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➤ *Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2011-12 academic year. Last year was a very busy time for UCU's work on sustainable development. We hope that with your support we can make this another exciting year in putting this at the forefront of our organising and campaign work.*

1. **UCU Environment Policy 2011-12: Report from Congress May, 2011**

Two environment motions were debated and passed this year. Details of both motions can be found at <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5536>

Motion 27 entitled '1 million climate jobs' commits UCU to undertake work in 5 areas. It reads:

At a time when large numbers of lecturing jobs needed to deliver sustainability training are at risk, UCU must organise at institution, community, and national level to:

- appoint Green Reps in every branch
- introduce course offers that promote low carbon skills
- develop local alliances to increase the supply and demand for energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy
- liaise with FHE sector bodies to implement a coherent qualification framework
- support the 1 million climate jobs petition and march.

This newsletter will keep you informed of progress. Our ability to influence developments will be highly dependent on our success in delivering the first action point on appointing Green Reps. We currently have around 100 reps in the FHE sector. Our aim is to try and appoint at least one in every branch and association before Congress 2012. This is an ambitious target at a time when existing officers are stretched to the limit on other terms and conditions issues, but if we maintain the progress of the last 12 months it can be done. We will be producing UCU Guidance this term on the 'Appointment of Environment Reps'. We are consulting our reps to get examples of good and bad practice to use as case studies.

Motion 28 on 'Nuclear Power' reaffirms our opposition to nuclear power and in favour of renewable technologies. UCU is supporting the anti-nuclear protest at Hinkley on October 3rd. Find out more information from the Stop new nuclear site.

<http://www.stopnewnuclear.org.uk/>

2. UCU Environment Rep Training

We want to make sure that new reps are provided with the skills and knowledge needed. Last year we trained 40 Environment Reps. Two day courses will be held in:

- London – Oct.5th and Nov. 9th, 2011
- Leeds – Jan. 12th and Feb. 16th, 2012

Find out more and register at:

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/h/k/Environment_reps_courses_all_regions_2011-12.pdf

3. Low Carbon Skills

As the main post-16 trade union the Government's skills policy will have a big impact on our members. The publication of the 'Enabling the transition to a green economy' report published in August fails to provide the coherent strategy needed for the FHE sector to close the green skills gap. We are still waiting for the final draft of the green skills document which is designed to supplement the green economy document.

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1096705244&type=ONEOFFPAGE&furlname=greeneconomy&furlparam=greeneconomy&ref=&domain=www.businesslink.gov.uk>

UCU convened a meeting of the Greener Jobs Alliance in September to discuss a response. It was agreed that we should launch a Green Skills Manifesto in the Autumn to address the shortcomings of government policy. We will be circulating a draft in October for comment and launching the manifesto in November.

4. Low Carbon Scotland

UCU – A meeting has been arranged at Glasgow Caledonian University for UCU environmental activists on Nov. 2nd. We will be planning a strategy for the HE sector north of the border. For more information and to register contact Ann Cowan acowan@ucu.org.uk

EAUC – The Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland are holding a conference in Perth on Nov. 1st. The event is free and UCU members are encouraged to attend. To register go to:

http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=1738

Green investment boost in Scotland – More than 80 new jobs have been promised at the Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change following a £1.6m injection from the Scottish government. Plans are in place to build a new home for the centre at Edinburgh University. Research into climate change and the development of low-carbon products and services will be carried out at the new base, due to open in 2013.

The Scottish government believes the low carbon market is valued at £8.49bn with a total of 4,098 companies in the sector, employing 73,000 people. Government forecasts predict it will grow to about £12bn by 2016, with low carbon employment in Scotland predicted to increase to about 130,000 jobs by 2020.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-13822776>

Scottish TUC Climate Change Conference

STUC are organising an event in Edinburgh on Tuesday, October 4th.

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/873/stuc-climate-change-conference>

5. FHE Sector news

Learning Skills and Improvement Service – LSIS has circulated the latest 'Stepping up in Sustainability Fund' to promote projects. The deadline is Oct.3rd so any reps thinking of linking up with their institution should act quickly.

<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=sustainability>

National Union of Students – NUS has expanded the Green Impact project so that it now covers 35 universities and colleges. Even if there is no Green Impact Officer there are plenty of resources available on the Green Impact page.

<http://www.nus.org.uk/en/Campaigns/Greener-Projects/>

People & Planet - P&P can introduce your students to key global issues providing the resources for a fun and engaging learning experience. UCU reps starting to plan for Student Green Week in February should contact Jamie or Liz on 01865 264191
www.peopleandplanet.org/teachers

Environment Association of Universities and Colleges – The EAUC have sent the following circular about their Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) programme:

*LiFE is a comprehensive performance and benchmarking tool developed specifically to help colleges and universities manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance. LiFE will launch on 1 November 2011, and we will be bringing you more information, and opportunities to get involved in the programme. As a special bonus, EAUC members will have an opportunity to engage with LiFE at a discounted rate. Why not join our **mailing list**? If you would like to learn more about how your institution can get involved in LiFE, please visit **www.thelifeindex.org.uk**.*

6. International

UCU is helping to mobilise for the COP17 UN Climate Conference in Durban in Nov/Dec. We successfully moved Resolution 2.5.1 on 'Education unions mobilising on climate change' at the Education International World Congress in July, 2011.

http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/1929

7. Trades Union Congress

TUC GreenWorkplaces network update

Sarah Pearce, the TUC's TUC GreenWorkplaces project leader, has now left the TUC to return to her post at Unison. The TUC is seeking external funding to continue this project and is making a number of grant applications, including the ETUC, for EU funding. In the meantime the TUC will continue to produce a GreenWorkplaces newsletter and the GreenWorkplaces network will be maintained, though in a reduced capacity. The TUC is continuing to look for case studies and news for the newsletter as well as encouraging green reps/activists to register on the site. If you have a case study based on activities in your workplace you would like included on the site please forward it to me. You can see the case studies already on the site **on the GreenWorkplaces pages**. If you have already registered on the TUC GreenWorkplaces site you will find that it does not have a login which makes it difficult to get back into it again. You can access the site direct **on the TUC website** .

TUC What makes a good green government? Conference

The TUC has published a report summarising the key issues raised in speeches and debates at their annual climate change conference held in July 2011. You can access it [on the TUC website](#).

8. Resources

Climate Emergency pamphlet - The Campaign against Climate Change has produced a new pamphlet on climate change, 'Climate Emergency', which can be downloaded [from the CaCC website](#).

9. Get in touch

Get in touch

**If you are a UCU member looking for advice on sustainable development or have ideas for greening the FHE sector please let us know. Contact: Graham Petersen, UCU Environment Co-ordinator:
gpetersen@ucu.org.uk**