

Green Workplaces Project – the third year

The South West TUC's current Green Workplaces project is now in its third and final year of funding from the South West Regional Development Agency.

The project still wants to expand on the great progress made so far by working with as many new workplaces as possible, as well as gathering evidence, supporting reps and publicising the key case studies to demonstrate the impact trade unions and green reps can have on improving workplaces.

We will be running more events and as usual we would really welcome all suggestions as to how we can help you in your workplace, and what the project can leave in place for you and your union, and the wider movement, to use once it ends.

To arrange for a project worker to visit your workplace, or branch meeting, to discuss how we can give you support and help plan union action please contact Andy initially on 0117 947 051 or by email at amos@tuc.org.uk

Free training – take the Trade Unions and the Environment Course

The next course in the region for union reps and members takes place in Plymouth in June – running on three Mondays from the 7th. Places are now available.

Full list of regional dates for the TUC Education course for union members in 2010:

Plymouth – 3 Mondays from 7th June

St Austell – 3 Mondays from 5th July

Swindon – 3 Wednesdays from 3rd November

Taunton – 3 Wednesdays from 10th November

For more details and an application form email Andy at amos@tuc.org.uk

The course is also available online, visit www.unionlearn.org.uk/education/learn-1912-f0.cfm for more information.

Online Summit

BrightTALK are running a free live online summit 'Green Week' from 19th April, it will include around 50 live presentations that will cover a range of green themes including water saving, energy efficient computing and green building.

Visit www.brighttalk.com/summit/greenweek2

Resource Efficiency Support – it's a WRAP!

Government funded support for resource efficiency in England is changing. From 1 April 2010, WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) will be the single point of contact for businesses and organisations looking for support and guidance on improving their resource efficiency.

WRAP will provide a one-stop-shop, pulling together the support previously offered by seven resource efficiency programmes* in England.

For more information on how support is going to be provided from 1 April, go to www.wrap.org.uk/england or contact the WRAP helpline on 0808 100 2040.

*WRAP (Waste & Resource Action Programme), National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP), Envirowise, Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse (CRR), Construction Resources and Waste Platform (CRWP), Action Sustainability (AS), BREW (Business Resource Efficiency & Waste Centre) for Local Authorities.

Energy Leaflets – stocks still available – spread the resource saving message at home and work



The South West TUC, in conjunction with Severn Wye Energy Trust, has produced a series of seven leaflets around home energy use, which union reps could use to:

- Get work colleagues and union members talking about energy saving
 - Link resource saving at home and work
 - Promote union action on energy saving at work
- Get members thinking about becoming an Environmental or Green Rep
 - For union and workplace events

To view, to download copies and for details of how to order hard copies please visit: http://www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/?page_id=444

Free advice in Gloucestershire

Vision 21 are a charity that provides support and information about climate change and sustainability in Gloucestershire. Two Advisors have been recruited to support local businesses to reduce their environmental impact. This service is **FREE** and is likely to bring about cost savings for the business.

To learn more/arrange a visit email tmabbett@vision21.org.uk or emagee@vision21.org.uk

Vision 21 has also been successful in a tender (from Cheltenham's Low Carbon Partnership/Cheltenham Borough Council) to provide energy efficiency advice to Voluntary Sector Organisations in Cheltenham.

To register interest in this email Mike Bush mbush@vision21.org.uk

Vision 21 telephone contact - 01242 224321

Get active with the Climate Solidarity Project

Climate Solidarity is a trade union project working for a fair and sustainable society and is offering trade union members free training on how to set up a Climate Solidarity Action Group.

These are for people who are interested in setting up a climate solidarity action group, to work with colleagues on cutting personal emissions, and then using that learning as a springboard to workplace actions.

Next South West region date: Friday 30th April Exeter (venue to be confirmed)

More details, including contact details for booking, at www.climatesolidarity.org.uk/

Trade Union Climate Solidarity Team Contacts:

CWU Maeve Kennedy, 07590 245 269, mkennedy@cwu.org

NUT Nell Andrew, 020 7380 4859, n.andrew@nut.org.uk

PCS Ben Venables, 020 7924 2727 ex 2392, ben@pcs.org.uk

UCU Graham Petersen, 020 8918 7383 GPetersen@UCU.ORG.UK

All other enquiries: info@climatesolidarity.org.uk

May Day shows green roots

It's that time of year when union members spring clean their banners and get together to celebrate May Day. Amongst the many events across the region the Green Workplaces team will be at least two, so if you are in the area pop along and say hello in between the music and marching.

Saturday 1st May - Plymouth Mayday Festival - Trades Unions For A Sustainable Future

Plymouth TUC are holding a free festival, from 12 noon to 5.00 pm, at the Roland Levinsky Building.

There will be stalls, National and Local speakers, a forum on "What would a sustainable Plymouth look like?" and a special showing of Michael Moore's film 'Capitalism: A Love Affair' There will also be a march around the city centre, celebrating International Workers Day, assemble at the Guildhall at 1pm

More details from www.plymouth-tuc.org.uk

Friday 7th May - Yeovil

Yeovil Trades Unions Council will be celebrating May Day in style this year with music, speakers and stalls all turning out at Unity Hall for a night of partying and politics.

The Green Workplaces Project will have a stall to link in with this year's themes of environment and youth unemployment, and what trade unions can do to support communities. Music comes from local bands Tumbleweed, King Tuts Revenge, Undertyke and The Switch. Tickets £3 adv £4 on the door if any are left.

Tickets on sale over the bar at The Yeovil Labour Club, Central Road, Yeovil BA20 1J (opp the bus station) or email Viv Willis for more info Vivianvjw@aol.com

Other Events in the region

Sustainable Procurement Conference, Wednesday 21 April, Future Inn, Bristol

The South West Sustainable Procurement Network (SWSPN) provides information, training and support in respect of sustainable procurement to public sector bodies in the South West. Conference themes will include local market development, sustainable construction, ethical and social aspects and carbon emission reduction, delivered through a mix of presentations and workshops.

For further information contact Andrew Parsons on 0117 922 2937 or email enquiries@swspn.org.uk

Commercial CSR Day, Thursday 22 April, Cheltenham Racecourse

The Commercial Group's free annual CSR Day brings together industry leaders nationwide to share environmental best practice and to help businesses keep Corporate Responsibility at the heart of their agenda. Find out more at: www.csrdays.co.uk

Future Skills Workshop for Renewable Energy, Tuesday 11 May, University of the West of England

The BETS skills and training groups are organising a workshop of future skills for renewable energy. The purpose of the workshop is to explore the skills needed in the sector and what action is needed to rectify and shortfall or gaps.

For further information contact Robin McDowell on 0117 0222931 email robin.mcdowell@bristol.gov.uk.

To book a place email Vanessa Knight at the university Vanessa.knight@uwe.ac.uk

Sustainability South West and Natural England 'Planting Ideas for a better Green Infrastructure' master classes.

An opportunity for all those engaged with the investment and delivery of green infrastructure (GI) across the South West. Each session is a chance to learn from national academics and experts, discuss issues and apply your knowledge to your place, and aims to help you ensure delivery of better GI in new or regenerated places, and sustainable communities in villages, towns and cities across the South West. These master classes are suitable for specialists, academics and managers in business, social and environmental sectors, including housing, land management, planning, community development, sustainable development, education and tourism.

23 April, 2010: URBAN FOOD...how Green Infrastructure can 'step up to the plate' (Bristol)

10 May, 2010: NATURAL ECONOMY...unlocking the economic value of the natural environment in the South West region (Exeter)

For more information contact Lynn Gibbons lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or 0117 929 0989.

Trade Union Networking

All Reps can log on and use the **UnionReps** website <http://www.unionreps.org.uk/login.cfm> - with an Environment discussion area as well as other union news and updates.

Publications

Workforce Partnerships for Resource Efficiency (Envirowise)

A guide from Envirowise to help anyone in the workforce take simple, no-cost and low-cost measures at work to improve resource efficiency. The guide recognises the potential for trade union involvement and includes information on the benefits of resource efficiency, gaining support and overcoming barriers, building partnerships and taking step by step actions – as well as including links to many other useful Envirowise resources.

Registering for the Envirowise site to access this and other publications and resources is free.

Register and download from <http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/LoginRequired.aspx?o=341334>

Go Green at Work (TUC)

The TUC's Environmental/Green Representative Handbook Go Green At Work is of course still available http://www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/?page_id=20 or request a hard copy from the South West TUC, contact details below.

South West TUC Green Workplaces Project

South West TUC
Church House, Church Road
Bristol, BS34 7BD
E southwest@tuc.org.uk
T 0117 947 0521

Project Workers

Andy Moss amos@tuc.org.uk
Keith Hatch khatch@tuc.org.uk
Frances Robertson frobertson@tuc.org.uk