



Tiakina te Taiao | Climate Action Network Pānui

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Climate Change and the TEU Rules Review Conference

Kia ora koutou,

Te Hautū Kahurangi | Tertiary Education Union's upcoming conference (May 18-19) will focus on discussing, debating, and hopefully passing the new rules (constitution) of our union. The last major review occurred in 2009 when ASTE and AUS combined to create TEU. This review was required because of changes affecting our sector and how we operate, such as the establishment of Te Pūkenga, a greater use of online processes, changes to legislation, and, importantly, change was required if we as a union were to advance our commitment to Te Tiriti O Waitangi and relationship between tāngata whenua and tāngata Tiriti. Potential changes to the Rules have come from extensive member engagement, with 119 hui held and much discussion and debate.

TEU's Council and Conference 2022 endorsed five Mātāpono (principles) as capturing the purpose of our union – the Mātāpono are imbedded in the revised Rules. One of these is Mana Taiao:

The Union shall work to foster ahikā – the interrelationship of people and the land, including supporting a sense of tūrangawaewae for all which fosters a sense of belonging. The Union will take action to transform the relationship of the Union and the tertiary education sector with Te Taiao (Papatūānuku and Ranginui) by supporting climate justice, just transitions and kaitiakitanga of the natural environment, in relationship with mana whenua and mana tangata.

While a similar Object was added to our Rules at Conference 2021, these Mātāpono are a new change, along with confirmation of the place and importance of networks in our union.

We seek your help to ensure the delegation from your branch fully understands the importance of the inclusion of this principle throughout the revised rules.

Climate change can be understood when floods enter homes or close tertiary institutions, but some see the enormity of this as a societal rather than a union issue. However, it is very much a union issue that requires collective action and industrial activism. One of our collective agreements already includes the right to time off when your home is affected by flooding. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) already requires institutions to cut emissions and this is affecting staff travel and attendance at conferences, and old inequities risk

being further exacerbated. Curricula changes with sunrise and sunset programmes and ensuring the integration of knowledge and skills required for students to face a changing world requires staff to have time and adequate professional development. Staff affected by the changes in curricula, industry, and technology require just transitions rather than being lost from our sector.

Our sector has enormous potential to proactively consider the cascading effects of climate change and different responses through research and from its important function as the critic and conscience of society, and strong union support will assist this.

We are asking network members of Tiakina te Taiao to contact their branch president and seek to have a conversation with those attending conference and ask them to support these changes to our rules, and in particular Mana Taiao.

Tina Smith
TEU Immediate Past President

Tiakina te Taiao Network Plan for 2023

Ngā mihi | thank you to members who gave input into where Tiakina te Taiao should focus its energy during 2023. While continuing to build relationships between members, other unions, and education- and climate-related groups to share knowledge, disseminate information and build lobbying power, this year we will be focusing on:

- Supporting the TEU rules review
- Establishing climate leads on all sites
- Encouraging members and students to vote in the general election

Hence, we are now seeking network members who are prepared to be the climate lead on their site. For those willing to take this role, please [e-mail us](#). We will connect you with your site branch president. We will also provide you with the names of other network members on your site to enable relationship building, support, and information sharing. These roles should not be onerous.

Tiakina te Taiao and STENZ

This year there have been two very positive meetings with STENZ (Sustainability in Tertiary Education in New Zealand), and we have agreed to work together, share information, and provide mutual support whenever possible.

STENZ is a working group committed to education for sustainability who want

to see the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) implemented across all tertiary education in Aotearoa New Zealand. We look forward to future meetings and working with them.

Equitable Transitions Strategy

Our [February newsletter](#) highlighted the development of an [Equitable Transitions Strategy](#) (EqTS) for which our network provided feedback on the engagement questions. Network leads met again recently with Miriam Gibson and Phil Wise from the Ministry of Education to seek their views regarding how the engagement was progressing – this was following concerns of low meeting turnout and people unaware of meetings in certain locations throughout the country. They explained that while turn-out to workshops had been mixed, there had been two parts to the engagement with approximately 40 agency-led interactions occurring as well public engagement, which was aimed more at a mix of locations and populations, rather than occurring in all areas.

They shared with us some of the emerging themes, and their initial impressions. Reviewing relevant literature is still in progress but they aim to have a draft to the Ministers in the next month or two and there will be further engagement in the later part of the year. The survey in either [Te Reo Māori](#) or [Te Reo Pākehā](#) is open until April 10. A submission on the survey on behalf of Tiakina te Taiao is also being developed. If you are interested in contributing, please [e-mail us](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tiakina te Taiao | Climate Action Network Hui

The calendar invites for our next hui on Thursday 13 April, 2:00pm have been sent out. If you missed the invite, please [email us](#).



CANIE Climate Action Week – 17-21 April

Tiakina te Taiao member Pii-Tuulia Nikula (Principal Lecturer, EIT) is also a co-founder and board member of the Climate Action Network for International Educators ([CANIE](#)). Launched in 2019, CANIE is a volunteer grassroots initiative which aims to encourage the international education sector to take climate action.

Pii-Tuulia says, “At the time CANIE was launched, it was rare to hear of the international education sector taking accountability of its carbon footprint – this is an issue that CANIE wanted to address. One of CANIE’s recent achievements is the launch of the [CANIE Climate Accord](#) in 2022, which has now been signed by 30+ international education programmes, including by two Aotearoa New Zealand universities (University of Auckland and University of Canterbury).”

Later this month, CANIE is running a Climate Action Week (17-21 April) which offers a number of live sessions where you can learn more about the intersection of international education and climate change, as well as share your own insights with others. For the event details and to register, see the [CANIE website](#).

CANIE also has an active Oceania chapter, which welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining, click [here](#).

Just Adaptation and the Role of Social Capital

As part of their Climate Adaptation series, the Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) is hosting political scientist Daniel Aldrich to discuss the role of social capital in building resilience and supporting communities in climate change adaptation.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday 18 April – for more information and to register, see the [SEI website](#).

He Pukenga Wai, He Pukenga Aroha: Mātauranga for a Changing World

Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) are running a fundraiser event for marae affected by Cyclone Gabrielle: “This conference offers an opportunity to wānanga topics such as decolonisation, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tikanga and mātauranga Māori solutions and perspectives on climate change. This conference is for individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact on society and the environment.”

The conference is set for Thursday 20 April, 9:15am-4:30pm at VUW’s Pipitea campus – attendance is in-person only.

For more information and to register, see the [VUW website](#).

NUWAO Symposium

Nature-based Urban Design for Wellbeing and Adaptation in Oceania (NUWAO) are running a symposium (online and in-person) focussed on current research, case studies, and practices related to nature-based solutions to climate-related problems.

For more information and to register, see the [NUWAO website](#).

School Strikes for Climate

SS4C is rising up once again, on Friday 26 May. They call on all generations to join them and show their support for climate justice.

For more information, follow the SS4C [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Recent items of interest

- [The Equitable Transitions Strategy – a Call to Action from TEU’s Tiakina te Taiao | Climate Action Network](#)
- [Hidden Heating: We Assessed Companies on their Climate Actions. It Almost Broke Us](#) (Stuff)

- [Climate Club](#) offer a weekly newsletter focused on high-impact climate actions within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand
- [Project Drawdown](#) are a primarily USA-based collective with a strong focus on climate solutions – sign up to their email [here](#).
- [Assessing Labour's Record on Climate Action](#) (RNZ)
- [Peter Frankopan: How Climate Shapes History](#) (RNZ)
- [Harnessing the Transformative Potential of Climate Governance](#) (SEI)
- [Reimagined Futures: Stories of Community Resilience and Transformation in the Face of the Climate Crisis](#) (University of Sydney)

Future Tiakina te Taiao Hui Dates

We have a number of hui planned for 2023 – Outlook invites will be sent closer to the time, but we suggest keeping the dates/times free:

- Thursday 13 April, 2:00pm
- Thursday 1 June, 2:00pm
- Thursday 3 August, 2:00pm
- Thursday 12 October, 2:00pm

Talk to your colleagues about the work we do and encourage them to [join TEU](#).

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