. From Jan-March 2009, Vestas made a net profit of £56million, up from £33million in the first quarter of 2008. Vestas is moving overseas because its bosses are greedy for even higher profits. The company has just been given £6million of public money – for what? So 600 more workers can join an unemployment queue heading towards 3million?

The government talks about 400,000 green jobs in the next five years - let's make it start with Vestas.

Further, we demand that no Vestas workers are victimised for fighting to defend jobs from this greedy, totally non-green multinational.

It is possible to win this campaign, if we keep up the momentum.

Meetings and fundraising help, you can encourage people to visit, or can pay for transport and expenses of those supporters who maintain the picket.

Support the Vestas workers – email savevestas@gmail.com

Pressurise Government: Email Mandelson: www.bis.gov.uk/contact-us/ministers-1

Complain to Vestas through vestas-celtic@vestas.com or 01925 857 100

Pass a resolution of support in your trade union or organisation

Send a donation payable to 'Ryde and East Wight Trades Union Council' to 22 Church Lane, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 2NB

For more information: see <http://savevestas.wordpress.com/> or the workers' union: www.rmt.org.uk. <http://ventnorblog.com/topic/vestas-sit-in/> -a local news site with videos.