

# Contents

1. **Climate Solidarity Project**
  2. **10:10 Project**
  3. **News from the Sector**
  4. **UCU Environment Conference**
  5. **Carbon reduction targets in HE**
  6. **Sustainable Development**
  7. **TUC**
  8. **Local Action**
  9. **Green Reps Training**
- 

## 1. Climate Solidarity Project

Climate Solidarity is a partnership of four trade unions -- the University and College Union (UCU), the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), the National Union of Teachers (NUT), the Communication Workers Union (CWU) -- and a charity, the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN). We have been successful in obtaining a 2 year grant from DEFRA to raise awareness and work on carbon-cutting measures. For full details of the project and how you can get involved contact Janet Pantland at UCU Head Office [jpantland@ucu.org.uk](mailto:jpantland@ucu.org.uk)

Training days – The first 2 training days for presenters have been arranged for:

**London:** Sat 12 Sept 2009 (10am - 4pm) South Thames College, Carlton House, 27a Carlton Drive SW15 2BS

**Leeds:** Fri 18 Sept 2009 (10am - 4pm) PCS, 34 Lisbon Street, L51 42X Leeds

We can still take late applications for the Leeds workshop.

We will be arranging further training days in 2009-10 and will circulate dates and venues later this month. This is an exciting project and fits with a number of other initiatives both inside and outside the education sector.

## 2. 10:10 Project

This campaign aims to get individuals and institutions to cut their carbon emissions by 10% by the end of 2010. It was launched on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and has already attracted a lot of publicity, particularly in The Guardian and The Sun who are jointly supporting it. UCU branches and associations should try to get their institution signed up for it. This can be done at [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)

UCU attended the launch and the union has signed up. On the launch date the following universities and colleges made the pledge – Edinburgh University, Westminster University,

King's College London, Liverpool University and South Thames College. A number of student unions as well as the NUS signed.

This initiative fits with our Climate Solidarity Project above. The Climate Action Groups we aim to set up can become an important mechanism for achieving the cuts.

### 3. News from the Sector

- **HE** – In the July newsletter we reported on the consultation being carried out by HEFCE, Universities UK and GuildHE on a carbon reduction strategy. UCU attended the London consultation event held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We stressed the need to ensure effective staff engagement, something which is not clearly covered in the consultation document. Our view is staff unions have a crucial role to play in this and there appeared to be a consensus on this during the panel discussion. UCU will now put in a submission before the October 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Anyone wishing to contribute to this process can view the consultation document on [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk)
  - UCU would be interested in any report back from members who may have attended the other consultation in Manchester held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. UCU would also be pleased to hear from any members planning to make a submission on the strategy.
  - UCU feel that this provides yet another link to the Climate Solidarity project above. In the light of this UCU held a useful meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> with HEFCE policy officers to inform them of this development.
- **FE** – UCU held a meeting with the policy officer of the Association of Colleges (AoC) on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Again the object was to alert them to the project and signal the increasing importance that the union is placing on the issue. We need to ensure that whenever an institution plans an environmental initiative that they consult with the UCU as a matter of course. This is something that often does not happen and we need to alert the sector at all levels that this is an important requirement.
  - Curriculum issues – As part of the Vestas dispute (see below) the NUT has produced an excellent training pack that could be used in a range of curriculum areas in FE. The pack is available at <http://savevestas.wordpress.com/2009/09/08/vestas-campaign-teachers-pack/>
- **EAUC** - The Environment Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) has developed a new Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education (SORTED) is a one-stop-shop for sustainability issues in further and higher education. SORTED has a range of useful tools to help you understand what sustainability means to the sector. To view all the news case studies and guidance material captured on the new SORTED website, visit [www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/home](http://www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/home).

### 4. UCU Environment Conference

This will be held on Wednesday, **November 25<sup>th</sup>** at UCU Head Office. There are 70 places available so please make an early application to avoid disappointment. Travel expenses and lunch will be provided. To register, please contact [jpantland@ucu.org.uk](mailto:jpantland@ucu.org.uk). Further information will follow but the current outline is:

10.30am	Opening Address
10.40am	Panel of speakers from UCU, COIN, PCS, NUT and CWU on Climate Solidarity
11.15am	Questions and answers
11.40am	Break
12.00 noon	Workshops on building climate solidarity
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Panel of speakers from HEFCE, AoC, NUS, and the 10:10 project Workshop reports to the panel
3.25pm	Break
3.45pm	Speaker from the Vestas occupation
4.00pm	Speaker on the 'Countdown to Copenhagen'
4.15pm	Closing comments

## 5. Vestas Solidarity Campaign

Although the occupation of the wind turbine factory is over, there is still a lot going on. The dispute has witnessed an alliance of 'red' and 'green' activists which has been unique in the UK. UCU has been involved at an early stage and was one of the signatories to the letter to Ed Miliband calling for government intervention:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/aug/04/vestas-wind-turbines-ed-miliband>

We are supporting a range of solidarity events this month:

- 1) **The workers and supporters are maintaining a blockade of the factory.** The main leverage they have over politicians and the Vestas company is to prevent Vestas removing the remaining blades and valuable equipment at will.

In a press release this morning, the workers explained:

"We, the workers, see it as our duty to stop our blades from leaving, as part of the campaign to nationalise the factory. Vestas have told us that there is no demand for our products but are still unwilling to sell the site to other interested parties. It is clear the government must act on such an important issue as renewable energy production. They should not let our future be dictated solely by profit.

"We are calling on the government to invest in green jobs on the Isle of Wight, and for Vestas to reinstate the eleven sacked workers who occupied the factory."

**The workers urgently need help with the blockade**, as the company is likely to try and remove the blades and equipment in the coming days. If you are able to go to the Isle of Wight and join the blockade, mobilise others to go, or raise funds to support those who are maintaining the blockade, please contact [savevestas@googlemail.com](mailto:savevestas@googlemail.com).

You can find advice for getting to the Isle of Wight and a map showing the location of the Vestas factory on the blog: <http://savevestas.wordpress.com/travel-noticeboard/>.

If you would like to make a donation, the details have now changed; please send cheques payable to "RMT IOW 2 VESTAS HARSHIP & DEFENCE FUND" to Keith Murphy,

57 Well Street, Ryde, IOW PO33 2RY, or you can continue to donate by PayPal online at the blog.

- 2) **Thursday 17th September will be the second national day of action** around the Vestas campaign. A number of events are planned around the country, many of them advertised on the blog. If you know of any more or would like advice on planning an event, please contact [savevestas@googlemail.com](mailto:savevestas@googlemail.com).

## 6. Sustainable Development

There is no shortage of ideas and initiatives on how to cut emissions. Some are more realistic than others and UCU activists will need to prioritise what is likely to work for them. The Government funded Sustainable Commission has recently issued guidance which can be accessed at <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/breakthroughs.html>

## 7. TUC

The UCU delegation to the TUC Congress in Liverpool, starting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, will be involved in a number of 'green events'. These include a lobby to support the Vestas workers and the launch of a Green Alliance pamphlet. UCU has contributed to a chapter on a 'Just transition'.

The congress report covering the environment can be found here (scroll to section 3.11): <http://www.tuc.org.uk/congress/tuc-16886-f5.cfm#tuc-16886-5>  
There will be a report in the next newsletter.

## 8. Local Action

UCU member, David Sommervell, Edinburgh University Sustainability Adviser, featured in The Guardian on 8/9/9. David outlined the steps taken already to achieve a 31% cut in emissions. He reports on the challenge in dealing with travel associated from commuting and conferences. To read more on this go to:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/sep/08/carbon-emissions-1010-edinburgh-university>

**Don't forget we want to hear from you. In each newsletter we want to feature some of the great work that is being done out there by UCU activists. Please send us your examples. We plan to produce a set of resources and case studies in the lead-up to our November conference so let us know what is going on where you are.**

## 9. Green Reps Training

This **new** course is designed for UCU members who wish to develop their understanding of climate change and ways to protect the environment through change at work. It is intended to enable those taking part to develop as environment champions or *green reps*.

**This course will cover the following:**

- environment terminology and the current debate

- legislation and other environmental information
- environment management systems
- current trade union policies and organisation
- workplace and community strategies.

It will take place over 2 days on **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. That means there is plenty of time to arrange release to attend and book your place. The course will be held at UCU Head Office in London. To register go to:  
<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3998>

**Email any questions, answers and in particular case studies and things that have worked to: Graham Petersen, UCU Environment Co-ordinator:  
[graham.petersen@south-thames.ac.uk](mailto:graham.petersen@south-thames.ac.uk)**

**If you would like to be added to the UCU environment or climate solidarity networks email [jpantland@UCU.org.uk](mailto:jpantland@UCU.org.uk)**