

UCU

GREEN FUTURES NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY 2025



Welcome to the first edition of Green Futures which is the newsletter of the Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee (CEEC).

We intend to produce 4 newsletters a year with the next newsletter being published prior to the UCU Congress in May.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee

Further Education

Kevin Daws (City of Bristol College) [Vice-Chair]
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Adam Balmer (People Plus - Prison Ed)

Natasha Simpson (West Nottinghamshire College)

Ryan Trower (Bridgewater & Taunton College)

Higher Education

Peter Wood (Open University) [Co-Chair]

Vicky Blake (University of Leeds) [Co-Chair]

Jackie Grant (University of Sussex)

Les Levidow (Open University) HE

NEC

Marion Hersh, Glasgow University [NEC - HE]

Naina Kent, Hackney ACE [NEC - FE]

Committee Secretary:

Marianne Quick, Bargaining and negotiations official
(prisons and sustainability)

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Stay Updated

Stay updated with the Climate
Emergency updates through the UCU
website.

[UCU - Climate Emergency](#)

CEEC Annual Meeting

The CEEC annual meeting took place 14th November, 2024 online and had over 50 attendees across the day.

The meeting saw two panel discussions:

- 1) Morning Panel Discussion – Empowering Workers to Build a Sustainable and Just Future
- 2) Afternoon Panel Discussion – Empowering Learners to Build a Sustainable and Just Future

There were also six breakout discussions on topics including:

- 1) Promoting the “justice” in climate justice
- 2) Building alliances in and around workplaces
- 3) Making the internal case for green reps
- 4) Working with Union Learning Reps to support just transition
- 5) Making the health and safety links for sustainability
- 6) Education for a just transition

The motions debated and passed can now be viewed below:

[Climate Emergency Meeting](#)

There were also contested elections for positions on the CEEC, with eight members standing for seven positions and successful co-options from FE taking place in December. These were our first contested elections since the CEEC was set up 3 years ago.



Photo Credit: Corbis via Getty Images

GKN solidarity #Insorgiamo: Just Transition in Practice

At the CEEC Annual Meeting 2 motions relating to GKN Florence were discussed and agreed.

Faced with the threat of mass redundancies, GKN automotive workers in Florence occupied their factory to save jobs and build green technology. Their actions can be an inspiration to British workers fighting similar fights.

There are several sources of information relating to this campaign online but should you be short of time please follow the links below to find out more information.

Information & Resources

<https://climatejustice.uk/insorgiamo/>

Morning Star Article

[Florence factory workers light the way for green industrial struggle | Morning Star](#)

Campaign Appeal for Support

www.insorgiamo.org

Instagram

[@insorgiamoconilavoratorigkn](https://www.instagram.com/insorgiamoconilavoratorigkn)

Green Reps & Branch Survey

Just Transition & Climate Bargaining

In order to better support branches in progressing claims locally, we have created a survey of branches and green reps. The survey will inform evaluation and any updates to the Green New Deal bargaining guide (GND). The survey also aims to assess support required for local bargaining on Just Transition and Green New Deal claims. The aim of the survey is to understand member and branch priorities, and how the GND has been used thus far.

Please ensure that your Branch Green Rep completes this survey.

[Survey Link](#)

Contribute to our Newsletter

We need your help and we would invite you to send us news items and articles about what you and your colleagues are doing to make your workplace green and sustainable.

Please send any news items, articles or other information to:

Marianne Quick
mquick@ucu.org.uk

Please also let us know if you have a Green Rep in your Branch and who they are—we would like to see every UCU Branch electing a Green Rep.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and with colleagues in other workplaces.

Introduction to the Just Transition Framework for FE Reps

In advance of the wider 'Just Transition Framework' launch, we are keen to brief our members and representatives in Further Education as to what this will mean for UCU members in your workplaces and will be holding a number of live briefings to introduce the framework and to answer any questions that you may have.

This short online session is for any member interested in learning more about the recently signed agreement with the AcC around a just transition. The brief session will introduce the agreement, consider what it means for branches and looks at how UCU can shape its adoption within colleges.

Thursday 27th February 12:00 - 13:00

[Session Registration Link](#)

Tuesday 4th March 16:30 - 17:30

[Session Registration Link](#)