

The Green Gown Awards for 2009 have now been launched



Green Gown Awards 2009

Applications for the 2009 Green Gown Awards are now being accepted, so get your institution recognised in the leading Sustainability Awards Scheme for universities and colleges across the UK.

The deadline to have your **stage one application** received by the Green Gown Awards team here at the EAUC is **12 Noon on Friday 27th February**. With more categories (and thus winners!) than ever before, 2009 looks set to be a record year for the Awards. Last year we were delighted with an increase in applications and winners, particularly from colleges. With new categories on Research, Carbon Reduction and Green IT, we look forward to a whole new diversity of applications in 2009. Green Gown Awards judges come from all key sector agencies reflecting the depth and breadth of sustainability in the college and university sector. Sponsors this year include, The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Carbon Trust, Salix Finance, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), College & University Business Officers (CUBO), The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Now in their fifth year, the Awards recognise exceptional initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. With sustainability moving up the global agenda, the Awards have become established as a prestigious recognition of the achievements within the further and higher education sector, as well as in the environmental sector.



Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**



JISC

Tables will soon go on sale for the Green Gown Awards banquet at **Imperial College London on 23rd June 2009**. UK Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property, David Lammy MP will be amongst the guests announcing and presenting the awards at this prestigious event. This will be a very important opportunity for networking with the Who's Who in university and college sustainability, linking government ministers, vice chancellors and principals, funding council executives, sector suppliers, staff and students at the cutting edge of sector sustainability.

The categories for 2009 are:

- Carbon Reduction
- Colleges & Smaller Institutions
- Continuous Improvement - Specific Area
- Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change
- Courses
- Green IT
- Research
- Residences
- Social Responsibility
- Student Initiatives
- Sustainable Construction & Refurbishment

In addition, new for this year will be the DIUS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainability in an English University. This award will be judged from applications in all categories.

For further information and for details on how to apply, please visit www.eauc.org.uk

Written by Sue Boyd, EAUC Green Gown Awards Manager,
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Imperial College
London

Contents

EAUC Conference 2009 **2** Energy Saving at Exeter University **2** Legal Spotlight **3** Rainwater Recycling **4** Energy Services Directive **4** Keele's Environmental Vision **5** Poverty & Procurement Project **5** Are you a new Member? **5** Opinion **6** EAUC Staff Update **6** United Nations University **7** Sound Environmental Impact Awards Update **8** WQE1 College **8** University of Aberdeen Able Campaign **9** Roehampton Bats! **9** Soundings in Sustainability Literacy Workshop **10** Reworking Waste at Hertfordshire **11** Energy Saving at Durham University **11** Stafford College Wins Green Award **12** EAUC Executive Update **12**

'SUSTAINABILITY: TAKING THE NEXT STEP' - EAUC 13th Annual Conference

The 13th Annual EAUC Conference will be taking place at the University of Warwick between Tuesday 31st March and Thursday 2nd April 2009.

The title of the 2009 EAUC Conference will be 'Sustainability – Taking the Next Steps'. This will be **the** key environmental and sustainability event in our sector.

This important conference will be key in highlighting the sector's successes on sustainability issues, whilst also providing a forum for delegates to discuss the future for their institutions in an ever changing world, and their developing responsibilities for both the environment and the local community. This conference will help delegates identify their organisation's next step in sustainability. It will provide them with the information, inspiration, skills and support they need to make that next step.

The conference will include a mixture of keynote speakers (including David Lammy MP; Mike Barry, Head of CSR, Marks and Spencer; Melanie Hunt, Director Learning and Skills, Ofsted), plenary, exhibitions, case studies and interactive workshops including the FHE sector and the ½ Waste to Landfill Commitment; what does corporate social responsibility mean to the sector; sustainable construction; and environmental technologies. It will bring together the sector's key thinkers and examples of best practice together under one roof to show the way ahead for colleges and universities. **Get the date in your diary now!**

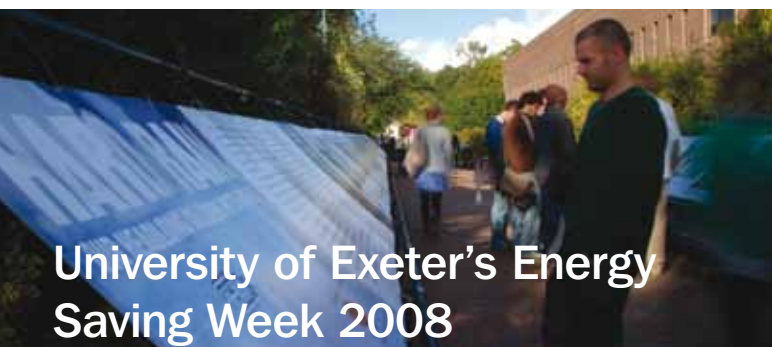
For further information, please visit www.eauc.org.uk or contact info@eauc.org.uk.



Who Should Attend:

- Environmental and Sustainability Professionals
- Estates and Facilities Managers
- Directors of Finance, Resources, Estates and Procurement
- Principals, Vice Chancellors and Senior Management
- Staff and Student Development Professionals
- Academics
- Curriculum Development Professionals
- Health and Safety Professionals
- Students and Student Representatives
- ESD Professionals
- Sector Suppliers
- Support Associations and Agencies
- Local Authorities
- Funding and Awards Bodies

Written by Abbie Weaver, EAUC Professional Development Officer, aweaver@eauc.org.uk



University of Exeter's Energy Saving Week 2008

The thought provoking "Hard Rain" photographic exhibition was centre stage for the University of Exeter's Energy Saving Week, which took place in October. The exhibition formed part of a full programme of events which aimed to highlight the issues associated with energy consumption, outline what the University is doing to address its own energy use and to provide advice and information to individuals on ways to save energy both at home and work.

The week was well received with the exhibition clearly making an

impression judging by the inspirational and positive comments left by staff and students.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Steve Smith stated, "The Hard Rain exhibition is a remarkable collection of images. It was a fitting centrepiece for Energy Saving Week. Saving energy and using resources more efficiently is a critical issue for all of us."

The University received a donation from the EAUC, which was given to offset carbon emissions related to the 12th Annual Conference held at Streatham Campus in 2008. The University used the funds to purchase awareness raising material to support the week.

The campaign formed part of the University's ongoing Carbon Management Programme, which commits to reducing the University's manageable carbon emissions by 60% by 2050. Since 2004/05 they have exceeded their target of a 2% per year and have saved a total of 3,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This event will help achieve further reductions.

Written by Karen Gallagher, Sustainability Manager, k.m.gallagher@exeter.ac.uk



Legal Spotlight

Hazardous Waste (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

The legislation will make minor changes to some of the procedures for movements of hazardous waste.

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/hazwaste/index.htm

The Waste Controls (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

The legislation will amend the waste carrier and broker registration system, the list of those exempt from registering and the list of details required in a waste transfer note. The regulations will strengthen the powers available to enforcement authorities to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of involvement in illegal waste activity.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-controls/index.htm>

Consultation on proposed amendments to the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005

The main change proposed is a widening of the existing exemption from the requirement to notify 'low risk' premises producing hazardous waste to the Environment Agency from under 200kg to under 500kg hazardous waste per year.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/hazardous-wasteregs/index.htm>

The Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008

These Regulations partially implement Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators.

The regulations place a restriction on hazardous substances in batteries.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082164_en_1

Excavated Soils – Waste Code of Practice

The Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments (CL:AIRE) organisation has published a document *The Definition of Waste: Industry Code of Practice* that attempts to define when excavated soils are classified as waste.

http://www.claire.co.uk/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=932&Itemid=25

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008

The regulations partially implement the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC) in Scotland, by requiring energy performance certificates to be made available on sale or letting of all buildings (with minor exemptions).

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2008/ssi_20080309_en_1

Guidance for Energy Performance Certificates

The Department of Communities and Local Government have published guidance detailing requirements for energy performance certificates (EPCs) when marketing homes for sale or let.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/984268.pdf>

New Department of Energy and Climate Change

The Government has announced the creation of a new Department of Energy and Climate Change from existing departments within DEFRA and BERR to focus on solving the challenges of climate change and energy supply.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk>

New Carbon Footprinting Standard Launched

Sponsored by DEFRA and the Carbon Trust, Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2050 has been developed in response to broad community and industry desire for a consistent method for assessing the life cycle GHG emissions of goods and services.

PAS 2050 builds on existing methods established through BS EN ISO 14040 and BS EN ISO 14044 by specifying requirements for the assessment of the life cycle GHG emissions of products.

www.bsigroup.com/pas2050



Thanks to Waterman Environmental for their support in preparing this Spotlight.

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EAUC Office Move

The EAUC has moved office! Still based at

the University of Gloucestershire's Park Campus in Cheltenham, the EAUC is now based in the Grade II listed Fullwood Lodge. However, the contact details for the National Office remain the same – EAUC National Office, University of Gloucestershire, The Park, Cheltenham, GL50 2RH. Telephone: 01242 714321.

Gateway College Rainwater Recycling

Leicester's Gateway College, which will open on a new site in August 2009, has made a significant step in reducing its carbon footprint by recently installing a 18 metre long tank for rainwater. The new tank, with a capacity of 56,000 litres of rainwater, will supply the 'grey water' to flush toilets throughout the new £33m College development. Rainwater is collected via the roof and flows into the tank ready to be used, saving on treated mains water and recycling natural resources in a value for money process.

The College is ambitious in its aim to reduce its carbon footprint and has a wide range of other 'green elements'. These include a 15m wind turbine, biomass boilers with locally sourced wood pellets as fuel and an entrance covered in PV cells for maximum sunlight.

College Principal Nick Goffin said; "We have always had the ambition to build a zero carbon college but the costs of some aspects have been too high. However, we have maintained key features such as



natural ventilation and building orientation in the design and will use a 'Thin Client IT System' that will reduce air conditioning needs".

The College's 'Energy Centre' will be open to local schoolchildren who will also be able to observe the energy flow created from the wind turbine, as part of this environmental education. The College will open in August 2009 with its 'Street' and 'Pod' design offering an exciting but sustainable learning environment for the twenty-first century.

*Written by Nick Goffin, Principal, Gateway College,
ngoffin@gateway.ac.uk*

Energy Services Directive – 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins'

The European Union's Energy Services Directive (ESD) came into force on 17 May 2008 and aims to improve energy efficiency in its member states. The public sector in each member state is required to play an exemplary role in implementing energy efficiency measures that generate improvements in the shortest length of time, which includes measures to improve sustainable procurement.

The procurement of goods and services is one of the biggest sources of carbon emissions across the public sector. The Sustainable Development Commission's analysis of carbon emissions from the English schools estate and NHS England found that the procurement of goods and services accounted for 42% of emissions from schools and 59% of emissions from the NHS.

To meet the requirements of the ESD all public sector organisations including central government departments, local authorities, NHS Trusts, schools, further education

colleges and universities are required to procure products that meet the Government's minimum standards for energy efficiency.

These products are listed on the 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins' product standards list covering commonly-purchased products such as IT equipment and white goods. The standards relate to characteristics such as energy consumption, recycled content, and biodegradability. The standards were updated in 2008 providing a market average level and best practice specification, purchasing products from the 'Quick Wins' list not only meets the requirements of the ESD but also reduces energy costs and carbon emissions.

Details of the 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins' standards can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/index.htm>

*Written by David O'Gorman, Department of Energy and Climate Change,
david.ogorman@defra.gsi.gov.uk*

HEFCE Revolving Green Fund

HEFCE recently announced which bids to its new Revolving Green (Transformation) Fund have been invited to submit a full application to the fund. The EAUC sits on the Fund Advisory Group along with representatives of Universities UK (UUK), Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE), British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG), BRE and Carbon Trust amongst others. It is both important and appropriate for the EAUC to be involved in this new fund to represent our members and contribute to the strategic direction and implementation of the fund.

We have already noted members concerns regarding application bureaucracy and the very tight timescales and have agreed with HEFCE a range of additional information and support measures to help future applicants whilst ensuring a fair and objective selection of applications.

The EAUC particularly wants the funded bids to achieve maximum benefit for the wider sector. To that end, we will ensure that successes and lessons learnt from the fund will be covered in our newsletters, web resource bank and spring 2009 annual conference.

Written by Iain Patton, EAUC Executive Director, ipatton@eauc.org.uk

Keele's Environmental Vision



Keele University has an ambitious environmental vision to generate most of its energy from renewable resources, and create an innovative 'hub' for teaching and research. The Keele Hub for Sustainability will use renewable and low carbon energy sources on campus, linked to research on sustainability. This is complemented by environmental education – undergraduate degrees, postgraduate masters, short courses for industry, and outreach activities. The rural site of over 600 acres offers unparalleled opportunities as a 'campus laboratory', and as a showcase for sustainable living.

The University's unique location and geology offers renewable energy resources on campus. Its high elevation is ideal for using wind energy,

whilst underground coal seams are a source of methane gas that could be extracted through 'clean technology' with low carbon impact. "The emphasis will be on a mix of energies rather than a reliance on any one single source," said Professor Patrick Bailey, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. "We aim to reduce external energy consumption by 50% within five years, and to become completely 'carbon neutral' in our energy usage within 10 years."

Written by Edward Youngman, Planning and Project Manager and Acting Secretariat Manager, Keele University,
e.youngman@vco.keele.ac.uk

Putting Poverty And Campus Development On The Agenda

The EAUC's Department for International Development (DFID) funded project on links between poverty and procurement is continuing. The project, which is called "Promoting Poverty-Aware Procurement On Campus" (PPAPC) aims to help our sector see the link between what we buy and international development. In this update, we want to emphasise the important role of university and college partners and the engagement by the project with a wide range of stakeholders.

The 14 FHE university and college partners will be involved in helping to develop and test out new materials and give feedback as the project develops. We are very fortunate that the partners between them have a wide range of experience in sustainable procurement; some with a great deal of experience who can ensure we meet or exceed sector-leading standards, and others with less experience who are providing valuable input by ensuring that material will be suitable for the sector as a whole.

We are also fortunate in having a wide range of other stakeholders involved, some of which are represented on the Advisory Board. We are very grateful to these organisations, which include the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, People and Planet, the Association of University Purchasing Officers, Oxfam, NUS Services Ltd, SNUPI, Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) and three partner FHE institutions - Blackpool and Fylde College Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester.

The project will run until March 2010.

For more details, please visit www.eauc.org.uk. For further information e-mail John Forster at john@jfassociates.org.

Written by John Forster, JF Associates, john@jfassociates.org



Welcome

We would like to give a very warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us recently:

Institution Members

University of London
 Lewisham College
 Cambridge Regional College
 Reaseheath College
 Gateway Sixth Form College
 Hugh Baird College

Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College
 North Nottinghamshire College
 The Northern College
 West Herts College
 Yale College
 Isle of Man College

Associate Members

Sustainable Resource Solutions
 Euro Office Equipment
 XMA
 BRE

For information on the many benefits of membership visit www.eauc.org.uk

“opinion”

Responsible leadership for sustainable development

We are living in an age when helping learners achieve their goals is more complex than ever before. In these unprecedented times, we ‘don’t know what we don’t know!’ So how can we help learners when we and they don’t know how climate change, peak oil and the changing economy will affect all our lives in the future? As educators, we can only scenario plan using our best forward planning skills.

But how much are we doing that? How much time is being spent on preparing ourselves and learners for the ‘inevitable surprises’ to come? If we believe that human activity has partly got us here, and we have to change the way we live and do business, then how much has our curriculum and delivery changed to respond to this challenge? Or are we teaching more of the same skills and knowledge that has partly got us into this pickle. (deliberate understatement)

Progress has been made in the estates plans of most educational establishments but my wicked question to leaders is:

Do you spend as much time on building your staff’s capacity to deal with the uncertainties of the future, as you do on the sustainability of your estate?

For what good are buildings if potentially learners and staff find getting to work difficult, (to point out just one possible scenario). I agree that meeting targets, student’s success and efficient operations are critical, but what is education all about if it is not to promote social justice, inclusion and responsible business practice and ethical living.

With changes like self regulation and the integration of sustainable development into self assessment, how much time is spent on harnessing the talents of the college community to address these issues? Moving from a community of self protection, obedience and compliance to one of solutions focussed creativity. The power of communities is evident in the transition town movement – so why not transition colleges and universities. There is so much energy and creativity to deal with sustainability issues in our college communities that is lost on the path of compliance and obedience. My recent experience at a strategic level in a college taught me this. After all, it’s their lives and their families who are equally affected.

As my hero Margaret Wheatley said, ‘there is nothing more powerful than a community discovering what it cares about’.

So leaders - harness that community power and energy. You may just be surprised at what you find out.

Written by Jo Matthews (ex Deputy Principal) now Executive Coach for Responsible Leadership, Jo.matthews@virgin.net

‘Opinion’ is a new regular feature in Earth which will be written for each issue by some of the sector’s key thinkers. If you have something you would like to comment on or if you know someone that would be able to write a topical, thought provoking piece for the newsletter, please contact Abbie Weaver at aweaver@eauc.org.uk.



EAUC Staff Update

Since the last issue of Earth, the EAUC is pleased to have welcomed four new members of staff. The new members of staff are:

Sue Boyd, Business Development Officer. Sue joined the EAUC in this new permanent role at the beginning of December from the Welsh Assembly. A science graduate that has travelled extensively, Sue will be acting as project manager for the EAUC as well as heading up sponsorship and business development.

Helen Exton, Conference Organiser. Helen joined the EAUC in November for 6 months to help plan our annual conference. Helen has excellent experience in event management, including organising the World Youth and Student Travel Conference.

Gary Martin, Finance Officer. Gary also joined the EAUC in November

for 6 months to oversee invoicing, reporting and budgeting. Gary is an ex-RAF officer, who also has experience in the charity sector and managed his own accountancy practice before retiring.

Sarah Lee, Scotland Project Officer. Sarah, who is originally from Australia, will be working on the Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSP) as well as assisting Andrew Chamberlain in establishing the EAUC Scotland Office.

Finally we are sad to inform members that EAUC Administrator Katy Richardson will be leaving in early February. Katy has been with us for three years and many members will know her cheerful voice on the telephone and competent handling of general emails to the office. We wish Katy well in her new role promoting tourism in Gloucestershire.

United Nations University – Regional Centres of Expertise

The United Nations University is the lead organisation co-ordinating the activities of the Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) in Education for Sustainable Development and is an agency of the United Nations. The mission of the UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are a concern of the United Nations, its peoples and member states.

RCEs can be found all around the world and they bring together organisations at local and regional levels to jointly promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to local and regional communities. Partner organisations include those involved in 'formal ESD' such as universities, colleges and schools, and those involved in 'informal ESD' such as the media, environmental education centres, community organisations, environmental regulators and advisory bodies, local and regional government, and local businesses.

The article here on RCE Severn is the first in a series of articles that will appear covering the RCEs in the UK and Ireland.

UNU RCE Severn Partners Meet for the First Time

The UNU RCE Severn partnership met for the first time at Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucestershire in October. The meeting brought together partners from a wide range of organisations. Over 40 people attended and defined a basis for collaboration across the region. Interactions proved very fruitful with colleagues 'boundary spanning' and engaging in 'fusion' activities. Many interesting project ideas arose at the meeting, and the UNU RCE Severn team will support partners in turning these projects into reality. The partnership is now in the process of formalising a structure for governance to manage activity. Working Groups have also begun to form as common strands of activity emerge across the partnership.

Who we are

RCE Severn is endorsed by the United Nations University (UNU) and is one of 60 similar centres throughout the world. The Centre is co-ordinated by the University of Gloucestershire, which has been recognised for its sustainability credentials.

Mission of RCE Severn

RCE Severn works with partners to develop and implement innovative projects and programmes in sustainability education. It aims to do this by bringing together a wide range of organisations from different sectors, which have diverse skills and experiences in delivering sustainability education to a broad range of audiences. The premise behind RCE Severn is that partners can learn from each other as they engage in sustainability education projects and programmes, and that by working together, they can achieve outcomes beyond what it is possible to achieve by working in isolation. RCE Severn also aims to engage with partners to identify resource needs and to seek opportunities for funding.

Written by Professor Daniella Tilbury, University of Gloucestershire, dtilbury@glos.ac.uk

What do we mean by sustainability education?

Sustainability education is more than just transferring knowledge about sustainability issues and how to tackle them. It has a focus on changing mindsets, developing skills in critical and systemic thinking, and enhancing capacity for facilitating change. It is about giving people, communities and organisations, new sets of skills and knowledge, so they can identify and respond to sustainability challenges, in ways that lead to long-term and sustained change.

Partners and collaborators with RCE Severn

Key players and partners with RCE Severn are drawn from a wide range of sectors. Partners and collaborators include those involved in communication, public engagement, media, learning, education, training, social change and organisational development.

The RCE Severn core partners are engaged with businesses, government organisations, schools, colleges, universities, and with broader public engagement, social learning and education programmes. Partners from diverse sectors continue to identify opportunities to learn from each other, and to develop new projects and programmes, which build on existing work taking place in the region.

Recent and future activities

UNU RCE Severn was a co-sponsor of the 'Soundings for Sustainability Literacy' event in November. A formal launch of RCE Severn is being planned for mid 2009.

For further information please visit www.glos.ac.uk/rce, or visit the UNU website at www.ias.unu.edu/research.



Sound Environmental Impact Awards update

Sound Environmental Impact Awards is now in its third year and is proving more popular than ever with 81 students' unions signed up!

Sound Impact is an environmental accreditation scheme with an awards element specifically designed for students' unions. The purpose of the scheme, which is run by NUS Services, the commercial arm of the NUS, is to encourage, nurture, reward and celebrate environmental best practice in students' unions.

The main change to the scheme this year is the introduction of a new Silver Standard. In previous years the Silver Award has been solely based on score with the top eight scoring unions scooping either Gold or Silver. This year any union can get the Silver Standard if they meet a set number of Bronze and Silver essential criteria plus a minimum overall score.

To encourage best practice, the number of essential Bronze criteria increases by one each year and for this year's Awards there are 22 essentials all based around easy-to-implement practical actions that reduce a union's negative environmental impact. In addition to the Bronze and Silver Standards and Gold Award there are three special Awards that Unions can enter irrespective of their overall score. These

are The Ecologist Communications Challenge Award, The Co-operative Most Improved Union Award and the Office Depot Green Innovation Award.

Although sign up for this year has now closed, participating unions are busily completing their workbooks. Many thanks to all EAUC members that have supported their unions through the Sound Impact process to date. One of the wider benefits of Sound Impact is that it helps create mutually beneficial relationships between individuals in the union and environmental staff in their institution – its never to late to contact your union and offer to help!

The Awards Ceremony will be taking place at NUS Annual Dinner at Convention on 07 April 2009, and the best practice celebration booklet will be published after that date.

If you would like to find out more information about Sound Impact please visit www.nus.org.uk/sound.

*Written by Jamie Agombar, NUS Services Ltd,
JAgombar@nussl.co.uk*



WQEI College students spreading the Green Word

Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College (WQEIC) is continuing to strive towards sustainability by appointing a Sustainable College Assistant for a second year. This placement is a part of the 'Sustainable Colleges Project' run by the charity StudentForce for Sustainability, which places European volunteers in East Midlands Further Education Colleges to assist them in becoming more sustainable.

Frenchman Florian Babeau, the WQEIC Sustainable College Assistant, is working on various projects within the college including leading the Green Group, composed of students who spread Green attitudes around the college.

In November, the Green Group participated in the College Fashion Show, showing off their artistic creativity on the catwalk. The group successfully created belts from used bicycle tyres, accessories and outfits made from second-hand clothing. The Group's next major task is to organise a Green event with



the involvement of local communities and associations. The event will involve students and staff in a variety of interactive activities, providing a wide range of information.

The Green Group is a great asset to the college and complements other advances WQEIC is making towards greater sustainability, including a highly efficient new building, energy efficient refurbishment of the science building and the replacement of all boilers over the last year.

*Written by Florian Babeau, Sustainable College Assistant,
florian.babeau@wqeic.ac.uk*

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EAUC Member Only Offers

The EAUC has negotiated discounts on a selection of products and services for our Members. These discounts are to give added value to membership. Therefore, your organisation must be a Member of the EAUC at the time of accessing the product or service to receive the discounts offered.

By negotiating these offers, the EAUC is not endorsing any product, service or organisation and we advise all Members to seek advice before taking any action.

For further information on the Member offers available, please visit www.eauc.org.uk/member_only_offers. If you would like to arrange an offer for our Members please, contact info@eauc.org.uk.

'Able' Campaign at the University of Aberdeen



The University of Aberdeen has launched a new campaign to highlight environmental issues amongst students and staff. The aim of the University's Environment Office is to engage with staff and students, and to raise awareness about the day-to-day issues that impact on our environment. In order to do this the Environment Office wanted to develop a campaign that was appealing to all, different, versatile and that would suit an academic environment.



Environmental Champions on a site visit

Three external graphic design agencies were asked to tender for the development of a campaign that would deal with environmental issues in a more unusual way. Once the tenders were submitted, a working group of different people from around the University were asked to give their opinions. The working group was then asked to choose the campaign they felt would work best in the University environment - the 'able' campaign met this need.

The 'able' campaign has just started to emerge, on webpages, noticeboards, e-bulletins, promotional items, SMUG mugs, banners, vehicle livery and event student hoodies, but it is hoped that the campaign will develop into a full awareness raising strategy.

As well as the 'able' campaign, the University is celebrating the first year of its environmental champions scheme. The idea of the champions is to encourage enthusiastic staff and student members to help assist the Environment Office in raising awareness of issues such as waste minimisation, energy and water conservation, sustainable travel, Fairtrade and much more within their departments. The champions receive a quarterly newsletter, attend workshops and site visits, free training and guidance, and also participate in an eco-points scheme that can be redeemed at the end of the year.

This initiative has proved very successful and has seen environmental champions challenge their commute to work, create staple free zones and learn to reuse. The environmental champions' scheme is set to continue for its second year with further events planned.

Written by Amy Gray, Waste and Environmental Manager, University of Aberdeen, environment@abdn.ac.uk

Roehampton Bats!

A recent study of Roehampton University revealed populations of at least two species of bat. Alison Fure, a bat ecologist, and Dr Jonathan Horner, Deputy University Safety, Health and Environment Manager, conducted the survey using ultrasonic bat detectors.

"Bats use a high frequency echo location system to hunt and avoid objects when flying at night" said Alison. 'At Roehampton Lane Campus, we detected pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*). At just 5 grams, a pipistrelle can eat thousands of insects a night".

"Through the University's commitment to biodiversity and the environment, bat boxes have been installed on campus" added Jonathan. "Of the 17 species of bat in the UK, the majority are endangered. Bat boxes encourage bats to roost and breed and supplement natural sites, such as caves. The University also provides a hibernation box as a protected environment for bats during winter months".

Written by Jonathan Horner, Deputy University Safety, Health and Environment Manager and Senior Lecturer in Human and Life Sciences, j.horner@roehampton.ac.uk



Working together with universities to create a **better environment**

Veolia Environmental Services is the UK's leading waste management company offering cost effective and sustainable recycling, collection and disposal services and solutions to universities across the country.

For more information, contact 0845 6060 460 or info@veolia.co.uk



www.veolia.co.uk

Soundings in Sustainability Literacy Workshop

The EAUC organised a conference on 21st November 2008 in which 65 sustainability educators came together for a sharp look at the conditions students will be facing as they lead their lives in the 21st century, and a discussion of the ways that education can help them prepare to survive and thrive in these conditions.

The conference was supported by the Higher Education Academy ESD project, the Centre for Active Learning, the UNU RCE Severn, and the University of Brighton, in addition to the EAUC. The insights generated will be turned into a paperback book entitled *The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy*, to be edited by Arran Stibbe and published by Green Books next Autumn.

At the conference, a professional film crew interviewed participants for a multimedia version of the book that is intended to be an accessible and practical reference point for lecturers and teachers across disciplines. Feedback from the event was extremely positive, with comments from participants such as: 'I got a great deal out of the workshops. My own teaching will change as a result'; 'It was incredibly stimulating to be in such company'; 'It was such an inspiring event'; 'I enjoyed meeting concerned people who are in a position to make a difference for our future generations'.

Written by Arran Stibbe, University of Gloucestershire, Convenor of Education for Sustainable Development forum for the EAUC, astibbe@glos.ac.uk



SORTED Project Update



SORTED, the Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education funded by the Learning Skills Council (LSC), is expanding its popular case study sections with more stories of real life situations.

Each document goes through the initial idea/problem and the approach, through to the outcomes and lessons learnt. The case studies provide the reader real solutions to problems faced by many FE providers on the road to sustainability. They are useful tools because they provide a tried and tested method and show all the possible pitfalls. New case studies include Blackpool and The Fylde College, Sustainable Procurement – Building Capacity; Sustainability Development at Hull College; and Increasing Student Volunteering at Bridgwater College.

More case studies will be added to the website shortly, focusing not just on the environment but the wider issues of sustainability, such as curriculum and community. To view them, visit www.eauc.org.uk/sorted, click the relevant subject area and select 'case studies'.

We are currently undergoing an important review of the SORTED website, including its content and structure. The SORTED team has also been working very closely with the National Institution of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), who has recently carried out a survey of the website amongst their contacts. We are very keen for SORTED to work for the entire learning and skills sector, including continuing adult education and work-based learning organisations. The results of the review will be available later in the year so keep an eye on the website for further details.

If you have information on an interesting sustainability-related project or situation that you would like to share through SORTED, please contact Abbie Weaver at the EAUC.

Written by Abbie Weaver, Professional Development Officer, EAUC, aweaver@eauc.org.uk

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earth
Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges

Green Gown Awards 2009
The Green Gown Awards for 2009 have now been launched

Green Gown Awards 2008
Sponsorship Opportunity

EAUC
Higher Education Academy

UNIVERSITY THAT...



Reworking waste at Hertfordshire

Over the last year, there have been big changes in waste management at the University of Hertfordshire. Working in association with Sustainable Resource Solutions Ltd, the University has reduced the amount of waste it produces, more than doubled its recycling rate and also made significant financial savings.

Michelle Dixon, Environmental Advisor said: "The way we manage our waste has been completely overhauled. We now take a much more proactive approach, we've identified opportunities to reduce waste and found novel outlets to increase recycling performance and participation.

By undertaking an in-depth audit and opportunities analysis on waste and recycling, we reviewed the performance of our waste contractor, designed a new waste contract, provided new facilities and implemented an effective and easy to use compliance system. We also engaged with the University community as a whole, launched a waste awareness and minimisation campaign and produced a 6-year Waste and Resource Management Strategy and Implementation Plan. The benefits of all the hard work are already paying off. Our recycling rate has more than doubled from 30% to over 70%. We've reduced the total amount of waste we produce by 20% and also cut our costs by more than 30%.'

Michelle added 'As part of our strategy we are now going beyond the improvements we have made to minimise waste year on year and aim for our long term aspiration of zero waste to landfill by 2016. After all, if Marks and Spencer's can do it why can't we!'

For more information contact: Dan Botterill – Director, Sustainable Resource Solutions Ltd, Daniel.botterill@s-r-s.uk.com

Katherine O'Brien – Assistant Environmental Advisor, K.R.Obrien@herts.ac.uk

Energy-saving at Durham University

Durham University has recently appointed a University Environment Co-ordinator, Tara Duncan, who will take forward its energy-saving initiative alongside the newly appointed Dean of Environmental Sustainability, Professor Tim Burt. Durham University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Higgins, is backing the University's initiative to save energy. He said: "Saving energy is a win-win situation – we can lower our carbon footprint and save money at the same time. I'm delighted that Durham University is setting such a fine example of getting everyone actively involved. Trying to save energy is something we must all do automatically, all the time."

The initiative is focusing on changes to design as well as behavioural change to drive down energy consumption. It involves every department within the University, along with every one of the 16 colleges, having a dedicated 'energy champion'. This 'champion' will provide the role of an energy advocate championing best practice and channelling information between the University's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Group and their respective department or college. They will also help with energy audits, which are to be conducted in every department and college.

The University has also enrolled in the EcoCampus scheme and is working towards becoming ISO14001 accredited.

Written by Tara Duncan, Durham University Environment Co-ordinator, tara.duncan@durham.ac.uk



earth bites

EAUC Website - A Bank for Resources

The EAUC website has a wealth of resources for Members on it, from environmental policies to travel plans to the latest thinking on ESD. The Resource Bank is divided into 10 key sector areas to make searching easier for you. The website is the only place to find resources and case studies which are specific to universities and colleges, helping to promote best practice and to hear lessons learnt from within the sector. This important resource is free for members. Make sure you are a registered EAUC web user so that you can access it. If you have a resource to share, please send it to Abbie Weaver at aweaver@eauc.org.uk



Stafford College Wins Green Award

Stafford College has recently been awarded first prize in the 2008 Youth and Education category of the Stafford Borough Council Green Awards.



Judges commended the College's comprehensive programme of energy efficiency work, waste management and awareness-raising, which has seen both carbon emission and financial savings. The College has moved from a standing start to being a pro-active participant in, and exponent of, sustainable development matters.

Lighting improvements, thermostatic radiator valves, monthly monitoring and replacement boilers all contributed to saving 15.5 tonnes of CO₂. Waste separation has seen the college recycle more than 50% of its waste and save £10,000 over 12 months.

This wouldn't have been possible without a campaign to educate staff and students on the need to save energy and reduce waste. Posters, leaflets, and the intranet were all used in the campaign and teaching staff are encouraged to integrate sustainable development in their curriculum areas.

With an eye on the 2009 Award, the College is focussing on developing student involvement and sustainable procurement as well as continued progress in waste and energy.

Written by Pat Eagle, Chair of Stafford College Sustainability Group, p.eagle@staffordcoll.ac.uk



Vice Principal Ian Rigby (left) and Paul Hanlon, Estates and Facilities Manager receiving the award from the Mayor of Stafford, Cllr. Mrs Ann Edgellar

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

Sheri-Leigh Miles, University of Bradford, UK Convenor

Gilbert Snook, City College Plymouth, Secretary

Elizabeth May, Swansea Metropolitan University, Wales Convenor

Roddy Yarr, University of St Andrews, Scotland Convenor

Martin Wiles, University of Bristol

Keith Pitcher, University of Leeds

Adam van Winsum, Staffordshire University

Neil Smith, University of Southampton

Georgiana Weatherill, Park Lane College

Executive Update

Considering changes to the EAUC Executive over recent years is not an activity of teary-eyed nostalgia, more a realisation of how rapidly the organisation has grown and how drastically we have developed. The EAUC has always put the 'member-led' element of its remit at the heart of its activities. The strength of the organisation has always been the passion and commitment of members and their dedication to the FHE sustainability sector.

Historically being a member of the Executive meant leading the organisation in a practical sense; editing Earth and organising the conference. Assisted by a part-time assistant, this is exactly what we did. The debt of gratitude owed to those individuals should not be underestimated, but we now have a national office and an expanding staff base –

so what now for the Executive? Can the EAUC remain true to being member-led?

Being a charity trustee on the Executive is as vital as ever. Although staff now organise events and produce Earth, the strategic input from those at the coal-face (whatever that face may be) is essential. As the sector has developed so has the variety of jobs within it, and we are aiming for an Executive that reflects that. We want travel, procurement, curriculum, energy, community, student and senior management specialists to be reflected in this group and develop a new vision of what a changing membership is and needs. If you don't see yourself or role reflected in this way, why not consider putting yourself forward when places become available.

Written by Sheri Leigh Miles, EAUC Convenor, info@eauc.org.uk

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