

## Contents

1. **UCU Congress**
2. **Greener Jobs Alliance**
3. **UCU Green Skills Workshop**
4. **FHE Sector Events**
5. **Government Policy**
6. **TUC Climate Change Conference**
7. **UCU Green Reps Courses**
8. **People and Planet Green League Table**
9. **Resources**
10. **Get in Touch**

### 1. **UCU Congress**

The 2011 UCU Congress in Harrogate runs from 28 – 30 May. It provides an opportunity to showcase some of the things we have been trying to achieve in the last year.

- The Environment stall **in hall C** will be an opportunity to liaise with delegates on progress being made towards our target of a Green Rep in every branch.
- The Environment motions deal with Climate Jobs and Nuclear Energy.
- The fringe meeting is entitled 'Cut Carbon not Jobs'. It will be chaired by Laura Miles (NEC) and speakers are from the UCU and NUS. Saturday 28 May from 1pm -2pm in Queen's Room 5.

### 2. **Greener Jobs Alliance**

A major UCU initiative this year has been the setting up of the Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA): <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5269>.

The Alliance aims to influence Government and FHE sector green skills policy. Our national partners are Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Institute of Public Policy and Research (IPPR), and the Trades Union Congress. It also organises at regional and local level with other community partners to generate a 'bottom up' demand and supply of green jobs.

- In the last 2 months events have been held in the London Boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth which have attracted over 150 people.
- The GJA is now in discussions with other organisations around the formation of a London Greener Jobs Hub co-ordinated by Capacity Global.
- Work has been carried out between the TUC and the Otesha Project to support an East London Green Jobs Alliance.
- The GJA was part of a Green Jobs delegation to San Francisco in March organised by the IPPR. It was an opportunity to look first hand at some of the projects launched in

California. There has been a lot more activity on trades unions linking up with campaign and community groups around developing a green training / job pipeline. A full report of this trip will be made available for anyone interested.

- This month a meeting was held with Michael Eavis of Glastonbury Festivals. Michael has given his support to the GJA and we will be banging out our message at the Glastonbury Leftfield on Saturday 25 June. UCU will be sending Server Teams to most of the big music festivals in 2011 to raise more money for the GJA. This will help us to increase our capacity and our ability to roll out the GJA strategy in other parts of the country. If you are interested in organising a GJA event in your institution or local area please get in touch.

### **3. UCU Green Skills Workshop**

Another example of the GJA/UCU working with partners around a common agenda is the workshop being held at UCU Head Office on 6 June:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5494>

It is being jointly promoted with the Association of Colleges, City & Guilds, Environment Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Learning Skills and Improvement Service, and People and Planet. It is filling up rapidly but there are still a few places left. The main thrust is to look at the actions organisations need to prioritise to kick start low carbon skills. This is a subject that has had endless consultations and policy papers but has still not taken off in the way needed to achieve climate change targets.

### **4. FHE Sector Events**

- EAUC Annual Conference – another excellent event held in April at the University of York. UCU spoke at the session on ‘Behaviour Change in Practice’. We shared our experience of staff / student engagement and emphasised the importance of lecturing staff linking up with student activists to push the green agenda. See: <http://www.eauc.org.uk/home>.
- City and Guilds Advisory Committee on Green Skills – UCU were invited to the first meeting held on 17 May. The committee will monitor progress on the development of new qualifications. One thing emerging clearly from the meeting was the current low level of demand from employers for training. Until this is addressed FE colleges are unlikely to move fast enough on greening their curricula.

### **5. Government Policy**

It’s been an uncertain period with cracks emerging in the coalition and more reasons to question the ‘greenest government ever’ claims. The announcement of the targets of a 50% cut by 2027 in the 4<sup>th</sup> carbon budget do give some cause for optimism. The threat by Greenpeace to drive a team of huskies to David Cameron’s front door were part of an impressive campaign conducted by environmental groups. The policy picture is still far from perfect but at least this represents some progress.

Having the resources to deliver the targets now becomes the crucial issue.

Friends of the Earth’s ‘Local Action on Climate Change – an Analysis of Government Policies’ warns that the combination of the cuts agenda and the lack of requirements to act on climate

change mean that it is all but inevitable that local spending on the environment and climate change will drop in the years ahead. Read the document here:

[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/local\\_action\\_travers.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/local_action_travers.pdf)

Vestas have also warned that thousands of new jobs will be put at risk without long-term strategic actions to support the renewable industry.

Trades unions must now move this up the priority list and make the connection between fighting job cuts and the opportunities presented by a green economy. See:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/may/11/vestas-jobs-energy-policy/print>

## **6. TUC Climate Change Conference**

What makes a good green government? Many of these issues will be discussed at this TUC event on Wednesday 6 July 2011, 09.45 to 16.00, Congress House, Great Russell St, London WC1B 3LS

To register go to: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/social/tuc-19596-f0.cfm>

## **7. UCU Green Reps Courses**

The next UCU 2-day Green Rep course is on 2 and 23 June. It is being held at the innovative Genesis Centre at Somerset College. Places are still available. Contact Abbie Jenkinson for further information: [ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk](mailto:ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk).

## **8. People and Planet Green League Table**

The Green League Table for the HE sector is out on 7 June in The Guardian. UCU urges our members to check it out and use it as a basis for discussion within your institution. This is a key driver for sustainable development and branches are invited to financially support P&P's work in order that the message gets spread far and wide. Go to:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/greenleague/donate>

We are in discussions with P&P over a League Table for the FE sector – watch this space.

## **9. Resources**

The EAUC has produced some very useful guides on renewable energy and ICT procurement which can be found below. Arrange access to the full range of guidance by making sure your institution is affiliated.

[http://www.eauc.org.uk/guide\\_to\\_renewable\\_energy\\_in\\_higher\\_education\\_i](http://www.eauc.org.uk/guide_to_renewable_energy_in_higher_education_i)

[http://www.eauc.org.uk/insight\\_guide\\_sustainable\\_ict\\_procurement](http://www.eauc.org.uk/insight_guide_sustainable_ict_procurement)

## **10. Get in Touch**

If you are a UCU member looking for advice on sustainable development or anyone with ideas for greening the FHE sector please let us know. Contact: Graham Petersen, UCU

Environmental Co-ordinator: [gpetersen@ucu.org.uk](mailto:gpetersen@ucu.org.uk).