

17TH SEPTEMBER 2009* NATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH VESTAS WORKERS
SAVE JOBS * SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

VESTAS WORKERS FIGHT ON FOR 600 JOBS

Though the occupying workers have now been evicted, the long-running picket at the front gate of Vestas' factory at St. Cross Industrial Estate, Newport, Isle of Wight is better organised now, with a caravan at the site to serve as an office for the workers' committee, a standpipe supplying running water to the pickets, and work underway on a pedal- and solar- generator to supply electricity to the pickets (wind turbines don't work well on a small scale in built up areas. Blades for efficient wind turbines are 40 metres long, or longer, like those built in the factory).

Vestas has already shipped two boats carrying 90 blades each from Southampton this week (17-21 August), and a third is currently being loaded with 109 blades. Around 11 blades – worth over three quarters of a million pounds – remained unfinished in the Isle of Wight factories. The pickets are vital to stop Vestas moving these blades - and the workers need support from the mainland at this crucial stage of the campaign to save Wind Turbine Blade production in the UK.

**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 no Vestas workers are victimised for fighting to defend jobs from this greedy multinational.

It is possible to win this campaign, if we keep up the momentum. The main focus will be to build and maintain the picket, and meetings and fundraising can help to do that, through encouraging people to visit, paying for transport to the Isle of Wight or the expenses of those supporters who are helping to 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.