



Tiakina te Taiao Newsletter - November 2024

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Tiakina te Taiao Newsletter November 2024

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Tiakina te Taiao Objectives 2024-2025

Kia ora Tiakina te Taiao | TEU Climate Action Network,

With COP29 currently underway and the confirmation of a second term with Donald Trump as US President, there is a lot of uncertainty as we gaze forward and consider the potential impacts of our global climate action efforts.

In our corner of the world, the Tiakina te Taiao Advisory Group is continuing to lay the groundwork for our network's objectives to be realised. The objectives outlined in our 2024-2025 workplan are:

1. Establish TEU Climate Action Delegate roles
2. Contribute to the integration of climate clauses in the TEU National Industrial Strategy

We also have a number of auxiliary objectives which will be undertaken as time and capacity allows. These include:

- Conducting a climate pulse survey of TEU members
- Developing a TEU climate change policy; and
- Co-ordinating TEU submissions on issues pertaining to sustainability and tertiary education.

It is great to see the work of Tiakina te Taiao gaining momentum! However, we could always do with additional support from the wider Tiakina te Taiao network to carry out these actions. If you are interested in playing an integral role in our work, or would like more information on what is involved, please feel free to [get in touch](#).

We look forward to connecting with you all at our next full network meeting on **Wednesday 27 November, 1:00pm** where we will be discussing our work in more detail – see the agenda below for information on our guest speaker, Maria Bargh.

Lastly, please feel free to pass this newsletter on to colleagues who may be interested in joining TEU and Tiakina te Taiao.

Tiakina te Taiao Full Network Meeting Agenda – A tika transition

We look forward to meeting as a network on Wednesday 27 November, 1:00pm. The agenda is as follows:

- **A tika transition to a flourishing Aotearoa: what it is and why should we support it?** – Maria Bargh
 - In many parts of the country, communities are working together to care for our special places and each other in the face of climate change impacts. They're part of a 'tika transition' – a social, political, environmental, and economic transition – towards a flourishing Aotearoa where tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti are in good

relationships with each other and Paptūānuku. But this transition is under threat. Luckily, there are things we can do.

- **Climate action is union work** – Julie Douglas (TEU Co-President)
- **Establishing TEU Climate Action Delegates** – Rachel Bolstad

COP29

World leaders are set to gather during November 11-22 for [COP29](#) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Although COP29 sessions are in person, the [Climate Video Hub](#) is a great place to view short videos on the myriad ways climate change is affecting the way we live. You can also keep up to date with COP29 news [here](#).

Importantly, the role of higher education in addressing climate change is being discussed on the day prior to the World Leaders Climate Action Summit. From the programme:

The Role of Higher Education in Addressing Climate Change: Leadership, Innovation, and Impact

As climate change continues to pose unprecedented challenges globally, the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) has become increasingly critical in shaping leaders, fostering innovation, and driving sustainability. HEIs are at the forefront of generating research, fostering policy discussions, and training future leaders capable of addressing the complex challenges of climate change. CIFAL Istanbul (Bahcesehir University), and CIFAL City of London (MLA College), two prominent UN-affiliated training centers, are uniquely positioned to convene thought leaders and experts to discuss how higher education can contribute to climate action. With CIFAL City of London's expertise in maritime sustainability and environmental leadership, and CIFAL Istanbul's strength in science, technology, and education for sustainable development, this event will bring together key stakeholders from Europe, Turkiye, the Gulf region, and beyond to explore the intersection of education and climate action. This event, co-hosted by CIFAL Istanbul and CIFAL City of London, will gather experts to explore how higher education institutions can drive climate action through research, policy discussions, and training future leaders in sustainability and environmental leadership.

We hope to share an update of this in-person session following the event. If you happen to gain access to a recording/link to the session, please [let us know](#).

Global education unions redouble efforts to ensure quality climate education and a just transition for all

On 30 July, education union leaders from around the world came together at Education International's (EI) 10th World Congress to focus on climate change, its impact on education systems and educators working conditions, and the role

of education unions in tackling the climate emergency and the deepening social inequalities it causes.

EI's 10th World Congress adopted two resolutions on the climate emergency, mandating EI and its member organisations to redouble their efforts to advance climate justice and climate education around the world. The resolutions include a wide range of actions, from union advocacy for climate justice and a just transition in the education sector, to supporting educators in engaging students in learning about climate change, its causes, consequences, and solutions.

Ensuring students are adequately prepared for the green jobs of the future is also a union priority. Greening education infrastructure is another key area for action, with unions calling for new school infrastructure to be made sustainably and designed to withstand climate impacts and for existing schools to be retrofitted to withstand extreme weather events, particularly in areas of high climate vulnerability. In addition, Congress decided that EI's [Go Public! Fund Education](#) campaign should advocate for increased financing for climate education. [Read more](#).

Te Waihangā, the NZ Infrastructure Commission, is seeking feedback on their thinking for a National Infrastructure Plan

Aotearoa New Zealand's infrastructure delivers services we depend on like power, water, transport, healthcare, and education. Te Waihangā, the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, is "testing their thinking" as they begin work on developing a National Infrastructure Plan.

We encourage Tiakina te Taiao members to have their say by engaging with the discussion document, particularly regarding issues of climate resilience and decarbonisation. There are 17 discussion questions – you can answer as many or as few as you wish. Find out more about the discussion document [here](#).

Additionally, learn more about the National Infrastructure Plan by attending upcoming webinars on Friday 15 November (9:30am) and Friday 22 November (1:00pm) – register [here](#).

Feedback on the discussion document closes on Tuesday 10 December.

UniSaver: New Lower Carbon Option

UniSaver is aiming to introduce a new investment option in May 2025 which extends options that have a reduced exposure to carbon and an increased exposure to renewables. From the website: "The new option – called Growth (Lower Carbon) – would be invested 80% in an equity fund that, relative to the

fund index, targets a reduction in carbon exposure, an increase in exposure to renewable energy and the exclusion of companies with fossil fuel reserves or a significant involvement in fossil fuels activities.”

For more information and to register your interest in the new option, click [here](#).

Items of interest

- [Are young climate activists finally being heard? Our research shows adults support youth voice to parliament](#) (Ipu Kererū – featuring Tiakina te Taiao Advisory Group member Jenny Ritchie)
- [Daily heat stress sending children to hospital](#) (University of Auckland – featuring the work of TEU members) – A warming climate has multiple health impacts, with young children particularly vulnerable to heat stress. View a short video presentation of this recent New Zealand research [here](#)
- [Building a sustainable future on campus](#) (Times Higher Education)
- Free Webinar (Tuesday 26 November, 7pm): [Empowered Educators: Leveraging Personal and Professional Insights for Authentic Practice](#) (Aotearoa Educators Collective)

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