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2010 – 11 is the year that we want to ensure that there is at least 1 Green Rep in every branch. We have made a lot of progress in the last 12 months but now we really need to push on if we are going to make sure our voice is heard. Much of the credit for the progress we have made is down to Janet Woodhead, the UCU Equality Administrator at HQ. Unfortunately Janet is leaving this month and we would like to thank her and wish her all the best.

1. UCU Environment Conference, Nov 18th 2010

The theme of this year's conference is '*Making our voice heard*'. Sustainable development needs to be put at the heart of the UCU organising agenda. Job creation and building the branch are central to the work we need to do in the campus, the curriculum and the community. Sign up for this year's conference and help us to map out our strategy on all these issues. It will be taking place just before the climate talks in Cancun where we need to send out a clear message that we cannot afford another repeat of the shambles at Copenhagen.

Last year the UCU conference was a big success. This year we have another great platform of speakers. Make sure your branch sends at least 1 person to this year's event. For details of the programme and how to register go to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/envcon>

2. Education for Sustainable Development

In the last year UCU has worked hard to support our members who are trying to ensure that their institution addresses this. We have:

- Set up a working group at Head office to provide policy direction

- Issued a range of guidance <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3397>
- Attended a number of related conferences and events
- Become forum members for the UNESCO ESD UK body
- Partner in an EAUC / Staffordshire University project to develop an interactive web-based HE repository of sustainability technical guidance and case studies.

3. Green Alliances

A coalition of organisations has been campaigning for a couple of years for the introduction of payments for households, communities and organisations that generate renewable electricity ('feed in tariffs') and a renewable heat incentive.

Although feed-in tariffs were introduced in April this year the future for the renewable heat tariff, which was to have come in next April, is now under threat from government spending cuts.

Heat generation accounts for nearly half of the UK's carbon emissions - mostly from heating rooms and hot water in homes and workplaces. Using renewable heat, such as solar panels to heat water, is essential to tackling climate change. It will also create jobs, help the UK meet renewable energy targets and improve our energy security as well as putting the power to generate into our hands rather than being the preserve of the energy companies.

Please support the 'Half the Problem' campaign on renewable heat launched this autumn by the tariff coalition. Contact your MP and ask them to sign EDM 712: Renewable Heat <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41672>

4. Green Skills

Unionlearn has created a webpage on its website called "Green Skills". This has been created to raise the profile of unionlearn activity relating to green skills (including TUC Education). <http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-3502-f0.cfm>

5. TUC Conference

The TUC Conference this month passed a motion supporting the call for 1 million climate jobs. This follows the Campaign by UCU and other unions working through the Campaign against Climate Change. Motion on Climate Change:

<http://www.congressvoices.org/2010/c7-climate-change/>

For a report of the conference debate read:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/index.php/news/content/view/full/95325>

'Alliances for a Green Economy' Conference: Monday, Oct. 11th

UCU members are urged to attend this TUC conference. Barry Lovejoy, UCU National Officer for FE will be speaking at the Green Skills workshop.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/greenrecovery>

6. Trade Unions and Climate Change Conference Report

This ITUC report summarises the presentations made by researchers on the transition from offshore oil to offshore wind, industrial policies and green jobs. Local strategies for green development and regional approaches are included in the report. The launch of the report is the first in a series entitled "Conference News" which the ITUC is releasing as part of its work on climate change and the green economy.

http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/Conference_News_1.pdf

7. Climate Action Groups

We have 32 universities and colleges who have started or are in the process of setting up Action Groups. In the next few months we want to review the experiences of these groups and feed the results into the annual conference on November 18th. If you have set up any groups then don't forget to let us know so that we can include you in the evaluation.

8. Green Rep Training

Apply now to attend the next UCU 2 day course in Leeds. Day 1 of the course is on Wednesday, May 4th, 2011 and Day 2 is held on Wednesday, June 8th, 2011. For further information and an application form, go to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4855>

9. News from the HE Sector

Eleven HEFCE-funded projects are supporting sustainable development in higher education. To read this item in full visit: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2010/lgmsd.htm>

10. News from the FE Sector

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) have convened a Sustainable Development Alliance for Learning and Skills. UCU is a member of the alliance and it is tasked with producing a Framework policy for the Learning and Skills sector. For the latest developments go to:

<http://www.lsis.org.uk/WorkingWithLSIS/Opportunities/Tenders/TenderDocuments/SDFramework/LLSF%20strategy.pdf>

Northbrook College, Sussex: Congratulations to one of the UCU's Green Reps – Richard Walker – for putting together a conference entitled 'College, Community and Environment' to be held on the 15th October, 2010. For further information see the blog

<http://colcomeco.blogspot.com/>

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