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1. Green Skills Manifesto

The Manifesto was launched in February 2012 and is stimulating the debate about how to achieve a low carbon economy. We see it as an important link between our key role of defending jobs and promoting education for sustainable development.

There have recently been a couple of excellent examples of UCU branches putting this into practice.

At London Met University the UCU Branch has linked the fight against job cuts with the Manifesto. For an excellent campaigning model check their online petition:

http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/ucu-defend-green-courses-at-london-met/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=system&utm_campaign=Send%2Bto%2BFriend

At the University of Central Lancashire the branch raised the Green Skills Manifesto on the consultation committee, and received a response from management endorsing the Manifesto in principle. The Branch reports 'Although the manifesto covers a number of policy areas, we emphasised how, from an HE perspective, STEM courses which currently embed sustainability issues in their curriculum would benefit from incentives for students to study such courses

(p.2 of the GSM). We also proposed that these incentives might encourage other curriculum areas to take an active interest in embedding sustainability into their programmes.'

All UCU branches are urged to discuss the manifesto and explore opportunities for raising it in their institutions.

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3386>

2. Community Engagement

The Greener Jobs Alliance fronted up a project illustrating how FHE institutions can link with community organisations to promote education for sustainable development. As part of the project a 7 minute video has been put on Youtube. It has had great reviews and can be used as a resource for training and meetings.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNRx6tNFG8U>

3. Ofsted Guidance

Ofsted has issued new guidance on 'Sustainable Development in Learning and skills Inspections. It can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sustainable-development-learning-and-skills-inspections>

UCU will be giving a formal response to the guidance. It is based on the Common Inspection Framework and suffers from the weaknesses associated with that. To put it bluntly under the existing arrangements FE Colleges could get a Grade 1 Outstanding even if they did nothing on sustainable development. Not exactly a driver to mainstream the issue within the sector.

4. Bottled Water Campaign

London Met UCU is aiming to follow the example of Leeds University by getting the sale of bottled water banned on campus. For further details go to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3397>

5. Climate Jobs Caravan

UCU is supporting the Climate Jobs Caravan that is on tour next month. Check the website to find out whether the Northern or Southern loop is coming to a town or city near you.

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

UCU branches are urged to support local events being organised on the caravan route.

The UK Youth Climate Coalition is also running events linking the climate crisis with the economic crisis. Further information at:

http://yfgj.ukycc.org/blog/?page_id=22

6. Rio+20 - UN Conference on Sustainable Development

The summit that is taking place in Brazil in June 2012 will be an opportunity to raise the profile of sustainable development. Whether it will be in a positive way remains to be seen after the debacle of previous UN climate talks. If you want to attend a London based event then go to:

Rio - Alternative Conference for the Rio Summit on Saturday and Sunday, 16th-17th June 2012 at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

<http://www.campaigncc.org/altsummit>

7. Greening the FHE sectors event – May 30th

Conference and Exhibition: Promoting Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability, to be held on Wednesday 30th May 2012. UCU has a limited number of fully funded (no cost) places for UCU members.

Greening the FE & HE Sectors: Promoting Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability will examine the direction in which Further and Higher Education Institutions must proceed in order to provide state of the art facilities that not only reduce environmental impacts but deliver the requirements of sustainable economic growth.

For more information www.greeningeducation.co.uk

To book your place please email bookings@govtoday.co.uk quoting ref **UCU6**

8. Resources

In the week that the Environment Agency announced that half of the UK is in drought, it is a good time to look at some ESD resources that address the issues.

Climate Scientist James Hansen speaks out:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=fWIInyaMWBYS

Tony Major a UCU Environment Rep from Mid Kent College has also sent us this link to a useful 4 minute video on Climate Change:

<http://medwaygreenparty.wordpress.com/2012/04/16/connect-the-dots/>

9. UCU Training

Bookings are being taken for the next UCU Environment Reps course running for 2 days at Head Office in London. The dates are 6th-7th November, 2012 – so time to start making your paid release arrangements to attend.

10. Get in Touch

We were pleased to get some feedback on UCU's plans for the Government's Climate Week in March. A number of reps felt that we had sold out by participating in a week fronted up by companies like Tesco. For example comments like 'Can't support something that is an exercise in greenwash by multi-nationals' UCU shares these concerns but felt that it still represented a focus to engage other organisations in local communities on joint activities. We don't think our participation helped to reinforce the ridiculous notion that this is 'the greenest government ever' but we are open to further persuasion on future participation in 2013.

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**