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1. UCU Congress

Annual congress will take place in Manchester on May 29-30, 2014. We will be launching the new UCU Environment Rep Handbook- '*Staff Organising for Sustainability.*' The guidance has been produced as a resource for existing reps and to help in the recruitment of more. The main message is that there can be no effective staff engagement without representation. A copy will be sent to all reps and branches and will be available on the website from June.

A congress fringe meeting is scheduled for Friday at 1pm on May 30 for the official launch. This will be a joint event with the National Union of Students. Every UCU Environment Rep will be entered in a draw for 2 free tickets to the Leeds Festival. The draw will take place at the fringe meeting and the winning rep and branch will be notified.

2. UCU Regional Networks

All UCU regions have been contacted to supply an up to date list of environment reps to help support the development of regional networks in 2014-15. The networks will assist information exchange, development of joint campaigns, training activities, and recruitment of new reps. We plan to hold an event in pilot regions in the next academic year and reps and branches will be consulted on the arrangements.

3. UCU Training

The next Environment Reps 3 day course will take place at UCU Head Office in London. The dates are October 15 and 16, 2014, with the follow-up day on November 21. Contact Karen Brooks, UCU Education Officer to register and for further information.

kbrooks@ucu.org.uk

We are currently working with PCS on an on-line sustainability course for reps and members and further details will be announced shortly.

4. Greener Jobs Alliance

The GJA continues to campaign for a Skills framework to deliver a low carbon economy. The next meeting of alliance partners takes place on June 4 at UCU Head office. The meeting will discuss:

- A new draft of the Green Skills Manifesto
- Report back from the Green Economy Council Task Group review of the Government's Industrial Strategy
- Education for Sustainable Development auditing pilots in the FHE sector
- Update on 2 current projects – energy co-operatives and air quality monitoring

Both projects are a practical demonstration of the value of linking the curriculum with sustainability issues that have generated considerable community and media interest. There are real opportunities across a range of disciplines to link course work and citizenship activities to community engagement.

5. IPCC Report

Since the last newsletter, two more reports have come out from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They both generated considerable publicity and have helped to push the issue back into the spotlight. The press release from the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) highlights the linkage between job growth and climate action

"The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), issued yesterday in Berlin, gives renewed confidence that the world can still avoid catastrophic climate change with rapid and sustained cuts to carbon emissions.

Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, said, "The world's leading climate experts told us a week ago that climate is already changing in every part of the world, and that the costs of inaction would be catastrophic. Yesterday's report shows that the world has the capacity to meet the challenge. Governments need to cease their prevarication and rise to that challenge now."

The IPCC brought together hundreds of reports which show that investments in zero and low-carbon energy sources will need to at least triple by 2050.

"These investments are critical for fighting climate change, as well as for tackling other major social priorities, such as unemployment, said Burrow. We know that millions of jobs can be created in the renewable energy, building efficiency and public transit sectors. Governments must send now the right signals and show their commitment to a climate-sound and job-friendly transition".

Mobilising for climate action will be a central issue at the forthcoming 3rd ITUC World Congress, next 18-23 May in Berlin, Germany.

"Working people are at the forefront of the climate struggle. Unless we are able to stop dangerous climate change and create sustainable jobs, the dreams of prosperity of millions around the world are at risk. We still have time to make it happen," concluded Burrow. (ITUC Brussels April 14, 2014)

Other comments and information on the report can be found on these links:

TUC commentary <http://touchstoneblog.org.uk/2014/03/no-jobs-on-a-dead-planet>

Prof. Kevin Anderson, UCU member and Professor of Energy and Climate Change at the University of Manchester

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7pwpjthh6E>

Campaign Against Climate Change

http://www.campaigncc.org/ipcc_adaptation

6. TUC

The latest Trades Union Congress Green Workplaces newsletter provides an update on environmental actions across the trade union movement

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace-issues/green-workplaces/greenworkplaces-news-march-2014>

TUC Green Reps Conference 11 July 2014

This will launch new findings from the Labour Research Department's study of the "union effect" on greening the workplace. Aimed at shop stewards and activists interested in creating sustainable workplaces, the conference will also brief delegates on best practice projects across the UK, and introduce UCU's new Environment Reps Handbook *Staff Organising for Sustainability SOS*. The event also includes best practice in building green networks in trade unions and in the regions. With Sue Ferns, Prospect, chair, Paul Nowak, TUC Assistant General Secretary, and speakers from projects and regions

This is a free event and branches are urged to send a representative. Register at:

www.greeningtheworkplace.eventbrite.co.uk

7. ESD

There are a couple of Education for Sustainable Development conferences coming up:

London Conference: Regional Centre for Excellence, South Bank University, 10 June, 2014

'Supporting employability, society and the environment: a curriculum for sustainability'

<http://www.esdlondon.co.uk/>

Liverpool conference: TEESNet 7th Annual Conference, 10 July, 2014, at Liverpool Hope University **Moving from the Edge to the Centre: The Role of Education for Sustainable Development/Global Citizenship in a Meaningful Curriculum**

<http://teesnet.ning.com/page/resources>

Both conferences have a booking fee so members that are interested will need to make arrangements with their institution to cover expenses.

8. Trade Unions for Energy Democracy

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy – Education International, the Global Union Federation with over 30 million members, has joined this growing international campaign. The focus is now on the UN Climate Summit in New York on September 23. This will be preceded by a Peoples Climate March on the September 20 supported by trade unions.

<http://energydemocracyinitiative.org/>

9. Sherpa Dorje Khatri

Nepalese Sherpa Dorje Khatri, leader of Nepal's trade union of Sherpas and a committed defender of the environment, was reportedly amongst 12 people killed in one of the worst disasters on Mount Everest ever recorded. In 2011 Khatri planted the ITUC flag atop the peak of Everest as part of global mobilisation by unions pushing for action on climate change leading up to the Durban Climate Summit, which he attended.

Khatri spent untold hours organising fellow Sherpas into their union to achieve decent wages and employment rights, matched by his work to show the damage caused by global warming to Everest, known as Chomolungma in his local language.

Dorje Khatri's ITUC interview and video in Durban can be viewed here:

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/from-the-summit-to-the-seaside->

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