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Welcome to the March, 2013 edition of the newsletter. Once again we bring you our top 10 sustainability items in the tertiary sector and beyond. Please send us your sustainability stories and we'll aim to cover them in future newsletters.

### **1. UCU Congress**

We will be launching our UCU Environment Report at Congress in Brighton on May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. There will be stalls, motions and fringe meetings all aimed at raising our profile. In the lead up to congress we urge all staff to make contact with their students to identify joint activities that can be undertaken next term and in 2013-14. Students and the NUS are key to maximising the institutional change that we want implemented in the sector. Look out for regional events designed to promote these education and community links. Please keep us informed of any joint initiatives you are involved in.

### **2. UCU Environment Training**

The next 2 day workshop for UCU Environment Reps will take place on June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It will be held at UCU Head Office in London. Accommodation and travel expenses are provided. The sessions are a great way to meet other reps who are doing a great job representing the views of staff in this crucial area of employment. Further information and registration from Karen Brooks, UCU Training Officer.

Email: [kbrooks@ucu.org.uk](mailto:kbrooks@ucu.org.uk)

### 3. Sustainability and Employability

*We continue our commitment to prioritise education for sustainable development by hosting the LSIS London Region Workshop on Thursday 28 March 2013 from 10.30am - 3.30pm at UCU HQ, Carlow Street, London, NW1 7LH.*

It will identify the current state of play in embedding education for sustainable development (ESD). It will then identify the key actions needed in each part of the tertiary sector. One outcome will be using the day to do a 2013 update of the Greener Jobs Alliance Green Skills Manifesto. Please download the flyer for more information here:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/environment>

### 4. Wales – Sustainability a core organising principle?

The Welsh Government has brought forward proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill. If the proposals are adopted they would provide a framework that could point the way for other parts of the UK. They would make sustainable development a 'core organising' principle for public sector organisations. UCU has also called for recognition of the role of trade union environment reps as one of the mechanisms for ensuring that the principle is put into practice. The UCU response to the consultation can be found on this link

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/environment>

### 5. TUC debate – Growing the Green Economy

Can UK industry meet the low carbon challenge? A high level debate on growing the green economy - the fifth event in the 'After Austerity' series on Monday 15 April 2013.

- Conservative peer Lord Deighton, Emma Howard Boyd representing the voice of investors, corporate director Mike Rolls and the TUC's Frances O'Grady will be speaking at this high profile panel discussion on the need to grow the green economy. It will be chaired by Matthew Spencer from the thinktank Green Alliance.
- The panel of experts will give their views on the change we need to ensure industry is supported to meet the low carbon challenge – specifically the energy, finance and infrastructure policies that will generate a successful green economy. You can register now at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5359211546?ref=ebtnebregn#>
- To find out more about the event, including information about booking and speaker biographies, visit <http://www.afterausterity.org.uk>.

### 6. ETUC Green Workplaces Guide

This **ETUC** guide provides advice on good practice from trade union activists across the EU on how to get going on greening their workplaces. It includes excellent examples on energy use, using less resources, recycling and green travel, plus a walk-round checklist. Our workplaces burn more energy, consume more resources, and generate more waste and travel than our home lives do. So the workplace is an excellent place to start.

It also features a UCU case study on Page 16.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-21944-f0.cfm>

## 7. Energy we can all afford campaign

UCU are affiliated to the Energy Bill Revolution. EBR launched a short video about the impacts on children and families living in fuel poverty, developed with support from Barnardo's and endorsed by National Children's Bureau, Children England, the Children's Society and Netmums. They've also released a briefing by the Association for the Conservation of Energy which identifies 1.6 million children living in fuel poverty in the UK – 130,000 more children in fuel poverty since 2010 – and other compelling facts.

The link to the video is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGyjmRC-4Eg> and the link to other resources is <http://www.ucu.org.uk/environment>

UCU has helped organise an event in SW London on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Details on this link

<http://www.furzedown.net/docs/Energy-we-can-all-afford-poster-March%20-2013.pdf>

## 8. Trade Unions for Energy Democracy Initiative

UCU is supporting an international campaign promoted by the Global Labor Institute at Cornell University. Cornell GLI has produced *Resist, Reclaim, Restructure: The Trade Union Struggle for Energy Democracy*. It covers:

- The global energy emergency – a massive increase in fossil fuel use is projected in the coming years that will make our efforts to control global warming and climate instability virtually impossible from a practical standpoint
- The current regulatory and market-based approaches to promote renewable energy and energy conservation are inadequate, as are measures to develop other low carbon technologies like carbon capture and storage and nuclear power. According to the International Energy Agency, if all government commitments to clean energy were met, and all proposed plans were actually implemented, by 2035 renewable energy will still stand at just 16 percent of all energy consumed globally
- A union-led clean energy transition can only occur if there is a decisive shift in power towards workers, communities and the public - energy democracy.
- A transfer of policymaking, resources, capital and infrastructure from private hands to democratic control led by the public sector is the surest way to ensure that a truly sustainable energy system is developed in the decades ahead.

The full report can be viewed here:

<http://energyemergencyenergytransition.org/required-reading-roundtable-discussion-document/>

## 9. EAUC Conference April, 2013

The annual conference will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at Nottingham University. We will carry a report in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, if you are able to attend try and get along to the UCU workshop on 'Reaching out to communities on employability skills' on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

The EAUC are maintaining their popular **student day** which was introduced in 2012 which came from an idea from the Conference Steering Group. It will take place on **Thursday 18 April**. Support one, or several, of your students to attend the Conference. For a heavily subsidised fee of **only £70**, your student(s) can enjoy the whole day with unlimited access to the Conference sessions, exhibition and plenary, even refreshments are included.

[http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual\\_conference?utm\\_source=2013+Annual+Conference+delegates&utm\\_campaign=0185c4fc6b-2013\\_Annual\\_Conference\\_early\\_bird\\_delegate\\_rates1\\_&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference?utm_source=2013+Annual+Conference+delegates&utm_campaign=0185c4fc6b-2013_Annual_Conference_early_bird_delegate_rates1_&utm_medium=email)

## **10. Campaign against Climate Change Conference June, 2013**

Members and contacts are urged to sign up for the annual CACC conference. It will bring together climate scientists, trade unionists & environmental activists. 'Confronting the Climate Crisis' is officially supported by UCU and we will be running one of the workshops. 11am - 5pm, London Metropolitan University on June 8th. Download the fliers on the UCU website for full information.

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/environment>

### **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](mailto:gpetersen@ucu.org.uk)**