



It could be you!



The entries for this year's Green Gown Awards are now in. So, are you ready to get your glad rags on like last year's winners, the University of the West of England? Here they are celebrating with Mark Batho of the Scottish Funding Council and celebrity host Mark Watson. See pages 4 and 5 for more on this year's awards.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

- Bridgend College
- City of Bath College
- Coleg Gwent

Company Members

- Showerbob
- British Gas Business
- Labwaste Ltd



Credit where credit's due



Isn't it time we stand up, get the recognition and credit we deserve and recommit our sector to being the sustainability trail-blazer it really should be?

Colleges and universities bring huge economic, social and environmental value to our planet, so we need to ensure we deliver this and start

shouting about it too. The early years of the People & Planet's Green League certainly helped get the recognition many of our Members deserve but now that the powerful university and college LIFE Index has been announced we have a truly sector owned performance improvement mechanism.

And the recognition doesn't stop there. This issue features the Green Gown Awards and the EAUC's new Member Advisory Council (MAC). We're entering a critical time of change and opportunity in UK

further and higher education. The EAUC is your voice, advocate and provider so stand up and vote for the first members of the MAC to ensure we meet your needs. Then commit your college or university to the LIFE Index to celebrate, promote and advance your contribution to society - and get a bit of credit for it too!

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

Please pass onto a colleague and recycle when finished

Meet a Member: Arran Stibbe

Interesting conversations about the future of energy after the earthquake and tsunami inspired my latest research in Japan.

I have recently returned from a research visit to Japan where I worked with English Language teachers to create teaching materials related to the recent tsunami and nuclear accident.

There is a great deal of reflection going on in Japan now not just about how electricity is produced but also about how society could change to use a lot less of it. At the same time there is reflection on the importance of community cohesion for dealing with difficult times in the future. The teaching materials aim to encourage this reflection and provide an online forum for sharing ideas arising from Japan with a wider audience.

I'm a lecturer in humanities at the University of Gloucestershire and co-convenor of the Sustainability in Higher Education Developers group (SHED) – an initiative jointly run by the EAUC and the Higher Education Academy Education for Sustainability Project.

I value being part of the EAUC because it has put me in touch

with literally hundreds of like-minded sustainability educators across the country. The EAUC is particularly strong in combining both campus and curricula aspects of sustainability.

I edited 'The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy' which brings together chapters from 35 SHED members, each exploring a different skill that graduates need to survive and thrive in today's challenging conditions. You can download a free copy at www.sustainability-literacy.org.

I combine my academic interests in linguistics and human ecology in my teaching and research in eco-linguistics (see www.ecoling.net for more details about what ecolinguistics is). I was also awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2010 for my work on Education for Sustainability.

Written by Arran Stibbe,
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Join SHED
at www.eauc.org.uk/shed



Arran in the Peace Park at Hiroshima with his son, Sen

A first for South Staffs College

In March, South Staffordshire College's Tamworth campus was the first in England to receive a Silver Ecocampus Award.



South Staffordshire College's Environment and Sustainability Manager, Mark Phillips, said "We have joined an elite group of Higher Education providers in achieving this award and that in itself is a really positive step for the College."

But the College has its sights set higher and will be pushing on to apply for Gold standard at the end of the summer, followed by Platinum in the new year.

Mark continues, "To achieve our ultimate goal, this is an on-going process that requires support from everyone. At South Staffordshire College we have demonstrated our ability to hit our sustainability targets and we look forward to the challenge of the Gold level this summer!"

The EAUC is keeping its fingers crossed for Mark and his team and will update Members if they succeed in their bid for Gold in the summer!

For more information visit www.southstaffs.ac.uk

www.eauc.org.uk

Legal spotlight

How will the new 2011 waste legislation affect you?

The main legislative framework for waste in Europe, the Waste Framework Directive, has been revised. As a result, in April 2011, **The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and The Waste (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2011** were introduced to enforce the changes to this directive across the UK.

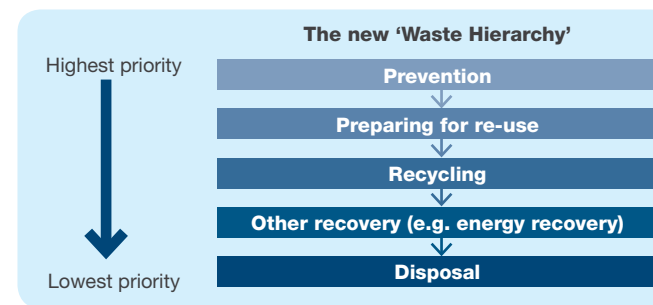
From 28 September 2011 (or 8 October 2011 for Northern Ireland), whenever waste is

collected, it must be declared on the waste transfer or consignment note that the waste management hierarchy has been applied. For some colleges and universities, this may involve a review and reorganisation of their waste management system to ensure wastes are segregated appropriately to allow the application of the hierarchy.

The Controlled Waste Regulations 2011, expected to come into force in October, will also impact on

colleges and universities. This new legislation alters the way in which waste from education institutions is classified. If introduced in its current form it will require colleges and universities to pay for waste disposal, in addition to current collection charges, for any wastes collected from their premises as of 1 April 2012.

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



EAUC CPD event
'Know your waste',
18 October 2011.
Visit the EAUC
website for more
information.

Coming
soon!



A new lease of LiFE

We're delighted to announce that the launch date for the EAUC's new Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) programme is set for 1 November 2011.

LiFE is the fully redeveloped, rebranded and relaunched Universities that Count (UtC) programme.

It's a comprehensive performance and benchmarking tool developed specifically to help colleges and universities manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance.

The EAUC's Chief Executive, Iain Patton, says "The EAUC is excited by the launch of our new programme. We are now actively looking to engage with our Members, and the wider sector, to help guide the ongoing development of the framework and the online benchmarking tool."

If you would like to learn more about how your institution can get involved in LiFE, please visit www.thelifeindex.org.uk or contact Sarah Hayward (shayward@eauc.org.uk).

As a special bonus, EAUC Members will have an opportunity to engage with LiFE at a discounted rate. Watch out for more information, and opportunities to get involved in developing the programme over the coming months.



LEARNING IN FUTURE
ENVIRONMENTS

New
Member
discount

Gearing up for the Green Gown Awards



The countdown has started to the highlight of the education sustainability calendar, the Green Gown Awards 2011 (GGAs), which this year will be held on 3 November. The deadline for entries for the awards has now passed and once again it's been a great year.



Particularly popular has been the carbon reduction category, probably after the success of last year's winners, Pembrokeshire College, who proved it is possible to make massive reductions in your energy bills.

And there's a good mix of entries from higher and further education institutions, showing that the whole sector wants its progress recognised.

Think local, going global

Now in their seventh year, the Awards celebrate the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK.

Already well-recognised here, their reputation has spread much further afield, with this year also marking the second year for GGAs in Australasia. Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) has taken inspiration from our Awards, proving once again how prestigious they are.

Learn more about ACTS and their Green Gown Awards at www.acts.asn.au

Not just glitz and glamour

The impact of the Awards doesn't fade with the memories of the gala dinner. The real value of the GGAs is in the continuing learning opportunities they provide.

As in previous years, an Awards brochure will be produced which records all the winning and highly commended entries, along with some of the judges' comments. Throughout the year, the EAUC will work with winners to put on Continuing Professional Development training events, and create best-practice case studies. This will help the whole sector benefit and cement the GGA's impact way beyond the Awards night.



The credit you deserve

Previous winners have highlighted the GGAs as a great way to harness senior management and learner support for sustainability initiatives, as well as being a boost to the staff involved.

Director of Estates and Facilities at Pembrokeshire College, Steve Jones says: "Winning a Green Gown Award is a deserved accolade for the staff and students at the College, who have shown commitment for the environment and sustainability, by developing and implementing various initiatives. Achieving this Award has also supported and encouraged further initiatives at the College."

Inspirational

Iain Patton, Chief Executive of the EAUC, said: "The Green Gown Awards are certainly the highlight of our calendar. Each year we are proud to see the effort and imagination that colleges and universities put into their sustainability initiatives.

"Our Awards recognise those who go one step further and who the sector can look to for ideas and inspiration. Whether or not they win, we want people to leave the Awards ceremony inspired that colleges and universities are honouring their commitment to sustainability.

"The EAUC will follow up that inspiration with practical resources that will help everyone improve their institution."



Book your place now

There are a variety of table packages available on the night. Details of which can be found at www.greengownawards.org.uk.

For more information on the Green Gown Awards please visit www.greengownawards.org.uk or to place a booking contact our Awards team on 020 7324 2771 or email greengown@eauc.org.uk.

www.greengownawards.org.uk

Exeter College: a learning journey

New recycling initiatives and engagement are on the agenda as the College continues its year-long focus on sustainability.

It is now one year since Exeter College started its Sustainability Journey in earnest. Whilst lots of good things were already happening, they were unstructured and often unseen. Since then, Exeter College has made impressive headway, with focus through the now well-established Sustainability Group; and an understanding of what all areas of the College - and wider community - can do, particularly together.

Hair raising recycling ideas

The College was keen that the Sustainability Group would include staff, students and College partners. This approach is certainly proving advantageous and they would recommend it to others. Two group members, the Hair and Beauty department and Exeter City Council, are working to explore the viability of recycling foil from hair colouring treatments. This relationship has facilitated trials to determine what items can be recycled and under what conditions. The learning from this will be valuable as the Council will have a better understanding of additional waste that can be recycled. Learning will continue further afield as the results of the study are shared.

Community and department engagement

We introduced you to Steve Strang, Ambassador for Sustainability and Head of Estates, in the last issue of earth. Steve is confident that his team's work is already good practice. The next step is greater engagement with the college community. As Steve and his team already visit each department within their Estates role, adding sustainability to the agenda is straightforward and firmly on the action plan. Combining the sustainability role into a position that already works across the organisation is certainly working for Exeter College.

Linking the curriculum

Learning from the Urban Garden project continues. Steve reflects that it was "great to get students involved in a one-off project, but the greater learning experience will come when it's part of the long-term curriculum". The grant allowed Exeter College to get the garden started. The focus is now on encouraging curriculum leaders to use the garden for courses, including foundation studies, maths and science and adult and evening courses.

Written by Kirsti Norris, Action for Sustainability

Visit www.exe-coll.ac.uk to follow their learning journey



Building sustainability into construction



Construction firms in Northern Ireland have been building sustainability into their work thanks to a course developed by Northern Regional College (NRC).

In a great example of EAUC members coming together, the College partnered with EAUC Company Member Arup and CITB-Construction Skills NI to deliver the Responsible Sourcing of Materials (RSM) course to building professionals from 10 top construction firms and a further 71 subcontractors.

Director of NRC, Trevor Neilands, said "With access to state of the art software, participants assessed their current level of RSM and measured this against the BRE standard for responsible sourcing of construction products.

"This informed the development of action plans for each company, that when implemented will improve RSM processes. The workshops also explored various processes which can be used to promote RSM within their company and therefore appeal to clients who want to demonstrate their corporate social responsibility."

We'd love to hear more examples of EAUC Members coming together to create new learning opportunities, so get in touch. See www.nrc.ac.uk for more details about the course.



Opinion

Do we really need policy to drive sustainability?



When most people think about sustainable development and carbon reduction, global challenges and issues quite rightly spring to mind. But the reality is that sustainability begins at home.



Conrad Benefield

Over the last ten years there has been a clear policy drive for sustainability in education and learning. We've had the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), the Sustainable Schools programme and an increasing expectation on Government and public bodies to make progress on sustainability.

The landscape has now changed, with the SDC ceasing to exist in March this year and funding for Sustainable Schools no longer available. The policy drive seems to have been replaced with a 'Vision for Sustainable Development' which clearly shares the responsibility for sustainability with individuals, communities, business and the public sector.

Some might argue that this shift in focus is the last thing we need to step up our response to the environmental, economic and social challenges we face, particularly in a time of financial austerity.

But the engine room of change, innovation and progress in sustainability lies within higher (HE) and further education (FE) institutions, people and learners, not within the policy and planning frameworks or the protocols that govern them.

LSIS's 'Stepping Up in Sustainability' and 'Cut the Carbon' programmes have supported 27 sector-led projects which have developed and shared effective approaches to sustainability. We have created both the 'Sustaining Our Future' framework and the 'Reaching Forward Index' to support providers in collectively understanding and interpreting sustainability, and in developing and improving as sustainable organisations.

This approach to change through practitioners is clearly shared by the HE sector and is embodied in strategies such as the Universities that Count scheme (now called LiFE - see page 3 or visit www.thelifindex.co.uk) and the Sustainability Exchange which have their essence in collaboration and sharing, and in practitioner leadership and expertise. LSIS is also currently working with the EAUC to support nine carbon reduction partnerships aimed at sharing best practice in HE institutions

with their local FE partners. These partnerships were featured in the May issue of earth.

But while these projects are few and modest in their ambitions, they embody the potential that exists for real, ongoing change, especially when HE and FE collaborate.

So I would argue we don't need that policy drive. We all know the job to be done. The climate for change in our sectors appears to be warming and the energy for that change among both practitioners and their organisations seems to be growing with it. Let's continue to harness it.

Written by Conrad Benefield, Sustainability Programme Development Manager at the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, conrad.benefield@lsis.org.uk.

The LSIS resources are available on the Excellence Gateway: www.excellencegateway.org.uk



New positive behaviour community of practice



A key element of making your institution more sustainable is changing people's behaviour.

While many of us are experts in the changes that need to be made, less of us are experts in getting people to make those changes.

So we've launched a new community of practice which will identify precedents in the area, share experiences and best practice examples and provide members with guidelines and

templates to lighten the workload when tackling this important area.

Dr Sandra Lee will convene the community, which will be mainly web-based using a dedicated JISCmail network and a home for resources within the EAUC website Member Zone. Sandra has a PhD in Behaviour Change and is the Sustainable Travel Officer at the University of Leicester.

This is an exciting new area for the EAUC and it's fantastic to see that Sandra is keen to share her vast experience to distil this complex subject into simple and valuable actions and discussions.

To join please email info@eauc.org.uk with your name, email address, organisation name and job title or visit www.eauc.org.uk for more information.

EAUC boardroom developments

More power to you - voting for the MAC opens soon

We'll soon see the start of voting for the first ever Member Advisory Council (MAC).

The EAUC is confident that uniting a group of like-minded, passionate individuals will allow us to critically evaluate, challenge and debate whether our members are truly at the heart of our work. The MAC will give us the insight and focus to be able to offer new member services based on your needs and requirements.

You need to choose who will represent you. Nominations are now closed, and every member contact, not just every institution, will have a vote.

Voting will be online, so keep your eyes peeled for more information.



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

We've bin watching you!

A research group at Newcastle University has come up with a fantastic take on behaviour change - Bin Cam.

You might have seen in the national media that they've put cameras in the bins of three households to capture what is thrown away, with the pictures uploaded to a Facebook page.

And it seems to be working, after just two weeks the bins are being emptied fewer times due to less being thrown away and more being recycled.

This is a fantastic way to make people think before they throw things away. If you're interested in changing people's behaviour why not join our new community of practice (see above)?

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