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### **1. UCU Congress 2012**

UCU policy on the environment will be debated at the annual congress in Manchester on June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. We hope it will continue the process of mainstreaming this work into the heart of what we do as a union. The Environment Co-ordinator will be running a stall and will be keen to discuss current campaigns with congress delegates.

### **2. Congress Fringe Meeting on Climate Jobs**

The UCU logo featured prominently on the vans that took the 1 million climate jobs message across the country in May. We issued a press release to coincide with the final rallies.

Congratulations to the Campaign against Climate Change for all their efforts.  
<http://www.campaigncc.org/>

We issued a press release to coincide with the final rallies.  
<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=6104&from=1676>

Details of the fringe event are at the end of this newsletter.

### **3. UCU Scotland**

We are continuing to develop a network of UCU activists in Scotland. As part of this we will be running a workshop on June 1<sup>st</sup> at a 'Liberating the Curriculum' event in Stirling.

<http://events.scotlandcolleges.ac.uk/events/show/4349>

## 4. UCU Environment Reps Training

The 2 day Environment Reps courses scheduled for 2012-13 take place in:  
London – November 6<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Leeds – February 19<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Please contact Karen Brooks to make an application [kbrooks@ucu.org.uk](mailto:kbrooks@ucu.org.uk)

## 5. Greener Jobs Alliance

The GJA is working with UnionLearn to establish Green Skills Partnerships. On Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in a conference on the Built Environment running from 8.30am-11am (breakfast included). It will be held at the Bloomsbury Hotel, Gt Russell St, London WC1B 3LS.

The GJA video 'Community engagement on the Green Deal' will be shown at the event.  
<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5269>

'Skills and apprenticeships for the Built Environment Sector' will explore the potential to create new jobs and up-skill in the built environment sector, for which climate 2020 objectives are a central driver.

The programme will cover future skills for the built environment sector and the place of apprenticeships, industrial partnerships and community initiatives in delivering them.

The seminar will be chaired by UCATT Midlands Regional Secretary Cheryl Pidgeon and explore these themes through the contributions of expert speakers including

Jill Hemmings: Build up Skills (European skills foresight programme for built environment)

Richard Clarke: UNITE (Apprenticeships Officer: Construction)

Stuart Barber: Unionlearn (Co-ordinator of 'Green Skills Partnership for London')

Graham Petersen (Co-ordinator of Green Jobs Alliance)

Richard Beene: National Apprenticeship Service

Pat Bowen (Construction Skills: Green Deal)

You can obtain further information and register for the event on the enclosed link:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-4526-f0.cfm>

## 6. UCU at the TUC

The TUC will be holding a national Green Reps conference on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Keep on going green at work'. We will be presenting a UCU case study in one of the workshops. UCU members can register at the link below.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-20971-f0.cfm>

## 7. Rio+20

UCU Environment Reps are asked to raise the Rio+20 declaration within their institutions. The information below is from the EAUC and we support the call for this commitment to be made. For our reps in FE it will be of interest and hopefully initiate a strategy for something similar in that sector.

[http://www.eauc.org.uk/hei\\_sustainability\\_initiative\\_for\\_rio20\\_declarat](http://www.eauc.org.uk/hei_sustainability_initiative_for_rio20_declarat)

### Calling for HEIs to make a stand and sign the Rio+20 declaration

The leaders of the international academic community are called upon to commit to the development of sustainable practices for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) during the Rio+20 Conference from 22-24 June. HEIs have a responsibility to provide leadership on education for sustainable development. Currently only **two HEIs in the UK** have signed up to the declaration - Anglia Ruskin University and University of Salford.

### Why sign?

The Declaration is different from the Higher Education treaty as it captures commitments of individual institutions and organisations whilst the Treaty will address what you think you should do in the HE sector. There are five key themes the declaration aims to:

- Teach sustainable development concepts
- Encourage research on sustainable development issues
- Green our campuses
- Support sustainability efforts
- Engage with and share results through international frameworks

> [Read more on the declaration](#)

> [Sign up to the declaration](#)

> [View list of HEIs who have signed the declaration](#)

## 8. House of Commons Environmental Audit Report

On May 21<sup>st</sup> an official report was published assessing government performance on the environment. Statements like

“There appears to be little priority in Government attached to moving to a green economy, and it is not clear how all Government departments are taking this agenda forward.”

nail the lie that this is the 'greenest government ever.' A copy of the report can be found at: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/TSO-PDF/committee-reports/cmenvaud.1025.pdf>

## **9. Meetings and conferences**

One in four UK households now live in fuel poverty, meaning they need to spend more than 10% of their income on energy to keep warm. UCU has joined the Energy Bill Revolution Alliance calling on the Government to use carbon tax funds to address this by making homes more energy efficient. For more information go to: <http://www.energybillrevolution.org/>

## **10. Feedback**

AND FINALLY...In the last newsletter we reported on concerns that we had participated in an exercise in 'greenwash' by supporting the Government's Climate Week in March. The organisers of the event have been in touch with us already to find out whether we will participate in 2013. Give us your thoughts and we'll let you know the majority view in our next newsletter. [gpetersen@ucu.org.uk](mailto:gpetersen@ucu.org.uk)



University and College Union

UCU Congress Fringe Meeting

# ***The Climate and Jobs Crisis Making the Connection***

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from 1.00pm – 2.00pm  
Manchester Conference Centre**

## **Speakers**

Suzanne Jeffery – Campaign against Climate Change

Paul Tobin - National Union of Students

Chair – Graham Petersen, UCU Environment Co-ordinator



We will be hearing about how the Climate Jobs Caravan took the message around the country in May. How the NUS is taking up the challenge. How UCU branches are responding by moving environmental action into the mainstream of union activity.

**Come along to this fringe meeting to find out more and give your views.**

