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1. **UCU Congress 2010**

Delegates at the UCU annual Congress in Manchester called on the new coalition government to close the environmental skills gap in the UK or risk shattering any chance of a low carbon economy. Read the full story here: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4675>

UCU Congress 'Green Skills' Fringe meeting

On June 1st UCU Congress a packed room of delegates heard speakers explain why sustainable development must be moved to the top of the union agenda. Iain Patten, Director of the Environment Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Barbara Byrd, Apollo Alliance, USA, and Jonathan Neale, Campaign against Climate Change, stressed the urgency of local, national and international action to deliver a global low carbon economy.

2. **Low Carbon Skills**

In our last issue we referred to the Government's Low Carbon Skills consultation that concluded on June 23rd. UCU made a submission which highlighted the key role that the FHE sector can play. The UCU document can be accessed at:

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/docs/2/d/Consultation_response_Skills.doc

The government's announcement that further and higher education will face cuts in public support of up to 25% over the next three years means even more difficult times ahead. UCU research estimates that 38,000 jobs will be lost in our workplaces as a result.

Low carbon skills and training look set to be one of the few potential growth areas. That means it's even more important that we don't see the fight to save jobs as separate from the

environment agenda. Branches need to put this at the centre of their plans for resisting job cuts.

3. Carbon Reduction Alliances

UCU has endorsed an initiative by Friends of the Earth to get local authorities to adopt low carbon budgets. Our view is that it provides an opportunity for unions to link up with councils, businesses, and community organisations to push for green jobs and skills. It could emulate some of the initiatives being developed by the Apollo Alliance in some states in the USA.

<http://apolloalliance.org/rebuild-america/clean-energy-portland/>

4. Green League Table

The People & Planet Green League 2010 was published on 10 June in the Times Higher Education journal. The award-winning Green League is the only league table showing the environmental performance of Britain's universities.

More universities than ever participated in People & Planet's Green League 2010, with even more keen to take part next year. 137 were eligible for inclusion in the Green League 2010. Of these, 133 universities provided People & Planet and HEFCE with enough information to be entered into the Green League 2010.

This year People & Planet strengthened its methodology and process to make the Green League 2010 the most rigorous yet. After extensive consultation with environment managers and experts in the sector we added new criteria to measure carbon reductions, sustainable procurement initiatives and the levels and impact of student/staff engagement. UCU had pressed for the inclusion of an 'engagement' criterion. This seemed to be the best performing area. However, there needs to be a tightening up of the methodology for this criterion in 2011. <http://peopleandplanet.org/greenleague>

5. Climate Solidarity

The push by UCU to set up Climate Action Groups and Green Reps continues to gather momentum. We now have 30 institutions – 17 in FE and 13 in HE – where groups have been formed or are in the process of being set up. Please keep us informed of any plans you have to set up groups in 2010-11. Don't forget to check the resources on this at the UCU and Climate Solidarity websites www.climatesolidarity.org.uk

6. HEFCE Revolving Green Fund

A new report has been published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The Revolving Green Fund is actively supporting projects in the higher education sector that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A recent evaluation of the fund shows current projects are saving over 2 per cent of carbon emissions each year, and if projects continue at current levels and frequency the fund could lead to 8.6 per cent carbon emissions savings at universities each year by 2020.

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2010/rgf.htm>

7. Sustainable Development Alliance for Learning and Skills

UCU attended a meeting in July called by the Sustainable Development Alliance for Learning and Skills. This body will be co-ordinating the consultation which will take place in the autumn on promoting sustainable development in the FE and community learning sector. If you would like to feed in your views to this please contact Graham Petersen at UCU gpetersen@ucu.org.uk

8. Education for Sustainable Development

UCU branches are urged to approach their institution to find out the current state of play on ESD. A sample Curriculum Audit has been produced and is available with other ESD guidance on this from the UCU site <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3397>

Continuous Professional Development days were used in some institutions to promote this. Sample Power points and activities are available if branches are interested in doing something similar next term.

The environmental management of the estate can also be used as a curriculum resource. Oxford University has adopted some interesting green initiatives. These can be found at: <http://www.1010global.org/uk/2010/06/oxford-university-greening-spires>

9. TUC Resources and Events

The TUC has produced new guidance:

Greener Deals: Negotiating on Environmental Issues at Work
<http://www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-18200-f0.cfm>

TUC Climate Change Conference: Monday, October 11th, 2010

'Alliances for a green economy'

Check the TUC website for further information www.tuc.org.uk

10. UCU Environment Conference

Don't forget to put **Thursday, November 18th** in your diary for the 2nd annual UCU conference for all green activists. Further details to follow.

Have a good summer. There are going to be some tough times ahead but this is an issue where we can make real progress if we put in the time.

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