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Welcome to the 25th edition of our newsletter. You will see we’ve gone a long way in mainstreaming environmental action into the work of our trade union. As we start a new academic year there will be plenty of demands on our reps, branches and full-time officers, but let’s make 2012-13 the year that we really push it to the forefront of our organising and campaign activity.

* + - 1. **UCU Environment Reps – A success story**

During the 2011-12 academic year we managed to increase the number of UCU Environment Reps by 60%!!! A huge thanks to all those members who have taken on this role on behalf of the union. We now have 161 reps – 100 in HE and 61 in FE. This is still a long way short of the target of a rep in every branch but it is a testimony to the subjects increasing importance for staff in the FHE sector. During the autumn term we will be issuing a new guide for reps. Please get in touch with any thoughts on content and case studies that highlight the great work being done.

* + - 1. **UCU Environment Training 2012-13**

All new Environment Reps need access to training. UCU is one of the few unions with a bespoke programme. If you haven’t been on our 2 day course sign up for either:

London: November 6th-7th, 2012 at UCU Head office or

Leeds: Feb. 20th and March 19th, 2013 at TUC Regional Office

Travel expenses are paid by UCU. To register contact UCU Training Officer Karen Brooks: kbrooks@ucu.org.uk

* + - 1. **Green Gown Awards**

We are very pleased that one of the UCU’s sustainability projects has been short-listed as ‘Best Newcomer’ in the annual Green Gown Awards. This is a partnership with South Thames College pioneering community engagement on low carbon skills.



Details of all the short-listed entries can be found at:

<http://www.eauc.org.uk/green_gown_awards>

The partnership is also being featured as a case study for the European TUC at a conference in Brussels on October 9th, 2012.

* + - 1. **TUC News**

TUC Green Workplaces – The latest newsletter is packed with useful information and resources. It includes a summary of the main findings of the Labour Research Dept survey which had a large number of responses from UCU Reps.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-21352-f0.cfm>

TUC Climate Change Conference ‘Green is good for growth’– Register for the TUC’s annual conference on Oct. 23rd at Congress House. UCU will be delivering an afternoon workshop on ‘Skills for a low carbon future’.

<http://greenisgoodforgrowth.eventbrite.com/>

We are working with the Campaign against Climate Change to try and ensure that the demand for 1 million climate jobs features in the TUC demonstration ‘ A future that works’ on October 20th. For more information:

Join the demonstration: [http://afuturethatworks.org](https://stcmail.south-thames.ac.uk/OWA/redir.aspx?C=63f88507503746f69a8574344fc53ffb&URL=http%3a%2f%2fafuturethatworks.org)
Support the Climate Bloc: http://www.climatebloc.wordpress.com

* + - 1. **EAUC News**

This month ‘The Sustainability Exchange’ was launched. UCU is proud to be one of the founding partners of what will be an invaluable source of information for all those interested in sustainable development. It is free to EAUC members. UCU Reps will need to check that their institution is affiliated. If it is then ask for access to the EAUC members page (additional names can be added as part of the fee). If your institution isn’t affiliated you should raise this at an appropriate meeting.



Below is an extract from the press release.

*Education organisations unite to launch pioneering centralised knowledge bank and community on sustainability.*

*Leading organisations from across the further and higher education sector have joined forces to create the ‘Sustainability Exchange’. Combining resources and experience from 23 of the country’s top sustainable development and education bodies, the Sustainability Exchange will pioneer the UK’s first centralised information portal and online community for the sector, sharing a wealth of information that is available to everyone.*

*“As a founding partner of the project, UCU is delighted to support its members and the other users of the Sustainability Exchange. Through the sharing of collective knowledge and resources, the Sustainability Exchange supports sustainable practices within the tertiary education sector,” says Graham Petersen, Environment Co-ordinator at the University and College Union.*

<http://www.sustainabilityexchange.co.uk/?utm_source=EAUC&utm_campaign=681a9f6549-&utm_medium=email>

* + - 1. **Greener Jobs Alliance**

The Greener Jobs Alliance continues to press for a clear strategy to deliver green skills. The CBI has recently joined the call to address strategic skills shortages. The GJA is working with Unionlearn to highlight the importance of this for future employability. A seminar has been arranged for November 9th, 2012 entitled ‘Union learning and green skills’. The GJA will do a presentation and contributed to a new publication ‘Stewarding the Green Skills Agenda’:

[**http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-4579-f0.cfm**](http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-4579-f0.cfm)

* + - 1. **International**

The missed opportunities of the Durban summit were compounded by the failure of Rio+20 to significantly advance the sustainability agenda. The International Trades Union Confederation issued a declaration setting out the main concerns of the trade union movement.

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_statement_on_the_rio_declaration2.pdf>

* + - 1. **UCU HQ**

UCU is trying to put its own house in order. We are arranging for an NUS Green Impact Officer to conduct an audit of Head Office. This along with the work of our HQ union environment reps will help to make sure we are practicing what we preach.

Finally thanks to Yasue Fadhlaoui for providing admin support for our work. Yasue has transferred to the Finance Dept and James Taylor will be resuming his environmental support duties.

Please contact Graham Petersen if you require any environmental advice or you have got news we can pass on to other reps.

gpetersen@ucu.org.uk

1. **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**