



earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

May 2011

www.eauc.org.uk

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EAUC Annual Conference puts new spin on things



Conference delegates enjoying Get Cycling's Megabike
See more on page 2

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

City College Coventry	Shetland College of Further Education
East Berkshire College	Thanet College
Hadlow College	West Nottinghamshire College
MidKent College of Higher & Further Education	

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Yearning for the vast and endless sea

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



It was so appropriate for Ellen MacArthur to quote Antoine de Saint-Exupéry as she closed our

hugely successful Conference last month. In the face of mountainous bitter seas and howling winds, Ellen never faltered. And neither must we. In this time of our own turbulent academic seas there is great scope for change. We must never forget that if change for sustainability does not come from our places of research and learning then where else will it come from!

The EAUC Annual Conference celebrated a host of new ways

to support and learn from each other and this edition of earth with its insights into quality, carbon reduction and the Green Gown Awards 2011 we hope will inspire and sustain you to bring the change we look for.

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

Our EAUC Annual Conference continues online!

Whether you joined us at our Conference or not, there's still plenty of ways to get involved by logging onto our website:

- 1 Get all Conference presentations and catch up on all those essential bits you missed www.eauc.org.uk/presentations_2011
- 2 Check out the winners and runners-up of our poster competition www.eauc.org.uk/poster_competition
- 3 Take a trip to the EAUC Cinema to view keynote addresses and other highlights www.eauc.org.uk/videos
- 4 Join the Member Advisory Council and have your say in how the EAUC is run www.eauc.org.uk/member_advisory_council
- 5 Get active and join or set up an EAUC Community of Practice http://www.eauc.org.uk/communities_of_practice

Putting your feedback into practice

One of the most popular speakers from our Conference was Chris Smith from Ecotube who brought us into the world of Social Media. As a result of your feedback, we'll be offering our Members a dedicated CPD event called 'Mastering Social Media' – an essential event to keep up to date with using new media within the sector.

We expect this to be a popular event so to find out more information and to book now, visit www.eauc.org.uk.

Written by EAUC, 01242 714321
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Places are limited - book now!



British Gas Business, Platinum Sponsor, EAUC Annual Conference

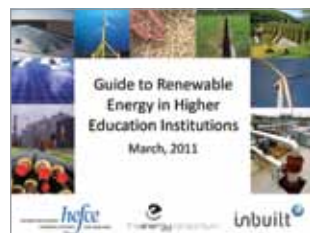
Chris Smith, Founder of Ecotube

Poster competition board

Guide to renewable energy in higher education institutions now available

A new guide, launched at this year's EAUC Annual Conference, has been produced to support Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in their strategic decision making with respect to investment in renewable energy generation. It describes industry best practice, supported by sector experience gathered from interviews with HEIs. Critically, it will enable readers to decide which renewable technologies are worthy of further investigation and which ones can be discounted.

The guide's highly accessible format allows those considering their renewable energy options to get to grips with renewable energy investment in less than half an hour of reading.



The guide has been developed by renewable energy experts at Inbuilt in association with The Energy Consortium (TEC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

For a copy of the guide and for more information, contact Andrew Peel, Inbuilt, andrew.peel@inbuilt.co.uk



EAUC voice on CRC

Malcolm Fergusson (Head of Climate Change at the Environment Agency) was asked at the recent GovToday conference about his perceived applicability of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme to Institutions. Questioning pertained to the overlap of existing schemes which some members of the EAUC argue means that certain Higher Education Institutions should be exempt from the CRC requirements. This is because:

- Universities are already ranked through the Green League
- Sector targets are imposed by HEFCE, and to gain CIF2 funding a University must have a Carbon Management Plan

in place, defined reduction targets (commonly verified and policed by the Carbon Trust) and the requirement for ongoing measurement of CO₂ emissions

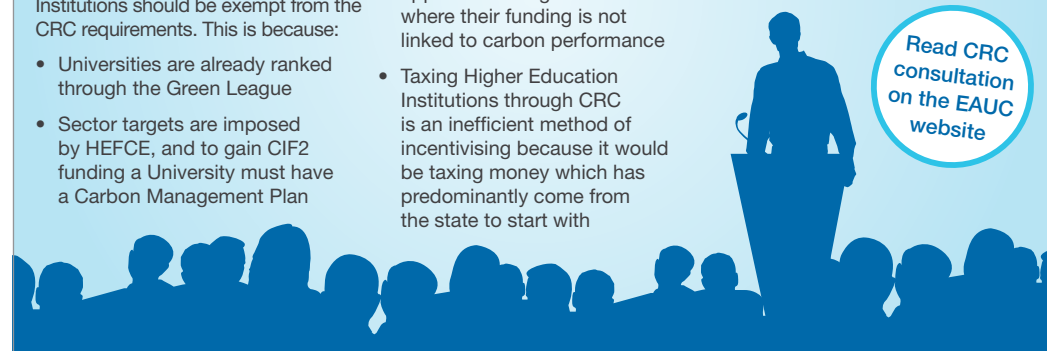
- CIF2 is a dramatically larger financial incentive than £12 per ton of carbon as per CRC. CRC should only be applicable to organisations where their funding is not linked to carbon performance
- Taxing Higher Education Institutions through CRC is an inefficient method of incentivising because it would be taxing money which has predominantly come from the state to start with

The EAUC feels that the issues raised have not been properly recognised within the Government's impact assessment. Malcolm Fergusson did state that the discussion can still be had with Government about the types of organisations that should be included within the scope of CRC.

Written by EAUC.

Join our campaign by sending your comments and questions to info@eauc.org.uk

Read CRC consultation on the EAUC website



Follow both projects at www.hardrainproject.com

Hard Rain in Aberdeen

EAUC Friend, Mark Edwards, trekked north to present his renowned Hard Rain lecture and see his iconic exhibition take pride of place at the Old Aberdeen campus. For one night, in the shadow of the School of Modern Languages and Literature, the University embraced the 'other' Dylan.

Mark's presentation is subtly different from the one that stunned the EAUC Conference in Warwick but the message is the same and the imagery remains haunting. Staff and students were transfixed by Mark's images of poverty, deforestation, over-consumption, climate change, oil dependency, famine, pollution and war. At the end, silent contemplation.

His new project, launched at Kew Gardens in May 2011 "What'll you do now," is about solutions and is designed to secure action.

The event was organised by the Climate Change Project (CCP) team; who found that their bid for repeat funding had failed the day before Mark's visit. If finale it was, the CCP team couldn't have made a stronger statement than they have.

Written by Fraser Lovie, University of Aberdeen, f.lovie@abdn.ac.uk



Exeter College: a learning journey



An update on Exeter College's progress and lessons learnt so far on their 'learning journey' to sustainability

Steve Strang, Head of Sustainability, Exeter College

New Leadership

Exeter has a new Head of Sustainability. Steve Strang, Head of Estates has been appointed alongside his current responsibilities. Steve already works cross-college and is known throughout all departments. Steve takes over from previous sustainability leader Chris Lorimer.

This proved an easy transition for Steve, however, he adds "there was a gap – so a handover would have been ideal! People weren't sure what was happening, so my first job was to stress that the Sustainability Group would continue as would the College's commitment to sustainability".

The Urban Garden

The Urban Garden is now nearing completion, with many members of the community involved including: staff, Barclays Corporate Southwest team, local employers, sponsors and students. All have worked very hard.

Lessons have been learnt. A project like this cannot be given set deadlines. With students of varying abilities, and staff with

other priorities, the project has had to balance what students can achieve with completing the garden on schedule.

Geoffrey Brown, Urban Garden Project Manager, advises others to "involve the students – the skills they gain have been invaluable but plan technical back-up to ensure progress is made. Hurdles can cost students' time and patience".

Recycling System

The College have also worked on demystifying waste collection by means of visualising the process. A year ago, staff and students were unsure if recyclable waste was actually being recycled because it was not segregated. The College have now introduced clear bags for recyclable waste and black bags for trade waste. Compost caddies feeding the Urban Garden wormery complete the new system.

Written by Kirsti Norris, Action for Sustainability

Visit www.exe-coll.ac.uk for more information



Students in the Urban Garden

Have you SORTED your carbon reduction?

The reduction of their carbon footprint is often the first thing people consider when they think about their sustainability journey. But where and how do you start?

The answer is to visit the new Carbon Reduction section on SORTED, the Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education.



In partnership with the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), the EAUC has developed a new sub-site within SORTED that has all you need to get started on reducing your organisation's carbon footprint, including a wide variety of quick links, tools, resources and case studies on a broad range of subjects from waste and energy to construction and biodiversity.

Get your Carbon Reduction SORTED! Visit www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/carbon_reduction1



Legal Spotlight

All Change on the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme?

The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC EES) continues to be a source of controversy amongst those affected and there are a number of recent and proposed changes that participants should be aware of.

As well as the setting of prices for allowances at £12/tonne, the UK Government's budget in March 2011 saw the removal of recycling payments, which will impact many who expected the scheme to be revenue neutral.

More recently, the CRC EES Order was amended, with certain key changes coming into force on 1 April 2011:

- First Phase extended by 1 year, and changes to subsequent phase commencement dates with the Second Phase now due to commence on 1 April 2013

- Delay of the first sale of allowances to 2012
- Reduced overlap between phases from two to one year and
- Revocation of disclosure requirements for those whose total electricity consumption is less than 6,000 MHW.

These extensions of the timescales will allow the Government to introduce required changes in the Scheme. Although initial consultations have now closed, it is likely that further discussion on these and other key elements will be required in time. It is anticipated that changes will be implemented by amending legislation in advance of the Second Phase commencing in April 2013 and, until this time, existing Scheme requirements will remain in force.

With this in mind, the next key hurdle for CRC EES participants is the submission of the first footprint report and first annual report, both of which must be provided via the CRC Registry by 29 July 2011.

To this end, the Environment Agency published guidance on both reporting requirements in February 2011 and this is available to download from their website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/127831.aspx>

Written by Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Limited, www.watermangroup.com



Meet a Member – Daniel O'Conner

"I'm the Waste Manager at Newcastle University and am obsessed with waste and recycling."



My great grandad was a rag and bone man. My first memory of recycling was watching a Blue Peter programme and being told that each can is worth 5p. I went out that day and collected as many cans as I could. When I was 15 I developed a can crushing tool for my grandma. So I have always had a keen interest in waste.

Newcastle University's 93% recycling rate has been achieved by a variety of factors - super staff and students, WRAP inspired communications, easy to use infrastructure and new waste treatment technologies. On an operational level, the University

has increased the recycling rate from around 20% in 2008 to 55% in 2009, 65% in 2010. In 2012 we will not send any general waste to landfill. In the last financial year only we have reduced waste spend by £90K on a £½ million budget.

I am worried about waste production - it is still going up even in recession. People have to wean themselves off hyper consumption. I think we are slowly changing our attitude to ownership, status and importance - hyper consumption is linked with resource inefficiency and people are taking action on waste.

Written by Daniel O'Conner, Newcastle University, daniel.o'connor@newcastle.ac.uk

THE SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE NEEDS YOU!



Join the exchange

Do you want your institution to be leading the sector on sustainability?

We are now recruiting staff from English Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to join our panel of sustainability experts to help us develop an exciting sector owned sustainable online community/repository.

Register your interest in joining by emailing us at info@eauc.org.uk

The Energy Centre at South Devon College

The Energy Centre project is an innovative scheme designed to meet the growing demand for high quality, accredited training in renewable energy and sustainable building techniques. Combined with raising awareness, the project will help economic recovery, drive consumer demand and ensure manufacturers and suppliers have a skilled workforce.

Principal Stephen Criddle said, "This [project] recognises the importance of future growth of private sector jobs in renewable technologies. The College was delighted to have the support of 12 private sector partners including leading companies such as Schneider as well as the Energy Saving Trust and Regen SW".

The College has already launched the first phase of its development with courses in renewable technologies and will shortly introduce training in Air and Ground Source Heat technologies.

Written by Simon Culley,
simonculley@southdevon.ac.uk



The Green Gown Awards 2011

Open for applications

The Green Gown Awards, now in their 7th year, recognise exceptional initiatives being taken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. With sustainability moving up the agenda, they have become established as the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the further and higher education sector.

The Green Gown Awards are now open for applications with the ceremony being held in November 2011.

www.greengownawards.org.uk



Opinion

Quality and Education for Sustainable Development



Steve Martin

The link between quality and sustainable development is probably best exemplified in the following quote:

"Human relationships based on naked self interest (greed, envy or lust for power, for example) maintain inequitable distribution of wealth, generate conflict and lead to scant regard for the future availability of natural resources."

An education system which mirrors these values is unlikely to be a quality education. Indeed a quality education should facilitate and promote human relationships characterised by justice, peace and negotiated mutual interests which lead to greater equity, respect and understanding. It is these qualities which underpin sustainable development and a quality education.

The complexity associated with both (quality and sustainable development) have made theoretical and research progress difficult. In spite of this, if quality assurance and sustainable development are positioned within the context of performance management

then the synergies become much clearer. Put very simply, performance management is taking action to make outcomes for learners better than they would otherwise be. Put simply, sustainable development is about improving the lives of people whilst living within environment limits. A central feature of sustainable development is the imperative to plan for the longer term as well as the need to consider the wider impacts of actions to deliver social, environmental and economic improvements in a joined up way. However, at present, a short-term culture exists in order to meet the objectives of the next inspection or quality audit and hence performance management takes a more limited perspective.

It seems to us axiomatic that for ESD to become mainstream it has to be recognised as matching and even exceeding the existing quality criteria, which all stakeholders recognise, and value as good practice in teaching and learning. Hence the criteria for good practice need to be made more explicit in all forms of communication. This is where a major challenge and barrier exists because there is no universal agreement on what constitutes good practice in ESD.

Written by Stephen Martin,
esm@smartin.demon.co.uk

Further and higher education partnerships get off to a flying start

Working with LSIS, the EAUC has instigated a new Carbon Reduction Partnership Project pilot. This project sees 9 further education (FE) institutions partner 9 higher education institutions to reduce carbon in the FE partners' workplace.

Congratulations go to the 9 projects:

Accrington & Rossendale College
Bath Spa University
Implementing Waste Recycling

Bedford College
Oxford Brookes University
Strategies to Reduce Travel Related Carbon Emissions

Canterbury College
University of Essex
Sustainable Waste Management

Cardinal Newman College
Manchester Metropolitan University
Developing an Identity for Sustainability

Friends Centre Brighton
Bournemouth University
Energy Reduction: Heating and Lighting Systems

North Warwickshire College
University of Cambridge
Server Room Cooling

Redbridge Institute of Adult Education
The University of Winchester
Writing a Sustainable Development Action Plan

Stockton Riverside College
Durham University
Voltage Optimisation

Walsall College
Coventry University
Writing an Environmental Policy

Case studies out soon



Do you want to help shape the future of your Membership?

Do you want to guide the development of your Membership services?

Do you want to represent your interests and communities?

We need you, our Members, to get involved and join the Member Advisory Council (MAC). The MAC will comprise of members derived from our Education Members, Company and Strategic Partner Members. This is your opportunity to get your voice heard and help shape sustainability within the sector.

To learn more then visit www.eauc.org.uk/member_advisory_council or contact us on 01242 714321



Why is the MAC so important?

By Harriet Sjerps-Jones, Chair of the MAC and Board Member



“The MAC will provide an important mechanism that promotes transparency and accountability

through effective consultation and collaboration. We anticipate that the MAC will provide a mechanism for the Board and the Executive Office to diversify and prioritise actions appropriately and to develop meaningful and relevant member services that benefit the college, university and learning and skills sectors across the UK. The MAC provides an exciting opportunity for our Members to guide us in what sustainability professionals really need to help them achieve their goals and improve their institutions.”

Get Involved - Join the Member Advisory Council

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The EAUC Board provides strategic guidance and has a responsibility for the development of services for members. The EAUC Board is elected annually at the AGM and is made up of volunteering individuals working in the FHE sector.

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