

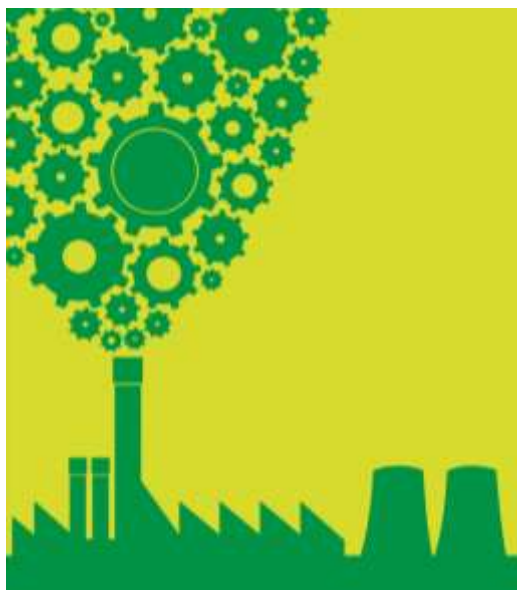
Climate Crisis: A Trade Union Issue

UCU members are on strike over job security, overwork, equality and pay. In fighting for better conditions at work, UCU never forgets that we are facing a climate emergency.

Seeking a 'Just Transition'

UK commitments to tackle climate change over the coming decades mean that the way we work, including in universities, will change very quickly. UCU is campaigning for a Just Transition. This means:

- recognising the need for existing staff to retrain, with training funded by government and universities (not individual workers).
- using the social mission of the OU and other universities to spread 'gold-standard' information that students and the public can trust
- creating new jobs and new fields of inquiry that support climate action and mitigations locally and globally
- ensuring that climate change is not used as an excuse to intensify workload, drive down standards, or create poor working conditions for employees.



The OU recently updated its sustainability policies without liaising with UCU or UNISON. While the improvements are welcome, there is no consideration of working conditions. UCU is asking to be represented in the Sustainability Steering Group and for an 'employment review' and monitoring of these policies:

<https://www5.open.ac.uk/sustainability/policies>.

Open University Branch of UCU

Email: ucu@open.ac.uk

Facebook (openuniversityucu) and **Twitter** @oubucu (#ucuRISING)

See our website for more information: <http://ucu.open.ac.uk>

Donate to or apply to the Hardship Fund: <http://ucu.open.ac.uk/branch-hardship-fund>

USS Update: Pension Restoration

UCU members took extensive strike action against cuts to our pensions and unaffordable contribution rises. The union always said these were unnecessary. Thanks to our determination it has now been agreed to work toward restoring USS benefits and lowering costs.

No one takes action lightly, but **strikes work!**

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12962/University-pension-benefits-on-track-to-be-restored-in-full-employers-and-union-confirm>

<https://openuniv.sharepoint.com/sites/oulife/Pages/USS-pension-consultation-.aspx>

How Can I Make a Difference?

- Join UCU: www.ucu.org.uk/join and take part in the action
- Ask the Vice-Chancellor to stand with other leaders in calling for a return to negotiations, and to address sector job insecurity overwork, equality issues, and the cost of living crisis (vice-chancellor@open.ac.uk)
- Pledge to help those taking industrial action: <http://ucu.open.ac.uk/branch-hardship-fund>
- Support on social media using #ucuRISING and #StopTheDispute.



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