

GreenWorkplaces News



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February 2011

Organising

TUC GREENWORKPLACES NETWORK GOES LIVE!

The TUC has launched the first UK online network for green union activists. Membership is free and allows you access to:

Resources -training resources for environmental courses and workplace activities, checklists that you can download and edit to help you conduct environmental audits of your workplace covering energy, waste, transport and water; a model joint environmental agreement that you can download and edit to fit your own local needs and even tips on how to go green at home and save money on your utility bills.

Look out for factsheets, advice and tips- we will be building a library of new resources over the coming months based on the feedback we get from you.

Events - keep up to date with union and community based environmental events and training courses in your area. If you are organising an event let us know.

Case studies - read the stories from union members and reps who've been taking action in their workplace.

Tell us your story - send in your own story! We need to build a catalogue of successful case studies to argue the case for statutory time off for green reps to carry out your union role and get access to the training you need.

Help us to help you! By joining the network you can help us build a much clearer picture of exactly where our green reps work and the challenges you take on. You can help us to identify the best places to put on training courses, exchange ideas and share best practice and let us know which resources you need the most. Only with hard facts at our finger tips can we lobby for more workplace rights. Be first to get news and updates. We need your help to make this network a success.

Greening the Workplace is a strategy that can make the environment a cleaner, safer and better place to work but it can also save jobs, expand workplace learning and even help you to save money at home. Get involved. Join now.

Join here:

http://www.tuc.org.uk/green_workplaces_network/

To download the TUC press release on the UK launch visit:

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-19220-f0.cfm>

A pint doesn't have to cost the earth: Unite Goes Green at Magor Brewery

Union members working for the worlds' biggest brewer are leading the way in cutting costs and carbon in a project that has seen companies, politicians and fellow trade unionists flocking to Wales to see how it's done.

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Two years ago Tony Bates, Unite Branch Chairman at Magor Brewery, near Newport, Wales helped start a project called JUPITER which stands for Join us People in Tackling Energy Reduction. The project is driven from the shop floor, run by the union and supported by management, and aims to reduce energy use in the production process. Tony headed up the initial start of the project and hand-picked a team of 'energy guardians' to work with him. Tony continues to chair the project with the help of a passionate team of activists.

In just two years the team have achieved amazing results seeing water usage drop by 46%, electricity usage fall 49% and heating bills cut by 23%.

You can find out how and why the shop floor activists at Magor turned the company's energy use around, cutting an amazing 40% of its carbon use in just two years. Log onto the new GreenWorkplaces Network and visit our online case studies to find out more.

Join here:

http://www.tuc.org.uk/green_workplaces_network/

Events

Skill up Green up! A conference for union and community organisations in London, southern and eastern regions

Unionlearn South Eastern Regional TUC conference

Saturday 12 March 2011

10:30am - 15:00pm

Congress House, Great Russell Street, London

What are the implications of climate change? For work? For jobs? For skills?

What does this mean for our way of life, trade unions and our communities?

What can trade unions and communities do?

This conference is for union activists and community organisations in London, southern and eastern regions who are interested in the skills implications of climate change and what it means for the workplace, communities, trade unions and economic recovery.

The conference will have a workshop based format and will take a practical approach to what trade unions and partner organisations can do to help address the biggest questions of our age.

To register for this FREE event, please contact Stuart Barber on sbarber@tuc.org.uk or 020 7467 1397. Further information can also be found at <http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/sertuc> and <http://tinyurl.com/464u9jo>

Programme:

10:30 Registration

11:00 Opening session

11:15 Workshops session 1

12:45 Lunch

13:15 Workshops session 2

14:45 Closing Session

15:00 Ends

Workshop outlines:

1. Getting to grips with the science and persuading others

Facilitator: Tim Baster (Climate Outreach and Information Network)

This workshop will help us get up to speed on the basics of climate change science and then through highly interactive and fun activities

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will explore the challenges of communicating on climate change issues. There will be lots of practical examples and exercises through how to raise the issue, how to tackle denial, how to respond to arguments like 'it is nothing to do with me' and 'we can't do anything'. The workshop finishes with a discussion on how we can take the key messages back to trade unions and into communities.

2. Getting started as a green rep: What has climate change got to do with unions?

Facilitators: Frances Robertson (South West TUC Green Workplaces Project) and Philip Pearson (Senior Policy Officer, TUC)

This workshop is aimed at activists new to greening their workplace. Working together, and in groups, we will explore the age old challenge: "What's climate change got to do with unions?" This session will give us the chance to discuss what we think the role of a union green rep in a modern workplace could be and explore what union green reps need in order to be effective in their role.

3. Building participation in GreenWorkplaces

Facilitators: Sarah Pearce (GreenWorkplaces project leader, TUC), Sarah Lewis (UNISON branch secretary at Great Ormond Street Hospital, TUC Green Workplace)

Convincing employers to make any real change in their strategic thinking is possible only if union members and colleagues are supportive. Working together, and in groups, this workshop will explore ways to raise awareness of climate change issues at work and examine the barriers to employee active participation in greening the workplace initiatives. We will explore what could work to break down these barriers and how we can persuade

management that unions have a role to play. This workshop is also an opportunity to find out how you can get active and join the TUC's GreenWorkplaces Network.

4. Pressing for jobs and employability in the green economy

Chair: Graham Petersen (Universities and College Union Green Jobs Project)
Speaker: Hanna Thomas (Otesha Project, Tower Hamlets), Graham Petersen (Universities and College Union Green Jobs Project)

This workshop will explore emerging ideas and projects to skill workers and communities for jobs in the low carbon economy. Borrowing from the inspirational "Apollo movement" in California, this workshop will also explore how both campaigning and collaborative activity with a range of partners in the community could help to create training opportunities including apprenticeships in areas such as low carbon construction and retrofit programmes.

Alliance building for Green Workplaces

Wednesday 2nd March, Dorchester, Borough Gardens House, 9:30 - 13:00

The South West Green Workplaces Project will be linking in with Groundwork South West to deliver workshops in Dorset and Cornwall. The free half day events will look at ways to engage with colleagues in the workplace as well as the wider community and will not only be open to union members but also community organisations to encourage alliance building.

Full details will be out in the next week or so, but email Keith on khatch@tuc.org.uk if you have any questions.

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To register please download the application form at <http://www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/courses/other-training/> and send to bcallinan@tuc.org.uk or khatch@tuc.org.uk

Merton Green Energy

Tuesday 22 March 2011,
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 3pm - 7pm

- What is green energy?
- Why do we need green energy?
- What options are available to householders, businesses, schools, churches, community groups?
- How much will it cost? What help with funding is available?
- How easy is it to install?

Come and learn the answers to all these questions and more in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre from 3pm - 7pm.

With the rising costs of fossil fuels the need for sustainable renewable energy has never been greater. Sustainable Merton would like to invite you to the MERTON GREEN ENERGY FORUM being run in partnership with the London Borough of Merton.

Admission free. Refreshments will be served. Supported by South Thames College. Contact Tom Walsh for details: tjwalsh56@hotmail.com

Low Carbon Wandsworth

Thursday 12 May 2011
1.30pm - 3.30pm

An invitation from Wandsworth Environment Forum.

Explore how your business or community organisation can respond to the low carbon challenge

Thursday 12 May 2011 1.30pm - 3.30pm

The Performance Studio
South Thames College
Wandsworth High Street
London, SW18 2PP

For more details visit:

http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/Low_Carbon_Wandsworth.pdf

Contact Graham Petersen for further information:
graham.petersen@south-thames.ac.uk

Stuff greenworkplaces - it's not my money!..... Welcome to Mikron Theatre across the South West

The South West Green Workplaces Project has linked up with Mikron Theatre to bring theatre and workshops to workplace and local venues across the region.

Mikron have been delivering professional theatre and training solutions for 40 years. Known for touring by Narrowboat on the inland waterways of Britain and telling the stories that need to be told, Mikron have produced shows as diverse as the history of brewing, Suffrage, Luddites and Equal pay. Past partners include British Waterways, Barnsley Council, Wakefield MDC, The Co-operative membership, TUC, SERTUC, Kirklees Council, Unionlearn, Calor Gas, Honda, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

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Using actors, Mikron will explore the issues of workplace energy and environmental issues in an engaging, entertaining way. The play entitled *"Stuff Green Workplaces.....it's not my money!"* is planned to be a thought provoking educational show; encouraging employees to take ownership of the issues in their workplaces and for management to engage with employees on green issues.

The events are being hosted by a range of workplaces and venues across the South West region.

For more information visit the SWTUC Green Workplaces website or contact Beth Callinan, bcallinan@tuc.org.uk

Roll up, roll up! Newly revamped Wales green rep course gets underway. Be first to sign up now!

Upcoming dates: Wrexham and Newport - 9,16,23 May 2011. Download the flyer at:

http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/Wales_TUC_Union_Green_Representatives.pdf

Contact details below:

Wrexham: Nick Taylor
Trade Union Studies, Coleg Harlech WEA (N),
Caia Park Partnership, Prince Charles Road,
Wrexham, LL13 8TH
Tel: 01978 318866 Email:
n.taylor@fc.harlech.ac.uk

Newport: Roy McCabe

Trade Union Studies Centre, Coleg Gwent, City of Newport Campus,
Nash Road, Newport NP19 4TS
Tel: 01633 466061 or 01633 466136 Email:
roy.mccabe@coleggwent.ac.uk

The Wales team can also arrange courses for any branch or organisation in their learning centres providing they have 10 or more reps.

Contact the relevant Trade Union Studies Centre for your area:

Newport and Wrexham (as above) or:

Bridgend: Richard Young
Trade Union Studies Unit, Bridgend
College, Queens Road South, Bridgend
Industrial Estate, BRIDGEND, CF31 3UT
Tel: 01656 302511 (ask for Trade Union Studies). Email:
ryoung@bridgend.ac.uk

Cardiff: Terry Bishop
South Wales WEA,
8/9 Perrot Street, Treharris,
Merthyr Tydfil CF46 5ET
Tel: 01443 412 412 Email:
t.bishop@swales.wea.org.uk

Norwich 3 day TU and Environment Course - sign up now!

Course dates: 18, 25 March and 1 April

Contact: David Heywood
TRADE UNION STUDIES
City College, Norwich

T. 01603 614322



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E. dheywood@ccn.ac.uk

W. www.ccn.ac.uk

Free training - take the Trade Unions and the Environment Course

Three day accredited courses for union members available at the following locations:

March 4 - Liverpool

March 18 - Norwich

May 9 - Wrexham, Newport

May 11 - Bristol

June 13 - Cornwall, Plymouth

June 15 - London

For more information visit:

www.unionlearn.org.uk/courses/index.cfm/sb/14/

To find out more about the TUC's GreenWorkplaces Network contact the project leader, Sarah Pearce, at spearce@tuc.org.uk or Tel: 020 7467 1230

www.tuc.org.uk/GreenWorkplaces