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1. Greener Jobs Alliance

In March UCU launched the Greener Jobs Alliance with our partners Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Institute of Public Policy Research and the Trades Union Congress. This is an exciting initiative focused on low carbon skills training and job creation. The Alliance will work to build the broadest possible support for the policies needed to drive the transition to a low carbon economy. For further information go to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5269>

2. Green Skills Workshop

The Alliance has already sprung into action. At national policy level we have organised a Green Skills Conference in conjunction with the Association of Colleges, City & Guilds, Learning Skills and Improvement Service and People and Planet. It will focus on the practical steps needed in the FHE sector to fast-track 'greening the curriculum' opportunities. The workshop will take place at UCU Head Office on June 6th, 2011. For further details and how to apply contact Graham Petersen at:

gpetersen@ucu.org.uk

3. Climate week

Merton Low Carbon Event - At local level the Alliance worked in partnership with Sustainable Merton to run an event in the Merton Council Civic Suite on March 22nd. It was a big success with over 80 people discussing the way forward in this part of SW London.

UCU supported the government sponsored Climate Week in the week commencing March 21st. However we are concerned at the participation of one of the leading sponsors - the Royal Bank of Scotland. We boycotted the official launch in protest at the RBS involvement in tar sands exploration.

For more information about our campaign to clean up RBS please visit:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/ddd>

4. 1 Million Climate Jobs March and Petition

Job protection is a UCU priority but it has to be part of a vision for an alternative. We are working with the Campaign Against Climate Change to increase the pressure on the Government to help solve the economic and environmental crises through the urgent creation of One Million Climate Jobs.

There will be a Fringe meeting at UCU Congress on May 28th at 1pm to promote the campaign.

Please sign the petition and encourage your friends, colleagues, fellow trade unionists and other campaigners to add their name.

You can sign the petition here:

<http://www.climate-change-jobs.org/petition>

5. TUC Green Workplaces Network

A reminder to sign up for the TUC network. Visit the website for a lot of useful resources:

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/index.cfm?mins=390&minors=87&majorsubjectID=2>

6. EAUC Conference

Is anyone from your institution going to the EAUC annual conference in York from April 11th-13th? The conference is always a useful source of information and further information can be found at:

<http://www.eauc.org.uk/home>

7. Energy management in FE

The Carbon Trust has launched an Energy management programme for FE colleges. If you are in the FE sector find out if your college has signed up to participate. It is a free 10 month programme starting in May but designated personnel will have to attend one of 3 workshops running in April.

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/Publications/pages/publicationdetail.aspx?id=PFL474>

8. Student links

NUS Degrees Cooler project has launched a 5 minute video. It could be used as a curriculum resource during Green events or as part of a discussion with student reps about joint campaigns. The Green

Impact programme is now being rolled out to other universities and colleges so it could be a way of initiating a discussion within your institution re signing up for it. View it here:

<http://vimeo.com/15981560>

Student Force for Sustainability can provide graduates to provide some capacity to deliver sustainability programmes. UCU has had some discussions with them regarding FHE clusters to support a sustainability officer as a way of potentially reducing costs. If you think your institution may be interested in this please let me know.

Student attitudes to Green Skills – A major new research report, which has been published by the Higher Education Academy (HEA), has shown that first-year students believe their university should be responsible for actively incorporating and promoting sustainable development to prepare their students for graduate employment

http://www.eauc.org.uk/student_demand_for_skills_in_sustainability_he

9. FHE sector conference on carbon reduction culture

Wednesday 27th April, The Brewery, London

Gov. Today has organised a conference to provide detailed information on Government policy, guidance updates, best practice case studies and available technologies

Find out more at:

<http://www.greeninghe.co.uk/>

10. Greenwich Community College Green Week Case Study

Thanks to our reps, Linda and Polly, for sending in this report of Green Week.

We had various activities going on all week:

- a "wind-powered"(blowing) table-football competition in the Students Union, with a solar-powered torch as a prize for the overall winner
- small groups of fashion students worked to design Wedding Dresses for Kate Middleton out of recycled material, the best entry won Fairtrade and organic chocolate and re-usable jute bags
- a "take away mini-garden" event in the quad one lunch-time, where our ESOL garden team were giving away cups full of compost which everyone could choose some fast-growing seeds to add to and take away to grow a complete salad on their kitchen window-sill
- various surveys of the college sites by ESOL students, which reported on how green the college is. These have been sent to the Head of Premises and will be discussed at the next Sustainability meeting.
- displays of "green information" in the canteen, with leaflets on Fairtrade, re-advertising of the "10p off hot drinks if you bring your own cup" offer

- green-themed skills development lessons in the ESOL department with shared graded materials on the 15-minute on-line film:

www.momentaufnahme.at

- films advertised and shown across college to all students and staff: The Age of Stupid, The Story of Stuff and The Story of Bottled Water (latter 2 at www.storyofstuff.org) and trailers e-mailed to all teaching staff to motivate their students to come
- a competition for the best suggestion to make GCC greener - put in decorated "Love your Planet" boxes around college - with a Nintendo DS for the best suggestion

Linda Ruas and Polly Ansell, UCU Green Reps, Greenwich Community College

11. UCU Green Rep training

The next round of 2 day courses will take place as follows:

Leeds – May 4th / June 8th, 2011

Devon (venue TBC) – June 2nd-3rd, 2011

Further details from Abbie Jenkinson, UCU training Officer: ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk

Get in touch

Don't forget to tell us what is happening in your branch / institution. Our target is for every branch to have at least 1 UCU Green Rep. Make sure you notify me who this person is so that we can add them to our contact list. Also we want more case studies of branch action to put in this newsletter.

Contact me at:

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