

## Contents:

- 1. UCU Networks**
- 2. Greener Jobs Alliance**
- 3. Green League Table**
- 4. Energy efficiency and the case for jobs**
- 5. One million climate jobs**
- 6. Time to Act Campaign**
- 7. TUC praises UCU**
- 8. People's Climate March**
- 9. Resources**

**Welcome back to a new academic year and what will be a busy period for our environmental work. We hope you find the newsletter a useful resource and as always want feedback and articles for future editions.**

### **1. UCU Networks**

During the summer we laid the foundations for establishing our UCU Regional / Country Networks. Now we are ready to launch them and raise the profile of our environmental work. All of our reps have been sent a hard copy of the new handbook – *Staff Organising for Sustainability*.

Our first network meetings take place in the North West and Yorkshire regions this term. They will provide an opportunity to consider:

- Branch Organisation –including the Appointment and Functions of Environment Reps
- Education sector and sustainability campaign updates
- Developing the North West Network and links with other unions and organisations

We urge all UCU branches that are meeting this month to appoint an environment rep if one is currently not in post.

## 2. Greener Jobs Alliance

The Greener Jobs Alliance meeting this month drafted a 10 point action plan that addresses the challenge of linking jobs, skills and the environment. The failure to address this has been one of the biggest failures of the current and past governments.

The link between education and progress on climate change was borne out recently by a new survey that revealed a 'huge gap' between reality and the perception of the UK public on some key climate and energy issues. The survey, commissioned by Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU), shows a perceived lack of consensus among climate scientists, despite scientists being one of the most trusted groups in society.

Nearly half (47%) of the UK population think that most climate scientists reject the idea that human activities such as fossil fuel burning are the main driver of climate change, or that scientists are evenly split on the issue. However, several recent studies show that more than 90% of climate scientists agree that the main cause of climate change is human activity.

<http://www.edie.net/news/6/Survey-reveals-widespread-misconceptions-about-energy-and-climate-change/26811/>

## 3. Green League Table

People & Planet is finalising its arrangements for the 2014 table which ranks HEIs according to environmental performance. It provides an opportunity for branches and reps to engage with their sustainability managers. One of the criteria in the student and staff engagement section includes "engagement with recognised trade union reps environment reps or engagement with trade unions on sustainability issues."

*"This is going well at Cardiff and I am now a member of the Environmental Management Systems Steering Group on behalf of the recognised unions."*- Paul Rock, UCU Environment Rep at Cardiff University.

Some organisations and institutions have supported a boycott of the 2014 league table. UCU does not agree with this. If there are concerns over the timing and content of the current model this should not be used as a reason to withdraw from the process. People & Planet do a remarkable job in providing a focus for sustainability and we hope that institutions that have withdrawn will reconsider.

<http://peopleandplanet.org/greenleague>

#### 4. Energy efficiency and the case for jobs

Thousands of training places and jobs could be created with an ambitious energy programme. That is why we have joined the lobbying in the lead up to the next election. Sally Hunt, UCU General Secretary wrote to Ed Miliband spelling out the need for action. Here's an extract from the letter:

*"We are writing as trade unions deeply concerned about the failings of the government's Green Deal, with a strong interest in Labour developing an ambitious domestic energy efficiency programme that cuts bills, creates jobs and is good for the environment."*

<http://endfuelpoverty.org.uk/>

Friends of the Earth is campaigning, along with **Energy Bill Revolution**, for a large-scale, publicly-funded, energy efficiency programme to end fuel poverty and reduce energy bills for everyone. We call on political parties to make energy efficiency the UK's top infrastructure priority, and to commit to a scheme that will retrofit 4 million homes to a good standard by 2020, including 2m low-income households, and will put us on track to getting all low-income homes warm by 2025, and all UK homes by 2035. Such a scheme would be a win-win-win, creating well over 100,000 jobs, increasing GDP, reducing carbon, and bringing significant NHS savings. Want more information? See **Friends of the Earth's Vision for Warm Homes**.

<http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/FOE%20energy%20efficiency%20vision%20FINAL1.pdf>

#### 5. One Million Climate Jobs

The new edition of the 1 Million Climate Jobs pamphlet will be launched on 20 September. It has a chapter on education and UCU branches are urged to obtain a copy for their campaign work.

<http://www.campaigncc.org/unions.shtml>

#### 6. Time to Act Campaign

For a Future that doesn't Cost the Earth - The international fight for climate jobs

**Saturday 20 September 2014, 12:00pm – 5:30pm**  
**London Metropolitan University**  
**Tower Building, Holloway Road, N7 8DB**

The provisional timetable for the CACC trade union group's Conference 2014 is now online at [www.climate-change-jobs.org](http://www.climate-change-jobs.org)

You can book tickets at our eventbrite page [here](#).

## **7. TUC praises UCU**

In her Green Workplaces conference presentation Kay Carberry, TUC Assistant General Secretary, talked about the crucial contribution unions make to sustainability at work, the case for statutory rights and the need for all of us to work together to build a low-carbon economy.

Kay pointed out that "building greener workplaces is absolutely central to some of the big challenges facing all of us: how we tackle the increasingly dangerous threat of climate change; how we make the most of our limited energy resources; and how we rebalance our economy towards a cleaner, greener future".

Kay, singled out UCU's project at the Furzedown Low Carbon Zone featured in the report, calling it "a great example of trade unions, the local community and an employer joining together to promote sustainability".

[http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/The\\_Union\\_Effect\\_Greening\\_The\\_Workplace\\_Covers\\_2014\\_All.pdf](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/The_Union_Effect_Greening_The_Workplace_Covers_2014_All.pdf)

The latest Green Workplaces Newsletter – The latest newsletter can be found on this link

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

TUC Climate Change Conference Nov 6 at Congress House – a date for your diary. Details will be circulated.

## **8. People's Climate March**

The World Leaders' Climate Summit in New York this September will be a key moment in the fight against climate change. The march organised in New York aims to be the biggest climate demonstration the US has ever seen, and over 900 solidarity events are planned globally on the same weekend.

The Campaign against Climate Change is helping to organise the **People's Climate March in London**.

**Join the March! 12:30 pm Temple Place (Embankment) – Sunday 21 September**

**Sign up and get updates on Facebook**

**<http://www.campaigncc.org/climateparchlondon>**

## **9. Resources**

Tree Alerts provide content and tools to help anyone communicate on climate and energy issues in Australia, Europe and North America.

**<http://treealerts.org/>**

## **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)**