

**Welcome to the first newsletter for 2010. This promises to be the busiest year yet for UCU and we hope you will keep us informed about your progress in promoting the union's green agenda.**

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### 1. UCU Climate Solidarity Conference Report

The conference, held on 25 November 2009 at Carlow Street, was a great opportunity to discuss some of the work we have been engaged in during 2009. Thanks to all the participants for making it a success.

The report and speaker presentations are available on the website at <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4192>

The outcomes were reported to the UCU National Executive on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and a plan of work outlined for 2010.

### 2. Climate Action Groups

CAGs are starting to be set up by UCU members in a number of universities and colleges. You don't have to attend a training session to do this but it helps. The half day regional courses agreed so far for 2010 can be accessed at

<http://www.climatesolidarity.org.uk/node/24>. Please make your applications through **Janet Pantland** at UU Head Office.

Resources to help you set up an Action Group are available on the Climate Solidarity website: <http://www.climatesolidarity.org.uk/node/9>

Please make sure you register on the site and fill in the Introductory Survey at <http://www.climatesolidarity.org.uk/node/7>

UCU has also produced some guidance which can be adapted to suit your institution. These consist of a

- Join a climate action group
- Arranging the first meeting

And can be found here: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4286>

Examples of CAG activity so far include:

Sheffield College – 2 delegates to the UCU conference set up their first meeting in December, 2009. It was agreed to focus on 2 projects:

- paper recycling
- monitoring travel to work with a view to promoting car sharing and cycling

As well as individual changes to behaviour the group also agreed to contact senior management to:

- inform them of staff representation on the new Environmental Working Group
- request affiliation to the 10:10 campaign
- offer to run a training event.

South Thames College – 50 staff have expressed an interest in participating in Climate Action Groups following all staff emails, staff development days, and union meetings. Action Group meetings have been arranged on the 3 main college sites for the end of January.

We need you to send in other examples so that we can publicise them in this newsletter and on the UCU and COIN websites. No one is saying setting up CAGs will be easy but equally it may not be as daunting as some people think. Have a look at the Action Group Pack Introductory Materials on the COIN site for advice (<http://www.climatesolidarity.org.uk/node/13>) or contact Graham Petersen at [gpetersen@ucu.org.uk](mailto:gpetersen@ucu.org.uk) for help.

### **3. Education for Sustainable Development**

UCU launched a 'Greening the curriculum' campaign in the weeks leading up to the Copenhagen Climate summit in December. Lecturers in both sectors ran sessions on sustainability. Some of these materials are available on the UCU site <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4373>. UCU don't see this as a one-off activity so we have set up an Education for Sustainable Development Working group. There are a number of developments taking place across the sectors on this.

Further education - The LSC has funded a series of workshops that are free to staff in FE. They will take place on:

- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – London
- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stourbridge (near Birmingham)
- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – York

Higher education – UCU will be liaising with the Higher Education Academy to promote developments and look at best practice.

Contact **Graham Petersen** for further information if you are interested in any of the above. We will be arranging a fringe meeting at Annual Congress on this subject and it will be a priority area of work for us in 2010.

## 4. Environment/Green Representatives

UCU continue to press for statutory recognition. In the absence of any legal rights the new ACAS Guidance is worth noting. The relevant extract is:

### ***The role of environmental representatives and their needs***

*In some workplaces trade unions gain agreement from the employer to elect or appoint representatives with a specialist role. Environmental representatives focus on the climate change agenda and changes in work organisation and green workplace projects. They may serve on environmental committees if these are established. They can work to improve the impact of an organisation or workplace on the local environment, helping nearby communities and raising the reputation of the employer. Environmental representatives have no statutory rights to time off, training or facilities. Appropriate training is available from trade unions and the TUC and the government sponsored Union Learning Fund is available to support approved training programmes for these.*

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391>

## 5. Copenhagen – what next?

The outcome of the summit was a major disappointment even though there were plenty of signs early on that it would not deliver what was needed. This means campaigning must be stepped up this year in the lead-up to Mexico in November. UCU were present on the Wave demonstrations in December (<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4372>) and we need to build on this in the coming months.

## 6. UCU FE Regional Briefings

During February and March we will be 'on tour' to update branch and regional officials on our environment work. We need every branch to identify at least one person who can be a point of contact for promoting the union's green agenda. Further details will be in branch mailings.

## 7. Conferences

### **Campaign against Climate Change Conference: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Conference takes place at South Camden Community School, Central London. Organised in a "Teach In" format, there will be plenty of time for delegates to join in the discussions. There will also be break-out sessions on "Climate Jobs", "Organising at Work", the "Climate Emergency Demands" and the "International movement post Copenhagen".

Speakers include **Chris Baugh** (PCS), **Tony Kearns** (CWU), **Manuel Cortes** (TSSA), **Alex Gordon** (RMT) as well as **Jonathan Neale** and **Phil Thornhill** from the CaCC, **Ian Terry** from the Vestas workers and many others.

Help us organise and build the conference. Model motions and leaflets can be downloaded from the website. Please raise this in your branch and send a delegate. Further details can be found at: <http://cacctu.wordpress.com/>

### **Going Green at Work: Monday 15 March 2010, Congress House, London TUC national one-day conference**

Sign up for "Going Green at Work", a national TUC conference on organising for greener workplaces. The conference will showcase the work of the TUC's growing army of green reps, with a report-back and evaluation of the TUC's two-year Greenworkplace project, funded by the UMF.

Keynote speakers include: TUC Deputy General Secretary, Frances O Grady; Government minister/s from DECC and BIS (TBC); Sarah Pearce, TUC Greenworkplaces Project Leader; and Climate Solidarity Project.

Plus expert-led workshops on:

- Greening your workplace – a master class.
- Adapting workplaces to climate change.
- *Get CRC Ready* – working with the Carbon Reduction Commitment from 1 April 2010.
- How to use the TUC's new environmental workbook, *Targeting Climate Change*.
- Climate Solidarity - mobilising union members at work, at home and in their local communities.

Please email Emma Hendy ([ehendy@tuc.org.uk](mailto:ehendy@tuc.org.uk)) for details or register at <http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3157>

## 8. UCU Training

UCU will be running 2 courses for Green reps in February and March in Dundee and London. For further information go to <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3998> or contact: <mailto:majenkinson@uc.org.uk>

## 9. Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges

The EAUC is a very useful source of material for UCU reps to understand some of the developments in the sector. Most universities are affiliated but only approximately one third of FE colleges are. We agreed with EAUC that we would encourage members to check if their institution is affiliated. More information can be found at: [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk)

## 10. Resources

A recent publication that is worth a look at is:

**Defra guide: The environment in your pocket 2009**

Free of charge and can be ordered at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Tel. 08459 556000

Email: [defra@cambertown.com](mailto:defra@cambertown.com)

A recent website worth a look at is:

<http://spce.procureweb.ac.uk/index.html>

**Sustainable Procurement Centre of Excellence for Higher Education, otherwise known as the SPCE.**

The project intends to make demonstrable changes to the way HEIs embed sustainable procurement into their standard procedures, practices and policies. It will augment government efficiency objectives, positively impacting on the Higher Education's circa 8 billion per annum expenditure.

**Good luck with all your sustainability actions in 2010. One last reminder - now is the time to start setting up your Climate Action Groups and keep me informed on your progress [gpetersen@ucu.org.uk](mailto:gpetersen@ucu.org.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)**