

## Contents

1. UCU President at launch of AoC Green Colleges event.
2. Greening the HE & FE Curriculum
3. Green Gown Awards 2007-08
4. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
5. Greening UCU
6. UCU urges world's universities and FE/HE unions to 'green up'
7. 'Climate change is a Trade Union issue'
8. Greening the Workplace
9. News /forthcoming events
10. Resources: a guide for union reps'
11. Join the UCU environment network
12. Health and Safety Advice Line

## The work develops

This is the second UCU environmental newsletter, designed to support this new area of UCU's work.

UCU environment policy and the purpose of this work were outlined in the first newsletter:

[www.ucu.org.uk/media/docs/g/a/en/vnews1\\_june07.doc](http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/docs/g/a/en/vnews1_june07.doc) UCU won praise from Friends of the Earth for adopting its policy aim of helping to green the curriculum:

[www.foe.co.uk/resource/press\\_releases/friends\\_of\\_the\\_earth\\_endor\\_1008\\_2007.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/friends_of_the_earth_endor_1008_2007.html)

Thank you to the growing number of UCU members who have already joined the UCU members Environmental Network. This includes FE and HE members from across the UK including several reps and some UCU members working on climate research.

---

## 1. UCU President at launch of AoC Green Colleges event

UCU president Linda Newman spoke at the Association of Colleges event on 16 October to launch a report on 'Green Colleges'. The event highlighted the best environmental design and practise from FE colleges. Amongst other speakers was education minister Bill Rammell.

Linda revealed that she had been involved in promotion of sustainability issues at Sussex University and was responsible for university sustainable transport policy.

We would be interested in your views about how much sustainability progress there is in colleges. How typical are these successes? To what extent are UCU reps consulted or involved in this? UCU wants the best sustainability ideas in the FE sector to be adopted by **all** colleges.

This will need the input and support of UCU reps. That's why we are developing this network and hoping to develop more UCU reps trained in negotiating with employers to green the campus and green the curriculum.

This may involve existing Health and Safety reps taking on this new element - or new Environment Reps being established. If you are interested in helping this work, see Environment Reps, below.

### Weblinks:

The Green Colleges pamphlet is available online

[www.aoc.co.uk/aoc/media/campaigns/greencolleges.pdf](http://www.aoc.co.uk/aoc/media/campaigns/greencolleges.pdf) or contact Linda Dubow at the AoC on 020 7827 4600.

## Higher Education

There are lots of initiatives to bring sustainability into the wider curriculum in HE, but again, it is hard to know how typical or widespread the best practice is. Please send us your observations. For example, the University of Bristol introduced a Sustainable Development, inter-disciplinary module open to all students without any prerequisites. The successful idea won the 'Green Gown' course content award of The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (see EAUC, below).

A 'highly commended entry' came from the University of Gloucester, where a new Language and Ecology first year module examines how issues related to sustainable development are represented in the mass media, and in specialised areas such as agriculture and economics.

In the 2006 intake were mainly taking English Language degrees, but others came from Biology and Geography. (See page 13 of the 2006-7 awards).

See also: 'Sustainable development in HE Current practice and future developments: a progress report for employers, unions and the professions. (The Higher Education Academy Jan 06).

This newsletter cannot carry all the growing information on sustainability in the HE curriculum, but if you know of good practice, especially promoted by UCU members, or of other weblinks with useful resources or discussion, please let us know.

## Further Education

Pershore College (now merged with Warwickshire College) won the colleges section of the 2006 Green Gown award for efforts to embed sustainability practices into the day to day experience of students and staff, and to encourage them to actively consider sustainability issues in their future lives, work and relationships. See page 5 of Green Gown awards – links below.

Yorkshire and Humberside Education for Sustainable Development Forum and partners have published a Further Education briefing on the themes of Energy, Food, Travel, Waste & purchasing, Inclusion, Global issues and College buildings.

If you know of other useful resources, initiatives or weblinks please send to Environment Newsletter via **Sharon Russell**

### Weblinks:

**Green Gown Awards – HE: refer to page 13**

**Green Gown Awards – FE: refer to page 5**

[www.heepi.org.uk/green%20gowns%2007-08/gg\\_winners-brochure%202006-7%2021oct%202007.pdf](http://www.heepi.org.uk/green%20gowns%2007-08/gg_winners-brochure%202006-7%2021oct%202007.pdf)

**Sustainable development in HE:**

[www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/resources/resourcedatabase/id586\\_sustainable%20development\\_employers\\_report.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/resources/resourcedatabase/id586_sustainable%20development_employers_report.pdf)

**Yorkshire and Humberside Education for Sustainable Development Forum:**

[www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd](http://www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd)

**Education for Sustainable Development Forum:**

[www.efscarbontrading.org/esd/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=112&Itemid=2](http://www.efscarbontrading.org/esd/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=112&Itemid=2)

### 3. Green Gown Awards 2007-08

We would welcome your views on the Green Gowns awards and other similar initiatives. Do they spread best practice or create illusions about the rate of progress? Or should we join in enthusiastically?

Of course, while it is helpful to see these good practices and ideas, our intention is to make the exceptional less exceptional by getting appropriate environmental policies in every institution, negotiated by trained and supported UCU reps.

Entries for this year's Green Gown Awards are now open. There are eight categories in this year's awards: Colleges and Smaller Institutions, Continuous Improvement, Courses, Energy & Water Efficiency, Residences, Social Responsibility, Student Initiatives, Sustainable Construction Here is a flyer with details of this year's categories, some background information and an application form. The closing date is Wednesday December 5th. Flyer and further information is available at the link below. Please let us know if you enter.

**Weblinks:**

**Green Gown Awards 2007-8:**

[www.eauc.org.uk/file\\_uploads/gg\\_07-08\\_launch\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.eauc.org.uk/file_uploads/gg_07-08_launch_flyer.pdf)

**Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI):**

[www.heepi.org.uk](http://www.heepi.org.uk)

### 4. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

EAUC describes itself as the environmental and sustainability champion within Further and Higher Education in the UK. It aims to work with members and partners to drive sustainability to the heart of further and higher education. The EAUC has a resource bank including a section on Education for Sustainable Development (EDS). Let us know if you find EAUC helpful.

**Weblinks:**

**Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges:**

[www.eauc.org.uk/home](http://www.eauc.org.uk/home)

### 5. Greening UCU

The predecessor unions of NATFHE and AUT had separate headquarter buildings which are still operated by UCU. A decision has been made to bring all departments together in one building. This is an opportunity for UCU to look at our carbon footprint and it is understood that environmental factors will be considered in the choice of a successor building. Other ideas are welcome.

### 6. UCU urges world's universities and FE/HE unions to 'green up'

UCU has urged colleagues in universities throughout the world to become active on climate change and negotiate with their employers to 'green' their university and 'green' the curriculum. The ideas are contained in a discussion paper 'Climate change, a trade union responsibility in higher education' being presented to the international Higher Education and Research conference

of the Education International - the international organisation of education unions - in Malaga, Spain on 12-14 November.

The paper was produced by UCU officials Brian Everett and Rob Copeland and has won plaudits from the TUC and Education International. This discussion paper has also begun to attract media attention and stimulated debate on what FE and HE unions and professional should be doing:

**Weblinks:**

**Educational International – UCU Discussion Paper:** <http://data.ei-ie.org/Common/GetFile.asp?ID=4990&mfd=off&LogonName=Guest>

**Education Guardian:**

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2210217,00.html>

**Local press stories:** <http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/wales-news/2007/11/12/lecturers-urged-to-help-make-their-colleges-greener-91466-20094786/>

**UCU Press release:** [www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2955](http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2955)

## 7. 'Climate change is a Trade Union issue'. What the TUC and unions are doing

Campaigning and organising on the environment and climate change are now a significant part of the work of the TUC and many unions. Climate change is seen as very much as trade union issue. See the excellent speech by TUC deputy general secretary Frances O' Grady:

The TUC:

- Is promoting Early Day Motion 1125 which calls for facilities and facilities time for trade union Environmental Representatives. Ask your MP to sign EDM1125, which calls for facilities and facilities time for trade union Environmental Representatives.
- Has developed TUSDAC, a joint union body which meets with energy and environment ministers. It was set up in 1998 as the main forum for consultation between Government and Trade Unions on sustainable development and environmental issues. TUSDAC helped the TUC to submit to government, for example, union views on reform of the EU emissions trading scheme.
- Has produced advice on how to make workplaces greener.

A number of other unions are developing their environmental work, including UNISON, PCS and PROSPECT.

**Weblinks:**

**Frances O'Grady Speech:** [www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-13368-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace](http://www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-13368-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace)

**TUC Sustainable workplace advice:** [www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-13386-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace](http://www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-13386-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace)

**UNISON:** [www.unison.org.uk/green/](http://www.unison.org.uk/green/)

**PCS:** [www.pcs.org.uk/Templates/SubSiteHomePage.asp?NodeID=906255](http://www.pcs.org.uk/Templates/SubSiteHomePage.asp?NodeID=906255)

## 8. Greening the workplace

The Institute of Employment Rights held a seminar 'Greening the Workplace: The Role of Trade Unions' in October in the UCU building. LRD report on what employers are doing, and what trade unionists think about this. The papers are available below, including one by UCU member Nigel Mortar, a member of this UCU environment network:

### Environment reps - negotiating with employers for greener institutions

UCU already has reps negotiating on environment issues, but the picture is patchy. (In an LRD survey 18 UCU reps said the environment was already on the bargaining agenda but only 9 said there was a joint union-management agreement on environmental issues. 17 have negotiated time off facilities for reps to carry out duties and undergo training for environmental issues – but 2 have been refused such time off.)

We are keen to help reps to do more of this work and to find others who wish to become environment reps. please let us know if you are interested. **Write to:???**

The TUC is running the following Union and Environment courses:

<b>Date</b>	<b>6 - 8 December 07</b> ↓	<b>24 January 08</b> ↓	<b>19 February 08</b> ↓	<b>5-7 March 08</b> ↓
<b>Location</b>	<b>Darlington</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>Exeter</b>	<b>South Thames College</b>

See regional TUC websites below for further details on courses and the online forum for reps on environmental issues.

#### Weblinks:

**IER Conference papers:** [www.ier.org.uk/node/226](http://www.ier.org.uk/node/226)

**Regional TUC:** [www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/regions\\_main.cfm](http://www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/regions_main.cfm)

**Union reps:** [www.tuc.org.uk/organisation/index.cfm?mins=357](http://www.tuc.org.uk/organisation/index.cfm?mins=357)

## 9. News /forthcoming events

### Climate change is a Trade Union issue

This is the UK contribution to dozens of demonstrations being organised internationally to coincide with the United Nations Climate Talks (in Bali, Indonesia, December 3rd to 14th 2007). The UK demo assembles at 12.00 noon at Millbank on Saturday 8 December with the rally and speeches commencing at 2.30pm at the US embassy, Grosvenor Square, London.

**19th December:** TUC's Green Union Leaders breakfast event, chaired by Frances O Grady, at Congress House.

#### Weblink:

Global Climate Campaign:

[www.globalclimatecampaign.org/index.php?cmd=Main.ShowCountry&id=51&lang=en#country51](http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org/index.php?cmd=Main.ShowCountry&id=51&lang=en#country51)

## 10. Resources: 'The environment and climate change – a guide for union reps'

This booklet by The Labour Research Department is a practical guide for trade unionist to take action on the environment at work, it includes essential workplace and environment tools and contains results from the LRD workplace survey of over 1000 workplace contacts, highlighting examples of what can be achieved in the workplace, as well as setting out a case for legal rights for trade union reps to take up environment issues. If you would like one free copy please contact **Sharon Russell**

## 11. Join the UCU environment network

UCU has begun to establish a network of members who share concerns about the environment and want to do something. The network is intended to help us share ideas, news and good practise and to find and train reps to maximise UCU's contribution locally and nationally to promoting sustainability.

Let us know of other members who might be interested: lecturers, researchers and academic related staff who we can invite to join the network. Or pass this on.

To join, send an email titled 'Join environment network' to **Sharon Russell**

Important: please send Sharon the following information about yourself: Name, institution, role at work, any roles in UCU, any special environmental interest/knowledge, and your preferred e-mail address.

## 13. UCU Health and Safety Advice Line

UCU's Health and Safety Advice Line for safety reps and branch officers offers information about health and safety legal standards, and how they can be applied and advice on dealing with health and safety issues/problems.

The Health and Safety Advice Line is for branch officers and safety reps only, not for individual members. The advice line will be staffed two days a week only. When you phone the advice line you will be asked to leave a message. You will then be contacted as soon as possible.

The advice line number is 0161 636 7558  
Email **healthandsafety@ucu.org.uk**

Or by post to John Bamford, UCU Health and Safety Advice Line, Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, Unit 2.5 Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester M16 7WD