

earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

April 2012

www.eauc.org.uk

info@eauc.org.uk

Setting a learning legacy at the 16th EAUC Annual Conference



Delegates shared their sustainability initiatives by scribbling them on tablecloths. It was then turned into a "world café cloak" worn with pride by Iain Patton, EAUC CEO.

If you want to write an article for earth please contact the EAUC office

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members:

Bury College
Uxbridge College

Company Members:

IAB Sustainability Consultants
Jutexpo Ltd
Hoval
Action for Sustainability
Leafield Environmental
Chalmor
Enviroco
Simply Sustainable
Green Moon Events



Ideals into reality



After a fantastic Conference where over 370 delegates shared experiences and knowledge for the improvement of sustainability, the EAUC is working hard to ensure all our Members benefit from

the 'Learning Legacy' - not just from the Conference (see page 5) but also from our international partners. With our collaboration with sister organisations ACTS and AASHE (pictured left), we have the great opportunity to widen our learning and knowledge on a truly global scale, providing our Members with access to resources across the world (see page 4).

We're working together to get our Members voice heard and

to make leaders take notice of the impact our institutions have, not just on our campuses but for the future generation which is surely the true learning legacy of our efforts. As Satish Kumar said in his inspirational closing at the conference we all need the courage to make our ideals into reality - this is what the EAUC aims to achieve for our Members.

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

Please pass onto a colleague and recycle when finished

South Staffordshire's learning journey to sustainability

We're on the Gold Standard now

In November 2011 I had one of those precious moments of extreme clarity. While preparing for our annual ISO14001 monitoring audit, I realised that the majority of evidence required to meet the Gold Ecocampus awards was already in place. Since the Gold and Platinum Ecocampus awards need to be externally validated by the certification organisation NQA, also our ISO14001 auditors, it seemed logical to combine both visits and prepare ourselves for a gruelling four-day ordeal.

To remind ourselves, this is what we were talking about...

- **RESOURCES, ROLES, RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**
- **COMPETENCE, TRAINING AND AWARENESS**
- **COMMUNICATION, DOCUMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL**
- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - RESPONSE**

I have a great team of people here so I had no real hesitation in exercising inspired leadership and announcing our new target. The NQA auditor was a combination of fair with firm and provided a strong but supportive approach to the audit, from which we emerged a better and greener organisation. We also submitted our Carbon Management Plan (CMP) to the Carbon Trust for approval and endorsement. The CMP is a road map for us to achieve a 25% reduction in our Carbon Emissions by 2016 and produce an annual saving of £183,489 and approximately 996 tonnes of CO₂.

However, this cannot be achieved without a cultural change in an organisation. We have started this journey by having all the staff and students from cleaners and academics through the Senior Leadership and College Governors undertake a Moodle-based course in sustainability. This, combined with campaigns and regular articles in our newsletters and external media, have raised the profile of sustainability. We have made an impressive start but we know that we have just scratched the surface of all that needs to be done.

The second greatest challenge is knowing where and what to invest in to achieve the biggest savings and greatest environmental improvements, especially in a sector that once again faces the squeeze on funding. We made an application to Salix this month and hope to secure a loan that will pay back in under five years through energy savings made; it proved more and more difficult to meet the criteria in order to produce a successful application. Now we've got the Gold award and that makes us the first FE College to do so. It's a great achievement and a big thank you to the team.

What's next on the agenda?

Our next greatest challenge is to decant up to 500 students and 50 staff from our Cannock Campus in order to refurbish the site to BREEAM Very Good whilst maintaining the highest standards in curriculum provision. Watch this space and we will let you know how it goes.

**Mark Phillips,
Sustainability Manager,
South Staffordshire College**



Legal Spotlight

Changes to the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme

About the Scheme

The Feed-In Tariff Scheme (FITs) was first introduced in April 2010, under the Energy Act 2008. The concept of the scheme is to increase the number of small scale (under 5MW) low carbon electricity generation technologies invested in by organisations, businesses and individuals incentivised through financial benefits. Participating in the scheme gives three financial benefits:

1. **A guaranteed payment from an electricity supplier for the electricity generated.**
2. **An additional payment for any unused electricity exported to the grid.**
3. **Savings through reduced energy bills.**

The 2012 review

The government undertook a comprehensive review of the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme in October 2011 and is implementing resulting changes this year. Essentially, for those investing in the technology from 2012 onwards, this will mean lower returns on their investment that it previously would have done. The focus of the review so far has been primarily on the tariffs given for solar PV electricity generation. The changes to solar photovoltaic (PV) generation tariffs are summarised in detail in the Resource Bank.

A consultation on tariffs for FIT technologies other than PV has also been published to set out the revised tariff rates for technologies other than solar PV.

Implications of the changes

For institutions participating in the FITs scheme from 2012 onwards, keeping up to date with the changes to the tariffs will be essential to assessing the financial benefits of their proposed investments, and will form a critical part of Renewable Energy and/or Carbon Management Strategies.

**Mary Garwood
Graduate Environmental Consultant
www.watmangroup.com**



For the full article visit www.eauc.org.uk/legal_spotlight

Many hands make light work

Networking is essential to us – being part of a group means you can often solve common problems. But harnessing the power of these seemingly invisible networks to achieve sustainable development goals is an elusive undertaking. All too often their power for supporting development is seriously underestimated.

Not at the EAUC. We play a vital role in fostering networking opportunities for our Members by developing specialist networks, delivering CPD events and the EAUC Annual Conference.

Our Members have access to a range of groups we support and develop. Whether you want to ask a general question to the whole Membership, discuss the pressures and politics felt regionally or want

to delve deeper into a specific topic, we have a network for you:

- **Educational Members' Network – majority of EAUC Members all at the end of an email**
- **Communities of Practice – 4 topic based groups (UK wide)**
- **Topic Support Networks – 8 Scotland specific topic based groups**
- **Regional groups / branches – 7 groups based regionally around the UK**

Networking is essential to EAUC Members - you've told us that in the 2011 annual survey. However, all too often, we get comfortable with people we see everyday – those in the office we work with. Sometimes it's a good idea to get



The Conference is a key networking opportunity

out of the office, arrange a lunch date with other professionals and meet up for a discussion or a natter over coffee. Two heads really are better than one, so think of the power a whole group can have!

We're always looking to improve so the Member Advisory Council (MAC) are reviewing how we support our networks. This will allow us to develop more groups to meet your needs for networking opportunities.

Find out more about networking opportunities on the Member Zone www.eauc.org.uk/member_zone

The EAUC to open its doors to resources across the globe

New Member service!

Today we live in a truly global society. The rate at which modern technology develops, means we are able to share our resources, thoughts and experiences instantaneously with others across the globe!

With this sharing of knowledge and experience, international communities of like-minded people have developed. Environmental concerns have united a worldwide community to campaign for the future of the planet for generations to come.

The EAUC is one of a number of organisations that have joined forces to promote the role of further and higher education in sustainability. Recognising that what affects us also has an impact on the world as a whole, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in America, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), and the EAUC have come together to share their resources. Members from each organisation will now have access to all Member-only resources and will be able to share best practice

from around the globe on issues such as resource efficiency, biodiversity, education for sustainable development, waste and environmental reporting.

The partnership officially began at the EAUC Annual Conference at the University of York on 27 March. EAUC Chief Executive, Iain Patton joined AASHE Executive Director Paul Rowland and ACTS President Leanne Denby to discuss with delegates how the partnership will raise the profile of sustainability education internationally through access of information, support and best practice from around the world.

"This new partnership between the EAUC, AASHE in North America and ACTS in Australasia redefines and multiplies the value of Membership of each of our organisations. Combining and sharing our collective knowledge and expertise is a monumental achievement for the advancement of sustainability in global tertiary

education, and the EAUC looks forward to further opportunities of working together for the benefit of all our Members," says Iain Patton.

"Sharing our resources allows us to learn from one another across the national and geographic divides, and allows us to better face the challenges of creating a more sustainable world" notes Paul Rowland.

Leanne Denby said she is "delighted to be a part of this international collaboration to bring best practice, knowledge and expertise to the fore for Members. We look forward to learning from our colleagues across the globe, whilst also sharing our own knowledge with others."

More about AASHE at www.aashe.org
More about ACTS at www.acts.asn.au



EAUC Members will be able to find details about the new shared access at [/www.eauc.org.uk/international_resources](http://www.eauc.org.uk/international_resources)

Continue your Conference learning legacy

Missed it? Don't miss out at www.eauc.org.uk/presentations_2012

The Annual Conference was a brilliant success with over 370 delegates and speakers attending the 3 day event. Feeling reinvigorated, refreshed and armed with lots of new ideas is a great feeling but can feel daunting when you step back into the office and are faced with the daily challenge of implementing it all. A key message we would like to reiterate from our closing plenary from Satish Kumar is to have **courage**. The ideas you have now may seem idealistic but with our support they will become practical.

- Get all the Conference presentations, handouts, videos and photos
- Why not download the 'did you know' facts dotted around the venue and send out in regular staff emails?
- Download the take-home messages from all the sessions for a handy reminder



Meeting friends old and new

Keynote speaker, David Pencheon (NHS), talks sustainable healthcare

The EAUC would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Annual Conference 2012, including all sponsors, exhibitors and speakers. We hope to see you again in 2013!

Platinum		Gold		
Silver				Media partners

Taking a bite out of Climate Week



Go to the Resource Bank for more ideas for staff and student campaigns

The *ifs* School of Finance supported Climate Week 2012 by arranging a variety of events to raise awareness with students and staff both in its London City Campus, Peninsular House and Canterbury offices.

A whole week of events kicked off with a Climate Week Pub Quiz, testing the environmental knowledge of some of the full time undergraduate students. The winning team won a variety of useful eco-friendly goods including tomato growing kits and a wind up torch. *ifs* staff took part in a separate quiz later in the week with prizes generously donated from local businesses.

A Carbon Footprint Challenge encouraged staff to calculate their individual carbon footprint and to reduce it by walking or cycling to work or by car pooling. A 'bake-off' competition encouraged the baking of masterpieces using locally sourced ingredients, this included fruit and veg from allotments and eggs from family friends and neighbours. The bake off was judged by Peter Rands (pictured above), another EAUC Member from Canterbury Christchurch University.

The week ended with a dress down day for staff and students who were encouraged to wear something green. Donations from the dress down day and bake off sale raised much needed funds for WWF.

Sam Godden
Deputy Chair, Sustainability Committee, *ifs* School of Finance

Psstt....

Anyone got a ticket?

Colleges and Universities in London along with all other businesses are gearing up for the biggest disruption to their activities since Year 2000: The 2012 Olympic Games.



The main focus of our planning at The Institute of Cancer Research has been how to keep our laboratories running with all of the possible difficulties that our staff may have with travel and other potential trials. We are considering a range of flexible working options for the period of the Olympics and these may lead to longer term improvements with more family friendly policies.

Although we are in West London, we have a number of sporting events taking place near us and are being advised that travel by road, rail and underground will be severely affected with journeys taking up to two hours longer than normal. My colleagues in East London will face far more severe restrictions and many have a more jaundiced view of the Olympics than I do – on this occasion the normal North/South (of the river) divide is more along East/West lines.

We have worked closely with a travel planning advisor from

LOCOG (London Olympics Organising Committee) to overcome many of the problems associated with the large numbers of additional journeys in London. On the plus side we have received more help in providing additional cycle facilities and with more route planning than ever before hopefully these improvements will be sustained well after the Olympics encouraging more staff and students to walk and cycle to work. The other main concerns are whether we will have enough water in the South East with the ongoing drought and potential shortages and difficulties with deliveries.

At one of the many “events” I have attended (the Olympic planning “industry” has proved to be a disruption to business as usual itself) a member of the Olympic Delivery Authority said that the event would be like 27 World Cups every day for two weeks. If that is so I hope that the interaction and sense of community engendered by the friendly rivalries of those staff from many nations watching the Olympics at work that we have seen during previous sporting events is repeated on a massive scale. This has the potential to improve relationships and team working by bringing people together for a positive feel good event who may not normally meet. My personal dream is that somehow I will get a ticket for the track cycling!



Learn more about how sustainability has been embedded into the Olympics by viewing Simon Wright's keynote speech at the Conference www.eauc.org.uk/presentations_2012

Alan Cumber, Deputy Director Facilities Services, Institute of Cancer Research and Co-convenor of the LUEG group

Meet a Member – Pam Gregory

Being brought up in a rural village in central Scotland called Aberfoyle, I enjoyed plenty of freedom as a youngster. I've always felt a fascination with nature, and since graduating in Biology from Aberdeen University in 1984, I have followed a winding path through a range of different opportunities to my current place of work, Cumbernauld College, where I am Head of the Faculty of Care and Education.

I am now sitting in my office in the College on a crisp March morning. I love Scotland and its mountains – it's where my heart is peaceful. But I can't help but wonder about the future of this beautiful planet and the legacy that our generation is going to leave behind. Every day we are

making small and not-so-small choices which impact on the future of our planet; whether it's printing out that email at work or taking a flight to Australia to visit close family.

Working in education gives us a powerful opportunity to help our young people to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes enabling them to make sustainable decisions and adopt sustainable behaviours which will impact positively, not just in our own community or society but universally across the globe. This is a huge challenge but one which we must embrace at the very core of our principles and practices. So for my own future, I still have many ambitions – one of which is to help my 7 year old daughter understand that she can make a



positive sustainable difference to this fantastic planet we live on by the choices she makes during her lifetime.

We all need to make the right choices now and for the future. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Pam Gregory, Head of Faculty, Cumbernauld College

Journey to ISO14001 in six months



Part of the University of Portsmouth's Environmental and Sustainable Development Plan was a corporate objective to achieve certification to ISO 14001 by December 2012. Having started in July 2011, I undertook an initial environmental review and it became apparent an Environmental Management System (EMS) would bring

immediate benefits. In September 2011 we began drafting our EMS manual and I undertook an IEMA-approved 3-day EMS Implementation course managed by the EAUC. The course was instrumental in developing a clearer understanding of the standard and how to translate it into clear procedures.

We decided to work with a consultancy called SGS which was mainly motivated by a mutual understanding that the EMS and certification should be an opportunity to develop an effective and embedded management system rather than a simple tick box exercise. In November 2011 a 1 day pre-audit was undertaken

which gave us a “health check” on the main elements of our system, as well as an opportunity to highlight our shortcomings.

The EMS allows for a more structured and systematic approach to legal compliance. It also provides reassurance to both internal and external parties that the University is in control of its operations and takes all steps to reduce its environmental impacts. Our stage 2 audit was undertaken over 5 days at the end of February 2012 and culminated with a recommendation for certification, a first step in our continuous improvement process.

Charles Joly, Energy and Environmental Assistant, University of Portsmouth

Need help with auditing? Attend our upcoming 3-day IEMA approved EMS Auditing CPD event, Location: South Staffordshire College, 22 May 2012 - 24 May 2012. Visit http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=2164 for booking information

Sharing resources and networking



Managed Document Services (MDS) is a radical new approach to sharing printers and copiers which takes a holistic view of an organisation's document needs and processes.



The key to MDS is thinking documents not pages. Documents can, and often should, remain in digital form and MDS encompasses networked software solutions which enable documents to be input, output and exchanged without being printed. Most organisations have more devices than they need, indeed some have more than they realise, while many have no idea how many pages they actually print.

Kyocera Mita's MDS programmes reduce waste, increase efficiency

and improve productivity. It's not unusual to reduce paper consumption by a quarter, costs by one-third and energy consumption by more than half. The financial benefit is obvious, but the carbon emissions reduction can be just as significant. For more details please visit www.kyoceramita.co.uk



Learn more about the board at www.eauc.org.uk/our_executive_committee

Boardroom developments

Results are in – introducing our new board trustees

Following the AGM at the Annual Conference on 27 March 2012, we are pleased to welcome 2 new trustees to the board: Marie May and Roger Bond.

- Marie May is the Community, Sustainability and Residential Development Manager for Sheffield Hallam University and received a 60% majority
- Roger Bond is the Director of Estates at University of East Anglia and received a 49% majority

We would like to thank Richard Maxwell (Bristol Old Vic Theatre School) for his application and

we hope to utilise his skills and experience within other areas of the EAUC.

This year was the first time we have used online voting (using Electoral Reform Services) and this proved to achieve a much higher turnout with 26% compared to 14% voting at last year's AGM - with 80% of votes cast online. This shows that the voting was much more representative of Member institutions.

We would also like to say a big thank you to retiring trustees, Paul Cross (Oxford Brookes University) and Neil Smith (University of Southampton).

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EAUC UK Office
University of Gloucestershire, The Park,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2RH
T: 01242 714321

