



Education for Social Change

The role of trade unions in addressing sustainable environmental development

ETUCE Conference 23 April 2021

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Key aspects of UCU's work 2019-2021

- ❖ Building capacity for collective bargaining within workplaces
UCU's Green New Deal for Colleges and Universities
- ❖ Developing broader awareness of climate justice and education for sustainable development
UCU's Free Member Continuing Professional Development Courses
- ❖ Developing capacity and awareness via social dialogue and campaigning
UCU's campaign tool for Climate-Themed Learning Weeks
Working with other unions and political lobbying around linking up the industrial and education strategies in the UK

Collective Bargaining: UCU & SOS-UK

Green New Deal for colleges & universities

The green new deal (GND) brings together policy set by both UCU and National Union of Students within a negotiating and bargaining framework.

- A crucial element of UCU's climate change policy has been building alliances with student organisations and their campaigns.
- Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK)
- The 'green new deal for colleges and universities' which we have developed together will see our members and our students coordinating with each other to seek urgent and meaningful changes from our institutions.



Collective bargaining within workplaces Green New Deal Model Claim Toolkit

1. Declaring a climate emergency
2. Industrial relations (time off)
3. Embedding climate education into the curriculum
4. Energy and carbon management (including travel policies)
5. Ethical investment and banking
6. Food and land use

and

NEW for COP-26 Campaign: Decarbonise & Decolonise 2030

PREPARING AND PROGRESSING A GREEN NEW DEAL IN YOUR WORKPLACE

MONITOR AND REVIEW

Has the employer met your claim in full? ● Review and then relaunch the claim. ● If there has been failure to agree consider escalation to a formal collective dispute.



6

STEP UP THE PRESSURE

You need to avoid *green-wash* from the employer so build leverage for your campaign: ● Increase social media posts. ● Take part in joint action with student groups, eg school strikes. ● Write to local MPs. ● Write to governors/counsel/senate



5

NEGOTIATE AND PUBLICISE CLAIM

Now publicise your claim widely: ● Write an open letter and a blog. ● Post on social media ● Circulate a newsletter ● Put up UCU's *Climate is a Trade Union Issue* poster ● Design your own campaign materials. ● Review progress of negotiations.



4

Preparing and Progressing a Green New Deal in your workplace

Remember, at every step, advice and support is available from your regional office and from UCU national Campaigns, and Bargaining & Negotiation teams.



1

REVIEW AND ORGANISE THE BRANCH

Is anyone leading on this issue for the branch? ● Have they attended green reps training? ● Put *Green New Deal* on the branch committee agenda. ● Review your institution position on the climate emergency.



2

DECIDE PRIORITIES

Discuss GND priorities at a branch meeting. ● Liaise with other trade unions + student groups. ● Convene a joint action group, survey the membership and conduct an environmental audit of your institution.



3

SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM

Submit your green agenda claim in a formal letter to your employer. ● Request a date for a meeting and/or put on JNC agenda. ● Set a timeframe for a response.





Developing broader awareness of climate justice & education for sustainable development

Introduction to
sustainability

Decarbonise and
decolonise 2030:
meeting the UN's
SDGs

UCU Free
Training for
Members:
Climate
&
Sustainability

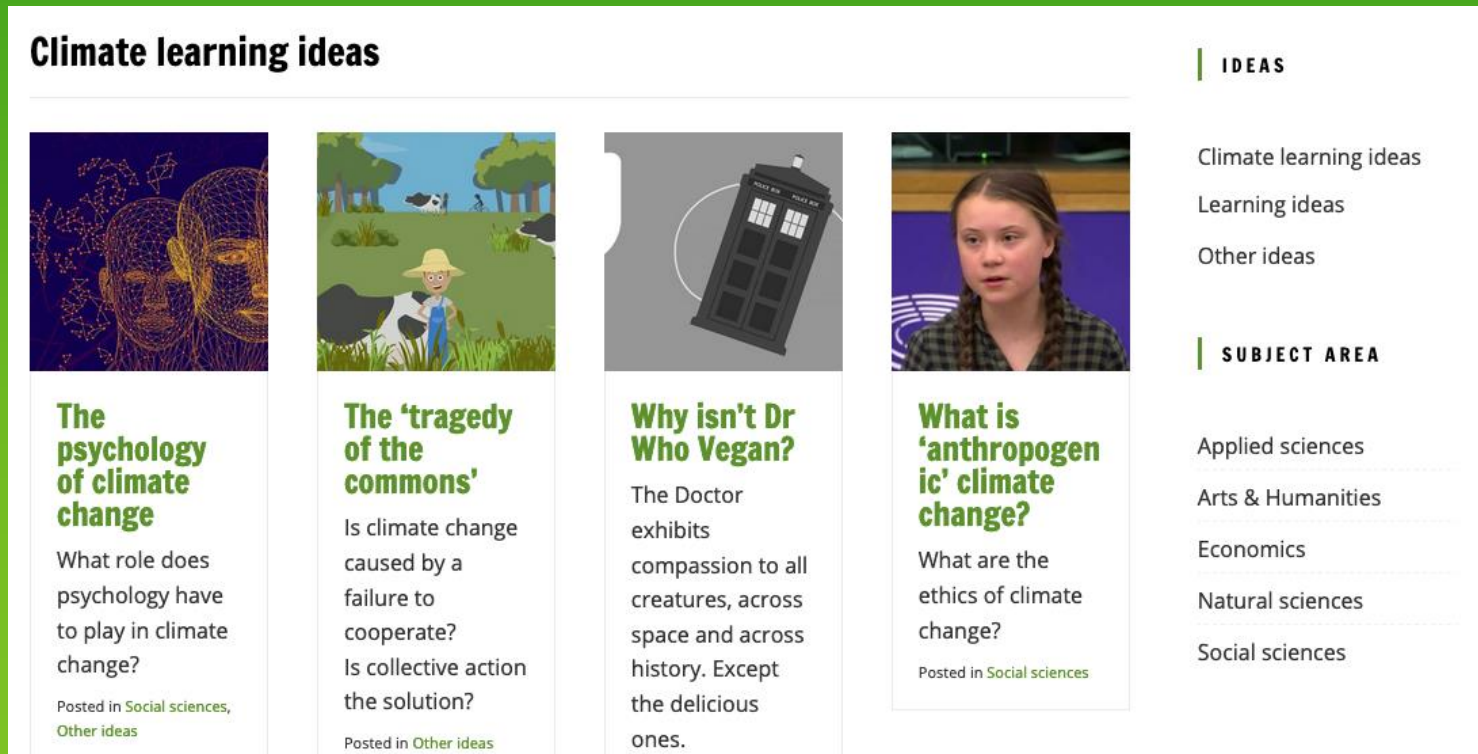
Continuing
Professional
Development

Embedding climate
education into the
curriculum

How to run a
climate-themed
learning week

Climate-themed Learning Week

Lots of great ideas and lesson plans can be found at:
<https://ctlw.web.ucu.org.uk/category/climate-learning-ideas>



Climate learning ideas

IDEAS

- Climate learning ideas
- Learning ideas
- Other ideas

SUBJECT AREA

- Applied sciences
- Arts & Humanities
- Economics
- Natural sciences
- Social sciences

The psychology of climate change
What role does psychology have to play in climate change?
Posted in Social sciences, Other ideas

The 'tragedy of the commons'
Is climate change caused by a failure to cooperate?
Is collective action the solution?
Posted in Other ideas

Why isn't Dr Who Vegan?
The Doctor exhibits compassion to all creatures, across space and across history. Except the delicious ones.

What is 'anthropogenic' climate change?
What are the ethics of climate change?
Posted in Social sciences

Call to Action – COP 26



- Collaborating with international and UK educational unions towards organising a Climate-themed month of teaching and campaign activity leading up to COP-26.
- Profiling the importance of embedding climate justice and climate action across the curriculum.
- Demanding that our schools, colleges and universities act to embed those changes as a matter of urgency.
- Decarbonise & Decolonise 2030: Campaign and Model Claim



Summary

Education TUs have a unique role to play in addressing sustainable environmental development

- ✓ Any strategy has to involve students/pupils
- ✓ Bargaining and negotiating advice to branches to help realise change within schools, colleges and universities
- ✓ Political education via free courses for our own members/affiliates in which we emphasise climate justice
- ✓ Work with industrial trade unions/political lobbying to ensure that educational strategy is in line with industrial strategies and 'Just Transition' references climate justice and equality issues
- ✓ Provide campaign and resource support for climate themed learning activities within schools, colleges and universities and bring in local communities



Resources

- UCU's Green New Deal Bargaining Guides - [UCU - Green new deal](#)
- Climate Themed Learning Week Resources - [Climate Learning Week \(ucu.org.uk\)](#)
- Future we choose wall chart [UCU - The future we choose](#)
- SOS-UK - [Students Organising for Sustainability UK \(SOS-UK\) \(unioncloud.org\)](#)
- SOS-International - [Home | Students Organizing for Sustainability International \(sos.earth\)](#)
- COP 26 Coalition - [COP26 - COP26 Coalition](#)