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1. **UCU events**

Congress May 29th – June 1st, 2010

There will be a strong focus on the environment at the Congress in Manchester. A Motion, Fringe Meeting and Stall will ensure that delegates get an opportunity to find out what the union is doing and why it has become a priority issue for us. For further information about the fringe meeting go to: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4287>

Our next newsletter will contain a report of the 2010 congress

Teaching and Learning Conference, May 8th and UCU Young Members Conference, May 15th

May has been a busy month for UCU conferences. Our environment strategy was also discussed at these 2 well attended events. The workshops identified a number of opportunities for promoting the sustainable development agenda. See notes from the workshops here: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3397>

UCU Environment Conference, November 18th, 2010

Book this date in your diary now. Since our first green conference last year a lot has happened inside the FHE sector and beyond. We need to pool together the experience of our green activists and set out a strategy for mainstreaming the environment into the work of our branches. The event will be at UCU Head Office in London – further details to follow.

2. Climate Solidarity

We are nearly halfway through our Defra funded project to set up Climate Action Groups in the workplace. These groups are now starting to have an impact. If you haven't done so already try and identify someone in the branch to take this on. You may already have a staff forum under a different name. The name of the group isn't important it is whether it provides an opportunity for staff to engage effectively on sustainable development. There are plenty of resources to help you on the Climate Solidarity web site: www.climatesolidarity.org.uk

If you haven't registered on the site please do so next time you visit. See also the UCU Guidance 'Step by step guide to setting up a CAG' as well as reports from South Thames College Climate Action Groups here: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4286>

3. Green Training

Setting up a Climate Action Group

The next training dates to help set up a CAG are:

Cambridge, Friday 11th June
Worcester, Tuesday 15th June (in association with Natural England)
London, Thursday 17th June (in association with Natural England)
Telford, Tuesday 22nd June (in association with Natural England)
Leeds, Thursday 24th June
Liverpool, Friday 25th June
Newcastle, Friday 9th July
Southampton, Wednesday 14th July
Southend, Friday 3rd September
Oxford, Friday 17th September

In the autumn term we will be running UCU CAG training in each region

UCU Green Rep training

The next 2 day course will be held in London on Sept. 15th and November 17th at UCU Head Office. Contact: ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk

TUC Training

Cutting carbon at work workshops SW region:

- Bournemouth, Tues 22nd June, 9.45 – 13.45, Unite, Holdenhurst Road
- Trowbridge, Wed 7th July, 9.45 – 13.45, The Civic, St Stephen's Place

<http://www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/?p=826>

4. Jobs and low carbon skills

If anything illustrates the madness of the current economic system it is the current gap between the skills and knowledge of the workforce and the jobs needed in a low carbon economy. The fact that this has been neglected for so long is nothing short of scandalous. Many of the new flagship energy projects being financed are contracted out to overseas firms because the manufacturing base and skills do not exist in the UK.

For example, in UCU we are faced with the prospect of Construction Departments in FE closing down at a time when energy saving and renewable energy skills are most needed.

A consultation document on 'Meeting the low carbon skills challenge' has been produced. UCU will be sending a submission setting out our position.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/l/10-849-low-carbon-skills-consultation.pdf> (Respond by June 23rd, 2010)

5. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

We need to close the gap between low carbon skills and the current education offer. Our sector has a particular responsibility here. At a time of job cuts there is huge potential for job creation in the FHE sector. In order to take advantage of this, branches should check progress in their institution on adapting existing courses and piloting new ones. To help with this UCU has produced a guidance leaflet:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3397>

We have also set up a UCU ESD Working Group. Check the website for resources and the new Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=121143634572765>) for further information.

6. London Universities Environmental Group

This group of sustainability and environmental managers meets on a bi-monthly basis and produces some very useful guidance. In a new development the group has decided to provide a 'buddy scheme' for FE colleges in the London region. To find out more go to:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment/OurInitiatives/CommunityInvolvement/LUEG.htm>

7. FE Sustainable Development Framework consultation

UCU has been invited to sit on the panel launching the consultation on the new framework for sustainable development in the learning and skills sector. We will keep you updated with progress on this. We would welcome any views from FE branches on key points to include in the new framework.

8. 10:10 Campaign

It's never too late to join the campaign. Even the new government decided to sign up all government departments. If your institution hasn't done so yet then put this on the agenda for your next meeting: <http://www.1010global.org/uk>

9. Sheffield College erects turbines on new tower block

The first "major" building mounted turbines in Sheffield have been erected at Sheffield City College, reports New Energy Focus. The City College claims the three 6 kW turbines are the first to be mounted on a building in Sheffield.

The turbines are 15 metres high with three metre blades and were installed on Sheffield City College's new tower building by building contractor JF Finnegan. It's all part of the college's attempts to increase its sustainability.

The college already has 260m² of solar photovoltaic cells which are on the south facade of the new tower. All the energy generated by the turbines and the solar panels will be used in the tower block.

Full story <http://www.utility-exchange.co.uk/2010/05/sheffield-college-erects-turbines-on-new-tower-block/>

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