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1. Is the climate change 'Tipping point' only 100 months away?

A report by the New Economics Foundation concludes that the earth could soon reach a tipping point for the beginning of runaway climate change. The authors argue for a Green New Deal, but what should UCU members be doing in their workplaces? Teaching a new kind of economics for a low carbon future? Perhaps your branch/LA could discuss the 'Green New Deal' and how to green the curriculum. Any comments? Email [Sharon Russell](mailto:Sharon.Russell@ucu.org)

New Economics Foundation:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/aug/01/climatechange.carbonemissions>

Green Deal: <http://neweconomics.org/gen/greennewdealneededforuk210708.aspx>

2. UCU environment website page

UCU now has a web page to help promote its environment policy. A link is available direct from the home page by clicking on 'Health, safety and environment'. Ideas for inclusion are welcomed, especially reports of UCU branch/LA or environment rep activity. Send your ideas to [Sharon Russell](mailto:Sharon.Russell@ucu.org)

Website link: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3386>

3. Green reps – more training courses

Course title	Details, dates, venue and contacts
College based: Trade unions and the environment: Strategies for promoting environmental issues in and outside the workplace.	The course includes 'negotiating environment policies' 3 day block: Sept 17–19 2008, South Thames College, London. Contact Graham Petersen for further details

Course title	Details, dates, venue and contacts
Online course: Trade Unions and the Environment	The course has been designed to meet the growing demand from trade union members and reps for information, knowledge and skills to deal with environmental issues. Contact: Craig Hawkins Online Learning Officer
Climate change	PCS is hosting two climate change courses in central London in September run by the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN). They are free, come highly recommended and are open to members of any union on a first come first served basis. Contact: COIN at info@coinet.org.uk
Climate change condensed	This course to be held September 15 is aimed at union members who want to find out how they can get involved in responding to climate change in the workplace. Contact: Sonia Scully for further information or Unionlearn at http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/education/learn-1912-f0.cfm
How to win the climate change argument in a 15 minute tea break	This course to be held 22 September is aimed at reps who are looking for tools and arguments to persuade members to become active around climate change. Contact: Sonia Scully for further information.

Green reps' handbook

The TUC Union Green Reps handbook Go Green at Work has been sent to every UCU branch/LA

Note: Please lobby your MP for legislation helping to establish green reps and sustainable workplace agreements. See if your MP has signed up for the EDM 1438; there are 102 signatures to date. Congratulate them if they have - press them if they have not.

4. HEFCE Consultation: Join in

Anyone can comment on HEFCE's report 'Sustainable Development in Higher Education: consultation on 2008 update to strategic statement and action plan June 2008 /18).' Electronic versions of the document and response form can be found on the web-site **www.hefce.ac.uk** under Publications. Responses should be e-mailed to **sustainabledevelopment@hefce.ac.uk** (Use the response form at Annex D) by **Friday 5 September 2008**.

Report: http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_18/

5. Inquiry says Sustainable Development should be included in FE curriculum

An Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning (IFLL), sponsored by NIACE, is putting out a public call for evidence on lifelong learning and sustainable development.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/lifelonglearninginquiry/Evidence-sus-dev.htm>

Inquiry:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/2644137>

6. Climate Camp and TU's

The Camp for Climate Action took place near Kingsnorth in Kent, from August 3 -11th 2008. The camp networking group produced a statement and invitation to the trade union movement.

Statement and invitation:

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2008/07/403666.html>

Report of the camp:

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/08/kingsnorth_protester_diary_blog.html

7. More research on climate

More research funding on climate. Welsh Education Minister Jane Hutt has announced £23.5 million funding for research into some of the world's major environmental challenges. The cash from the Welsh Assembly Government will help support a £55-million project for a Biosciences and Environment Alliance between Aberystwyth and Bangor universities.

Article:

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=402981>

8. DIUS Sustainable Development Action Plan

The first DIUS Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) is now available to view online.

The plan is for DIUS staff, delivery partners and stakeholders and sets out the Department's overall approach to addressing sustainable development issues - including tackling climate change - through their work programme, operations, procurement processes and people.

UCU is still looking for DIUS, HEFCE and AoC to recognise that UCU and other FE/HE unions are key partners and stakeholders and should be involved in every college /university carbon reduction strategy.

DIUS Sustainable Development Action Plan:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/sustainable_development.html

9. Branches and local association news

Leeds University UCU recently had a meeting on how to kick off a call for local UCU Environmental Reps. The LA explored the possible remit of such reps: from immediate workplace to a more global perspective. It decided that a wider call to the membership should be made in September.

10. Greening your workplace: Energy Efficient PCs

At the University of Sheffield, (perhaps typically), ICT is now responsible for 18% of the University's total electricity consumption - and a bill of over £1 million next year - with desktop computing accounting for half of this. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is promoting a course: The Sustainable Desktop? - Achieving Energy Efficient PCs in Universities and Colleges.

http://www.eauc.org.uk/the_sustainable_desktop_achieving_energy_efficient

Admittedly, this is for staff responsible for purchasing and managing of equipment, but it is a reminder of where some of the energy is consumed in FE and HE institutions. What plans does your institution have to cut energy use in ICT? As a UCU environment rep, this could be just one of the many objectives of your negotiations with employers. Is someone from your institution attending this course?

11. All FE college buildings in England to be zero carbon by 2016 says Rammell

A new report, 'The Route to Zero Carbon FE Colleges' provides recommendations on how the Further Education community will ensure all new college facilities are zero carbon by 2016. Over the next six months, "an expert group will work with the Further Education sector to develop practical solutions based on these recommendations, to be implemented by early 2009."

LSC news release

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/news/latestnews/news-160708.htm>

12. More institutions join 'EcoCampus'

EcoCampus is an Environmental Management System (EMS) and award scheme for the higher education sector. The scheme allows universities to be recognised for addressing key issues of environmental sustainability. After a pilot period, further institutions from both the Further and Higher Education sectors have joined the 2008 Cohort: Aberdeen College, Aston University, Bournemouth University, Birmingham City University, Durham University, Institute of Cancer Research, Kings College London, Newcastle University, Newman University College, University of Sussex, and University of York.

Last but by no means least...



UCU's Environmental Newsletter and our environmental web pages have been collated and edited by Trevor Phillips (often in his own spare time). Trevor's knowledge and commitment to climate change issues has been a fantastic asset for UCU. Trevor has decided to be one of the staff taking voluntary severance from UCU and his ideas, commitment and sheer hard work will be greatly missed.

Roger Kline
Head of Equality and Employment Rights

Join UCU's environment network
Let us know what you are doing, send reports to **Sharon Russell**
The next environmental newsletter will be at the end of September