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1. **UCU National developments**

Green Skills Manifesto 2012

The UCU has published a document on behalf of the Greener Jobs Alliance. This is intended as a campaigning tool to draw attention to the sustainable skills deficit in the UK. We are calling upon organisations inside and outside the FHE sector to endorse it. In particular we are seeking FHE institutions to support it. The manifesto can be downloaded by following the link below.

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/p/i/Green_skills_manifesto.pdf

Please circulate this link and contact gpetersen@ucu.org.uk with any comments and / or endorsements. The manifesto will be officially launched at a SW TUC Green Skills event on Feb. 29th.

We will be asking our colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to consider how the manifesto should be adapted to reflect devolved policies and initiatives.

FE and Adult Learning sector

UCU is represented on the core group of the Sustainable Development Alliance for Learning and Skills. SDALS can play a useful role in trying to improve performance standards in the sector. It is crucial that in a period of cuts that work on sustainability is expanded not reduced.

Higher Education sector – UCU is represented on the Higher Education Academy policy think tank. We will be adding our voice to the call for HE to recognise the key role it should be playing in moving the UK in the direction of a low carbon economy.

2. UCU International developments

Durban Report

Graham Petersen represented the UCU on the international trade union delegation to the CoP17 meeting in Durban, South Africa in December, 2011. Overall the results from the formal sessions were largely disappointing. Progress was made in some areas but the lasting impression was one of yet another missed opportunity to combat climate change.

The UCU supported the World of Work Pavilion co-ordinated by the International Trade Union Confederation which brought together trades unionists from around the globe and other civil society organisations. These events run outside the Conference Centre highlighted the importance of the trade union movement linking the fight for jobs with concerted action now on climate change. For the full report go to the link below:

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/j/o/Durban_Report.pdf

3. UCU Regional developments

Both sectors advocate community engagement but the practice is distinctly patchy. UCU feels there is an important role in linking up the sector more effectively with local authorities, employers, community groups and other trades unions. There are some good examples out there but they need to be mainstreamed. In the absence of a clear lead from national government developing initiatives at regional and local level will become increasingly important. The Greener Jobs Alliance is developing local case studies to promote engagement. Work is underway in the East Midlands. We are also working with 3 projects in East London, South London and SW London that have received funding from the Learning Skills and Improvement Service. Both projects will report in March and will be covered in the next edition of this newsletter.

4. UCU Environment Reps training

There are still places left on the 2 day course running in Leeds in February and March, 2011.

Day 1 on Thursday, Feb. 16th, 2012 followed by Day 2 on Monday, March 12th, 2012. Please contact Abbie Jenkinson to book a place: ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk

The next 2 day block course will be held at UCU Head Office in London on November 6th – 7th, 2012.

If you haven't done this training or know of UCU members who might be interested please contact Abbie. Travel and accommodation are covered and the courses provide a great opportunity to develop your environmental role.

5. LRD/TUC Environment Reps Survey

A reminder about the Labour Research Department/ TUC survey. If you haven't already completed it please do so at <http://www.lrd.org.uk/surveys/greenwork>

This will provide very useful information about the current state of play in workplaces. The deadline for reply is Feb. 15th so please act now – it only takes approx. 10 minutes. At the last count over 10% of responses were from UCU members so please keep them coming in.

6. TUC SW Region Event

This takes place on Wednesday, February 29th from 10.30-3.30pm in the Abermarle Centre, Taunton. The UCU will be launching the Green Skills Manifesto (ref above). To register for the event please follow the link below:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3143®ional=8>

7. FIT campaign

This takes place on Wednesday, February 29th from 10.30-3.30pm in the Abermarle Centre, Taunton. The UCU will be launching the Green Skills Manifesto (ref above). To register for the event please follow the link below:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3143®ional=8>

8. Green Deal

The Government's Green Deal programme for Energy Efficiency starts in October, 2012. For this to work it will require a large programme of up-skilling and potential career paths for students and the unemployed. It is clear that the FHE sector is not currently equipped to meet the potential demand. Unless action is taken soon there is a real risk of a skills vacuum or private training providers delivering the work. Colleges are not helped in this by the lack of a strategic plan for skills and the uncertainty about demand and the early availability of the qualifications to underpin the national occupational standards. There are serious concerns about the ability of the Green Deal to deliver in its current format. The Green Alliance has produced a very good outline of some of these issues.

http://www.greenalliance.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Publications/reports/Briefing_green%20deal_FINAL.pdf

9. EAUC Conference

The next Annual Conference takes place at the University of York on March 27th-29th, 2012. A really useful event for networking and updates. For further information check the EAUC website:

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

10. People & Planet Go Green Week

People & Planet's national Go Green Week runs from 6 - 11 February aimed at key stage 4 and 5 students.

Download the Action Guide and other resources here:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/education/students/climatechange/go-green-week-resources>

11. NUS Green Impact

Green Impact is an environmental accreditation and awards scheme, bringing staff and students together with their wider communities to enable and showcase positive changes in environmental practice. UCU encourages all our members to work closely with this project. Effective alliances with the student body will be crucial for driving sustainability programmes within institutions.

<http://www.green-impact.org.uk/>

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**