

Contents

1. TUC Climate change conference: Monday 16 June 2008
2. Environment motions and fringe meeting
3. Campaign Against Climate Change
4. EDM 1438
5. EcoCampus awards
6. UCU environment webpage
7. Colleges go green
8. Have you heard?
9. Join the environmental network

1 TUC Climate change conference: Monday 16 June 2008

The TUC has played a leading role to date in working with affiliates globally, through the ITUC, to support a new Treaty.

This event will provide a timely opportunity for the TUC to engage in public debate with key affiliates in the trade union movement, and other key stakeholders in Government and business and NGOs, to develop and promote TUC policy, reputation and support for an effective climate change strategy.

Keynote speakers amongst others will include the Rt. Hon Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment and Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend a number of themed workshops on Just Transition, green travel, green workplaces, Kyoto II, development challenges, and climate change UK.

UCU is sending 10 delegates. To apply contact Roger Kline (rkline@ucu.org.uk) or visit www.tuc.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=2925 for further details.

2 UCU Congress: Environment Motions and fringe meeting

UCU's Annual Congress will be held in Manchester from 28 – 29 May at the Manchester Central (formerly the GMEX Centre). If you are attending, we would like to hear from you and in particular if you are planning to speak on the congress environment motions. Please inform Sharon Russell (srussell@ucu.org.uk) if you are.

Three motions have been submitted to this year's Congress, illustrating the growing interest in such concerns to be debated Friday 30 May. Full details on the motions can be viewed at www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3285#Environmental%20work.

Environment Fringe Meeting

Climate Change: How UCU can make a difference
Thursday 29 May 2008, 6pm – 7:30pm in Exchange 1

Speakers:
Jonathan Neale
National Secretary for Campaign against
Climate Change and UCU Member

Caroline Molloy
TUC Green Workplaces Project Leader

3 Campaign Against Climate Change

Campaign Against Climate Change (CACC) is organising a demonstration against the Heathrow expansion on 31 May. UCU's London and SE members are asked to consider supporting this. For further details, visit www.campaigncc.org/.

4 Early Day Motion 1438

EDM 1438 - Trade Union case for workplace environmental representatives, was submitted by Martin Salter MP and already with 72 signatures (28 April). It stresses **'that trades unions are ideally placed to promote and implement best environmental practice in the workplace amongst their 6.7 million members'** and calls for **'trades union environmental representatives to be given the same rights at work as other trades union representatives active in health and safety and lifelong learning.'** Please ask your MP to sign the EDM, which can be viewed in full at:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35699&SESSION=891>.

5 EcoCampus awards

UCU is contacting reps at these institutions to find out whether they were consulted or involved in the project, and their views on the merits of the awards. EcoCampus is an Environmental Management System (EMS) and award scheme for the higher education sector, funded by HEFCE. The scheme allows universities to be recognised for addressing key issues of environmental sustainability. The following ten universities were awarded:

Bronze Phase Award were granted to: Bath Spa University, Bradford University, Nottingham Trent University, University of Bristol, University of Derby, University of Hertfordshire, University of Kent, Oxford Brookes University and University of Worcester. The Silver Phase Award has been accomplished by Bath Spa University and the University of Hertfordshire.

For further details of the scheme, visit www.ecocampus.co.uk/.

6 UCU environment webpage

We hope to have the initial pages running soon and this will be gradually developed into a valuable resource to help UCU to develop its environment agenda. It will enable UCU members to share ideas, keep up to date with developments in colleges and universities, and to know of work on climate change by trades unions, TUC and campaigning organisations.

7 Colleges go green - but how green are your college's transport policies?

An AoC declaration (1st April 2008) claimed 'Colleges responsible for teaching and training over three million people will today pledge to go green in all areas of their business'.

This declaration 'binds UK colleges to actively protect our environment and make sustainability a reality in the fastest growing area of the UK's education system.' UCU welcomes this initiative and we want to contribute to the greening of colleges by having green reps involved in the negotiation of local low carbon strategies.

The declaration claims '77% of colleges encourage staff and students to travel green'. Of course 'encourage' can mean 'entreat' rather than 'provide incentives and affordable alternatives'. UCU would be interested to know what your college is doing on this: what encouragement do you receive to travel in a greener way and what more should employers in colleges and universities be doing? Please send your responses to **Sharon Russell**. To view the declaration visit

www.aoc.co.uk/en/newsroom/aoc_news_releases.cfm/id/EB056FA8-947D-4545-AB1DC9B5367EFDEA/page/1

8 Environment news from TUC and other unions



Reports

PCS recently held a day conference on environment policy and developing environment reps, and reported progress on greening workplaces and PCS. Here's the report: www.pcs.org.uk/en/resources/green_workplaces/green-report.cfm.

Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change, available at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm, search for 'Stern report'

The TUC is publishing a report on 'Just Transition', to be launched at the conference. 'Just transition' describes the essential elements of justice which must be included in strategies for a transition to a low carbon economy. These elements include the creation of green jobs and the participation of communities and unions in designing the strategies.

See Canadian public employees' union definition:

www.nupge.ca/publications/environment/Confronting_Climate_Change.pdf and a view by the UK Hazards magazine:

www.hazards.org/justtransition/sustainablejobs.htm.

Publications and Guides

The TUC green workplaces project will be publishing their new handbook for union green representatives entitled *Go Green at Work*. UCU will make available copies for UCU environment network subscribers.

PROSPECT union has produced a *Negotiator's guide to greening your workplace*.

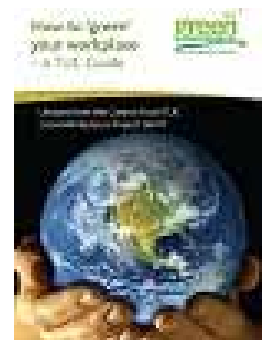
www.prospect.org.uk/doclib/negotiators_guides/negotiators_guide_to_greening_your_workplace

Title: *How to 'Green' your workplace – a TUC guide*
Stock Code: EC133
Price: £FREE



This booklet summarises some of the issues arising from the Carbon Trust/TUC Green Workplaces Project 06/07 and is divided into two sections.

The first outlines some of the workplace issues where environmental improvements may be needed. The second summarises some of the key actions that union members can take to address these issues



Copies available from TUC Publications at websales@tuc.org.uk

First Steps to a Greener Workplace

Climate change is most definitely a union issue. The workplaces that we organise - and seek to organise - burn energy, consume resources and generate waste. Industry alone is responsible for over half of carbon dioxide emissions increasing the greenhouse effect every year. Download a copy from www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-12460-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace.

Events / News

UCU has been invited to attend a TUSDAC (TUC's Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee) working group meeting, with DEFRA officials and representatives from the Carbon Trust, to discuss TU input into the Carbon Reduction Commitment. In particular, trying to promote issues relating to FE and HE for example, arguing for proper funding for skills in jobs to tackle climate change.

Training and development

Course 1 Trade unions and the environment: Strategies for promoting environmental issues in and outside the workplace.

The course includes 'negotiating environment policies'

Dates:

3 day block: **Sept 17–19 2008**

Venue:

South Thames College, London

Other similar courses:

2008

■ **May 23 Liverpool**

■ **June 2 Cumbria**

■ **June 2 Furness**

■ **July 16 Dorchester and Dorset**

■ **November 28 Chatham**

2009

■ **February 17 2009 Exeter**

For further information: www.unionlearn.org.uk/courses/index.cfm/citem/3078

Course 2 TUC sustainable workplace: Trade unions and the environment

For further information:

www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-14116-0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace

References

■ **UCU action on the environment**

www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2959

■ **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

www.ipcc.ch

■ **TUC / Carbon Trust: Greening your workplace**

www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-13386-f0.cfm?theme=sustainableworkplace

■ **The Royal Society has a guide to facts and fictions about climate change**

www.royalsociety.org/page.asp?id=4761

9 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 (srussell@ucu.org.uk) with the following information about you: **Name/Institution/Role at work/UCU/ Special interest or knowledge.**