

We would like to get an environment contact at each branch – someone that we can keep informed of events and news as well as offer support and training to. If you're interested, please send your contact and branch details to jpantland@ucu.org.uk

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1. UCU Climate Solidarity Conference – Wednesday 25 November 2009

Make sure you nominate someone from your branch or association to the first ever UCU environment conference. It will be a great opportunity to find out and contribute to UCU policy. It will have a very practical focus aimed at developing workplace organisation and increasing the UCU profile. There are a lot of important issues confronting our members at the moment but issues don't get much bigger than this. The conference is open to all UCU members and reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like leaflets to distribute, let Justine Stephens jstephens@ucu.org.uk know how many you need and where to send them to.

Find out how to register and check the conference programme by going to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4192>

Act fast – there are only 70 places so we wouldn't want you to miss out.

2. Archbishop of Canterbury Endorsement

We didn't anticipate getting the thumbs up from the leader of the worldwide Anglican communion but this month Dr Rowan Williams is on record as calling for the setting up of Carbon Reduction Action Groups. We're pleased to have him on board and if you want to read the full article go to the link below:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/13/rowan-williams-climate-crisis>

3. Climate Solidarity Project

The project is now starting to gather momentum. UCU needs branches and associations to identify one person who can act as a link with this project. It provides a fantastic opportunity to raise our profile on this issue. The priority now is to train Action Group Leaders in each institution. There is no limit to the number of Action Groups you can aim to set up. It could be one per institution or a number based on sites and faculties / departments. Check the UCU and Climate Solidarity websites for further information and resources

www.climatesolidarity.org.uk

Action Group Leader Training – The following dates and venues have been set for 2009. Dates for 2010 will follow soon.

- **Exeter – 5th November**
- **Bristol – 6th November**
- **Manchester – 12th November**
- **Liverpool – 13th November**
- **Doncaster – 19th November**
- **Sheffield – 20th November**
- **Birmingham – 2nd December**
- **Newcastle – 9th December**
- **London – 11th December**

For further information and to book a place contact Janet Pantland at Head Office PLUS

Send in the details of the person you wish to nominate as an Action Group Leader and point of contact for this project to: jpantland@ucu.org.uk

4. Education against Climate Change

Education against Climate Change will see students and staff across the country adapting their scheduled lessons to incorporate climate change for one day, with workshops and discussions within the week 30th November to 4th December, leading to the climate change

march on 5th December in London. UCU supports this but we haven't got long to set it up so consider how this can be progressed within your institution

For example one university has got branch support for the teach-in and appointed a planning team. Further information and resources can be found at:

<http://www.campaigncc.org/education>

5. Environment Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC)

The EAUC concluded a Governance consultation exercise this month. UCU made a submission which highlighted the opportunities for involving academic and other staff in the work of the organisation. We will keep you informed of the outcome of the review. The EAUC produces a lot of useful material.

An important new educational resource was launched on September 18th, 2009. "The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: skills for a changing world" takes a sharp look at the skills, attributes and competencies that learners will need for surviving and thriving in the 21st century. It is a free multimedia resource with interviews and chapters by more than forty educators (see www.sustainability-literacy.org) as well as a paperback book.

6. Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

HEFCE also concluded a review this month. UCU contributed to the Carbon Reduction Strategy consultation. We highlighted the need for tougher targets and effective monitoring strategies. As with the EAUC consultation we called for greater engagement with staff and the recognised trades unions.

7. UCU at the TUC

The environment was a key theme at the TUC congress in Liverpool last month. A Green Alliance pamphlet was launched entitled 'Working on change – the trade union movement and climate change'. UCU contributed to a chapter on 'Ensuring a just transition'.

We also supported the Vestas motion and fringe meeting. The occupation is now over but the campaign in support of the sacked workers goes on.

Emergency motions should be passed through your workplace/branch/other organisation, email to the workers via the website and post to the workers' union branch (together with

donations if possible), Keith Murphy, 57 Well Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2RY. **Cheques payable to: "RMT IOW2 Vestas Hardship and Defence Fund"**.

Tell Vestas what you think of them! Email: vestas-celtic@vestas.com Tel: 01925 857 100; Fax: 01925 859 921

8. Copenhagen and the Wave on December 5th

UCU are supporting the demonstration called by Stop Climate Chaos on December 5th, 2009. For further details go to: <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave>. Branches are urged to pass the motion on the link below to support the demonstration and the CACC March, 2010 conference: <http://cacctu.wordpress.com>.

9. Green reps recognised in Government CO2 scheme

Carbon Reduction Commitment:

It is estimated that over half of universities and a small number of FE colleges will be covered by the CRC. The Government has acknowledged that employees have a key role to play in saving energy in their workplace, and that this is integral to achieving emissions reductions in the public and private service sectors.

The Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) kicks off in April 2010, pricing the CO2 used in 5,000 of our largest service sector employers. The CRC will put a price on every tonne of CO2 consumed in the service industries, with incentives to cut consumption. It aims to save around a million tons of CO2 a year when fully operational.

UCU reps working hard to convince management that more needs to be done will be glad to hear that the CRC will include an energy savings league table, which will require employers to tick an employee engagement box if they meet one of the following three criteria:

- Energy management training is offered to the majority of employees in your organisation
- Your organisation has active employee working groups on energy management, which report to senior management, and take forward initiatives to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions
- Where an independent trade union is recognised for collective bargaining purposes, energy management issues are considered in these joint discussions and members actively take forward initiatives to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions

10. Cycle to Work Scheme

Do you have any experience of the Cycle to Work scheme? We are trying to gather information about the practical implementation of the scheme, including things like the possible scale of take-up from staff, the likely administration costs and demand for provision of cycle facilities. We would like to get some good practice examples, but are also interested in any problems you are facing. Please send your experiences to jpantland@ucu.org.uk.

11. Green Reps Training

A reminder to book for the UCU 'Trade unions and the environment' 2 day courses

- London – Wednesday 10th February and Thursday 11th March, 2010 at UCU HQ
- Dundee – Monday 8th February and Monday 8th March, 2010

You can register online at www.ucu.org.uk/training

12. Resources

Sign up to the ITUC/Hazards 'green jobs/safe jobs' blog here:

www.hazards.org/greenjobs/blog

Please contact us with any environmental news that would be worth sharing with others. It doesn't just have to be inspiring stuff. Let us know of any problems you're experiencing in trying to move this up the workplace or union agenda. Contact Graham Petersen, UCU Environment Co-ordinator at gpetersen@ucu.org.uk

If you would like to be added to the UCU environment or climate solidarity networks email jpantland@UCU.org.uk