



earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

October 2011

www.eauc.org.uk

info@eauc.org.uk

New term - a new way of **LIFE!**

See pages 4 and 5 for more details



LEARNING IN FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

University College Cork
West Suffolk College

Company Members

Hydrachill Ltd
Red Carbon Ltd
Vesma.com
Ocon Construction



Change is the only constant



At the start of the new academic year this has never felt more true. It's an unsettling time, with the foundations

of every college and university being shaken. One thing remains - we need to work better together and find new solutions to old problems.

In this edition of earth, Nick Goodman of Change Agents asks if the sustainability agenda can provide the opportunity for better sector collaboration and partnership. I think it can. But this omlette is going to need to break a few eggs.

More change is coming. At the start of this challenging new academic year, the EAUC is better than ever, giving you the training, tools, information and inspiration

you need to think ahead and embrace change. We're here to ensure that you will be part of a new generation of more sustainable learning organisations - and that you don't get egg on your face!



Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO



Please pass onto a colleague and recycle when finished

Meet a Member – Caroline Radnor

“As the Sustainable Travel Coordinator for the University of Birmingham, I am working to influence behaviour and people’s perceptions of sustainable travel.”

I did both of my degrees in Town Planning at the University of Birmingham and was working at a consultancy when I saw it was advertising a sustainable travel job. I jumped at the chance to work for the University and get huge satisfaction from actually implementing plans, rather than just producing them for a consultancy.

The University has a Carbon Management Plan and I’m now focused on devising methods to gather the relevant data to monitor scope 3 emissions. These are indirect emissions which are generated as a result of the University’s activities, including business and commuter travel. I will focus on encouraging behaviour change and influencing colleagues’

perceptions of sustainable travel so they consider alternatives for commuting to and from work, as well as for business travel.

I am also the Chair of the EAUC’s Transport Planning Network Group which is a platform for networking and identifying areas where training and support is needed. The group share ideas

and learn from each other’s experiences. It is an excellent support mechanism in such changing times.

To join the group please email info@eauc.org.uk

In my spare time I like to cycle and go to quite a few gigs with my husband. We also own a number of properties, so I am often kept busy with landlord duties.



Caroline Radnor - Sustainable Travel Coordinator

How we have gone green, reduced waste and improved sustainability



Cheltenham Catering Supplies

The huge impact toxic chemicals and waste has on our landfill and ecosystem is well documented. For the past 3 years Cheltenham Catering Supplies have been working with schools providing an environmentally sustainable service through a number of avenues.

We always use biodegradable takeaway food and drink packaging, and have switched to eco-friendly cleaning chemicals

in the kitchen. All disposables are made from recycled materials, and we offer a free recycling service to help our clients and consumers enforce a zero waste policy. We are committed to upholding the highest environmentally sustainable and ethical values in all that we do.

We are a unique environmentally friendly supplier and would love to help you achieve your green agenda.



Phil Penwarden
Owner, Cheltenham Catering Supplies
www.cheltenhamcateringsupplies.co.uk

Legal spotlight



The rise in environmental taxes

As we start a new academic year, colleges and universities need to understand the impact of rises in environmental taxes introduced in July 2011.

The Finance Act 2011 replaces the Finance Act 2000 and makes a number of increases to taxes, including environmental taxes, which are likely to impact financially on colleges and universities.

The rates of the **climate change levy** paid on electricity, gas and other fuels will increase from **April 2012**. The levy is paid directly on fuel bills. Take a look at the table below for the new rates. As a result, universities and colleges will see energy bills rise above the predicted increases in domestic prices.

Fuel rate increases

Taxable commodity	Rate at which levy payable if supply is not a reduced-rate supply	Increase from rates in Finance Act 2000
Electricity	£0.00509 per kilowatt hour	18.4% increase
Gas	£0.00177 per kilowatt hour	18.0% increase
Any petroleum gas/other gaseous hydrocarbon supplied in a liquid state	£0.01137 per kilogram	18.4% increase
Any other taxable commodity	£0.01387 per kilogram	18.5% increase

The rate of **landfill tax** will also increase from £56 per tonne to £64 per tonne from April 2012, a **14.3% increase**. If universities and colleges are still disposing of significant amounts of waste to landfill, considerable additional costs may be incurred.

In the last earth we told you about the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and the Waste (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2011. Add these to the increase in landfill tax, and colleges and universities could make significant cost savings by reassessing their waste procedures to ensure they send as little as possible to landfill.

Written by Mary Garwood, Graduate Environmental Consultant www.waterman-group.com



EAUC CPD event 'Know your waste', 17 October 2011. Visit www.eauc.org.uk/events



London Universities Environment Group (LUEG) has international appeal

The work of universities across London on reducing carbon will be featured in a documentary in South Korea later this year.

A journalist from KBS Radio, the South Korean equivalent of the BBC, visited the UK in July to find out how universities are stepping up their carbon reduction to ensure they meet the legally-binding targets set in the Climate Change Act 2008.

The journalist, Miss Park, interviewed Dr Victoria Hands, Head of Sustainability at London School of Economics and Chair of London Universities Environment Group (LUEG) who outlined the work the sector is undertaking by drawing on examples from universities across the capital. This included a discussion about resource efficiency, the role of environmental champions and how students can contribute to potential solutions.

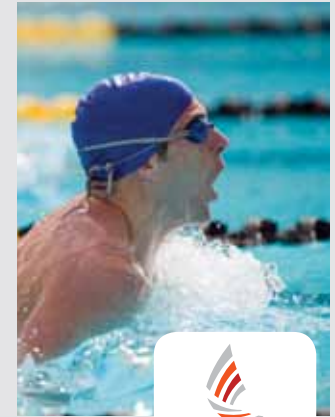
Miss Park explains: **“The documentary aims to discuss solutions to the energy crisis and climate change... Universities educate and develop the leaders of the future, and have a vital role to play.”**

Read more about the documentary and the LUEG at www.eauc.org.uk/greater_london and about KBS Radio at <http://english.kbs.co.kr>



New term – a new way of LiFE

Although summer is the time we think of holidays, the EAUC have been working hard redeveloping Universities that Count (UtC) into a powerful new system to help you and your institution embed social responsibility and sustainability practices in everything you do. This Autumn we are proud to bring you LiFE – Learning in Future Environments – to be launched on 1 November 2011.



Why LiFE?

The last year has witnessed some tough changes for the sector on several fronts; restructuring of funding mechanisms, very public demonstrations over how the sector should operate and the introduction of new legislation that will have substantial impact on us all. What is also evident is that social responsibility and sustainability remain high on everyone's agenda and LiFE has been specifically developed to work with institutions to achieve more in these areas.

What is LiFE?

LiFE is a bespoke and comprehensive system that will help universities and colleges manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance. It has been developed in collaboration with institutions and people from across the sector, as well as our funding partners HEFCE, HEFCW, SFC and DELNI.

No time-wasting please!

LiFE directly replaces UtC and we've listened and learned from all the feedback we have received. We have openly engaged with the sector and have been working hard to ensure that LiFE is not just another time-consuming reporting tool that is a drain on your resources. LiFE is an instinctive and easy to use performance management system that will bring tangible results to your institution.

Not just another league table

We know how disappointing it can be to see all of your hard work ignored as league tables are publicly announced that bear no real relationship to how you are genuinely performing. LiFE is not about random naming and shaming. Instead, LiFE institutions can use their accreditation to publicly promote their achievements and benchmark their success against the sector, both nationally and internationally. That makes LiFE a much more positive and effective experience for institutions than a traditional league table.

New term, new plan

As students and staff begin the new academic year, effects of the changes in the last year will have an impact on everyone. At the EAUC, we have created LiFE to help the sector make some vital transitions and we encourage all institutions to get involved with the process, which will be a simple and effective step towards helping to secure their future.

If you would like to find out more about how LiFE will work for your institution, or you would like to get involved in the further development of the system, please visit our new website at www.thelifeindex.org.uk or contact Sarah Hayward on shayward@eauc.org.uk.

We're excited to be able to offer LiFE to EAUC Members at a discounted rate

To find out more, please visit www.thelifeindex.org.uk

Member offer!

It's not what you know...

...but who you know. Where better to make new contacts than at the sector's most prestigious sustainability awards ceremony? The Green Gown Awards 2011 is the perfect opportunity to mingle with like-minded professionals, share ideas and celebrate successes.

Entries this year were up 20% on last year, providing even stiffer competition for the coveted shortlist spots. More than 240 entries were received for the 13 categories, whittled down to just 81 entries by the judges. The winners will be announced on 3 November at the

Awards Ceremony at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London.

Tickets start from just £950 for a table of 10 or £100 per ticket which is a discounted rate for EAUC Members. To book your ticket visit www.greengownawards.org.uk



Member offer!



Exeter College: a learning journey

The summer break – a chance to pause and reflect on the past year's successes and achievements for Exeter College? Not likely, as this is a College that is always on the go.

There's been plenty going on during the holidays, amongst other things, the IT department have been busy greening up their server rooms.

Look out for the final instalment of this journey in November to read all about what end of year grades Exeter College gives itself for sustainability and what subjects it will opt to study in the forthcoming year.

Are you starting your own sustainability journey? Let us know, email info@eauc.org.uk

Opinion

Can Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) work better together on sustainability?

Amidst a rapidly evolving sector and severe budget cuts, the ability for institutions to drive forward sustainability can be significantly affected. These are difficult times; financial resources have disappeared, some may lose focus amidst the need to increase income streams whilst for others, sustainability may quite simply drop off the agenda. I believe better collaboration and more innovative partnership working is the answer.



Perhaps there could be more visibility from local authorities, third sector organisations and sustainability bodies such as the EAUC when taking a greater lead to link and support institutions looking to collaborate.

Why not pick up the phone to other institutions in your area? David Cameron says: "We are all in this together" and this is true of sustainability in FE and HE. We are all facing similar pressures and changes, but we all want the same thing.

Change Agents UK would like to hear from anyone already enjoying a productive relationship with other institutions on sustainability and your thoughts on what support, tools or guidance we or other organisations could be providing.

We are fortunate to have some common currencies - energy, carbon, waste, water and transport. Is there more that could be done to work closer together at a cross-institutional level? Can we strengthen our work, particularly locally, by sharing resources, staff, ideas, projects, costs, information and the benefits of success? The sector needs to transcend potential barriers and uncertainty to work together towards a vision that we all share - decreased impact on the planet and greater sustainability.

"Easier said than done" I hear you say. We all have to tackle organisational cultures, the natural pace of an institution and the inevitable local politics. In a rapidly changing environment, staff turnover and internal structural changes can be a real challenge, and it takes time to build up trust and relationships.

Nick Goodman

Charity Leader –
CHANGE AGENTS UK
(formerly StudentForce
for Sustainability)
www.changeagents.org.uk

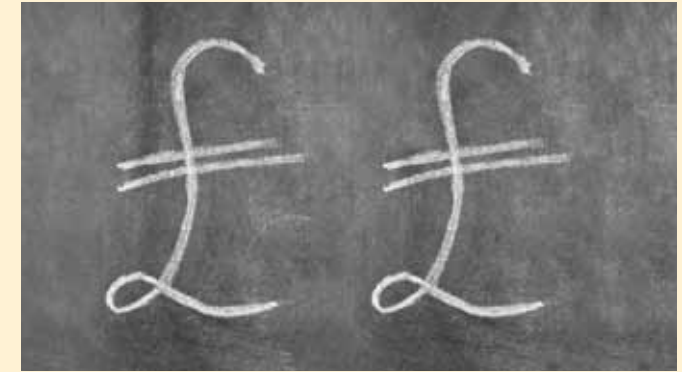


What's your view? Why not get in touch at info@eauc.org.uk



Focus on funding

With the start of a new academic year upon us, thoughts turn to our own priorities for the year. But what is at the top of the list for the funding bodies? We asked them to pick their top subjects for the forthcoming year and here's what they said...



Policy and consultation in Wales

At the **Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)**, the focus will be on continued implementation of the Welsh Governments' higher education policy *For our Future*.

Input to their consultation on the future structure of higher education (HE) in Wales. This is available until 5 October at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/heinwales/?lang=en HEFCW will also be enhancing regional delivery of HE and continuing to embed sustainability within its policy development process.

HE reforms in England

As its top priority the **Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)** will be working with government, universities, colleges and other partners to implement the higher education reforms. It will also be:

Implementing the carbon reduction strategy for HE in England – including allocating £10 million

through the Revolving Green Fund for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/circlets/2011/cl16_11/.

Deadline for applications: 17 October 2011.

Reviewing its sustainable development strategy in the light of the Higher Education White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System' www.discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/

HE strategy in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland (NI), the focus will be on developing a HE strategy. A spokesperson from the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland (DELNI) said: "In the next year the Department will be developing and publishing a Higher Education strategy for NI which will include a strategic approach to maintaining NI's position as the

top UK country for widening HE participation." For more information visit www.delni.gov.uk.

Carbon in Scotland

The **Scottish Funding Council (SFC)** will make a statement on the contribution colleges, universities and the Funding Council make to the Scottish Government's carbon reduction targets. It plans to do this each year and will work closely with EAUC Scotland to estimate the carbon saved.

Mark Batho, Chief Executive of the Scottish Funding Council said: "We make a clear commitment to sustainable development in our corporate plan and we are now demonstrating, through our investments and policy developments, that we have an important role to play in creating a greener Scotland."

So now you know what the funders' key themes will be this year, are you ready to choose yours?



EAUC Autumn events programme

Are you prepared for the new academic year? We have a range of IEMA-approved training courses and bespoke events this Autumn. Apart from the learning, these are a fantastic opportunity to network, discuss case studies and find out what other Members are up to.



- 4-6 October** EMS implementation, Birmingham
- 13 October** Sustainable procurement levels 1 and 2, Birmingham
- 17 October** Know your waste, Warwick
- 1 November** EAUC UCCCFs Scotland Conference, Perth
- 3 November** Nine elements of a sustainable campus, London
- 3 November** Green Gown Awards 2011, London
- 16 November** How to set up an environmental champion network, Bristol
- 23 November** Sustainable procurement level 3, tbc

Book now at www.eauc.org.uk/events

Green Directory – access to sustainable services at your fingertips

The EAUC is committed to upholding its title as *the* environmental and sustainability champion within the FHE sector. The start of a new academic year means that new decisions will have to be made for procurement, amongst others. To help you, we have **re-launched the Green Directory** to provide you with ease of access for all your sustainable service needs.

Here, you'll find listings of EAUC Company Members who have gone through an approval process to verify their sustainability credentials, which means that the hard work has been already done for you!

Companies on the Green Directory will have sector experience, new insights, and most importantly, a

commitment to sustainability. Visit www.eauc.org.uk/green_directory



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