



The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

October 2012

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The Sustainability Exchange has arrived



Pioneering the UK's first centralised information portal and online community for the sector – all for free! Read more on pages 4 and 5.

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members:

Colchester Institute
South Birmingham College
Truro and Penwith College

Company Members:

Legacy Student Living LLP
Green & Castle Ltd
Robertson Facilities Management Ltd
Osbert Lancaster
ESD Solutions



A new era for sustainability – greater collaboration and resources



“There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except

those we ourselves erect.” - Ronald Regan has a point.

in cross sector collaboration and sharing, along with the developing partnership with the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) amongst others. Those mental (and in time physical) barriers are starting to tumble and we will all be the more effective for it.

If tertiary education is going to thrive in the face of profound cuts and change we need to start ‘thinking outside the box’. The Sustainability Exchange has heralded a new era

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

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South Staffordshire's learning journey to sustainability

In this issue we look at the challenges and successes in our journey towards sustainability so far.

Through its waste management hierarchy and best practice policies, South Staffordshire College has provided on-site waste streams and promoted sustainability via staff and student communications. However, with limited buy in, contaminated recyclables, high labour costs and the low value of recycled materials, we are reassessing our strategy.

To become a zero waste to landfill College by 2013 we need to ensure segregation of food waste for anaerobic digestion and recycle general waste through a materials recycling facility (MRF).

We have had successes in behavioural change through energy saving campaigns but the effects are short lived. To achieve true sustainability we need to bring about

cultural change, and will continue to run high profile campaigns to change collective behaviour permanently and achieve a paradigm shift.

Finally, our biggest challenge is to achieve our target 25% reduction in energy consumption by 2016. Cultural change will account for up to 10% savings in energy but the balance must come from capital investment. Pay-back beyond three years is a difficult concept for the sector to follow but we need to learn from our technological investment successes and disappointments to move forward and succeed in reaching these targets.

Mark Phillips,
Sustainability Manager,
South Staffordshire
College

South Staffordshire College

Lichfield • Cannock • Tamworth • Robina



Meet a Member – Stephen Davies



As the Principal of a land-based specialist college with an estate that covers nearly 500 hectares, I'm in a

privileged position to be able to influence and make a real difference.

I believe all colleges have a responsibility to ensure that young people are given opportunities to enhance their knowledge of environmental sustainability.

Our construction students are learning new technologies enabling them to contribute to the green skills agenda, particularly with new sustainable technologies used in retrofitting existing building stock and the latest approaches in modern building techniques. This is further enhanced with our commitment to set up the Collaborative Centre for the Built Environment (CCBE) in conjunction with other key partners in the East Midlands.

Recent investment of over £50 million has meant that Moulton College is able to incorporate many new technologies whilst also helping reduce our carbon footprint, energy usage and waste - all elements of any successful business.

I take an ambitious approach to achieve challenging energy and water reduction targets, and increasing recycling opportunities. This is fully supported by College governors and clearly identified in the strategic plans, which I feel are crucial in successfully embedding a sustainability culture.

Being part of the EAUC has helped to raise further awareness amongst myself, staff and students alike and provides valuable resources to continue championing education for sustainable development.

Stephen Davies, Principal, Moulton College

Strengthening sustainability in Estates

“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time”

Four Quartets, T.S. Elliot



The above quote, much beloved of a Dean from one of the Universities where I've been a Director of Estates (DoE), came back into my consciousness after recently attending an Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) Executive Meeting.

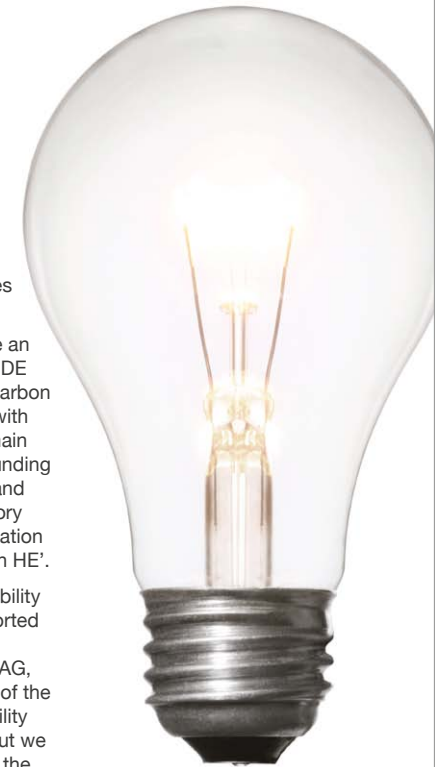
AUDE is an association of members who are responsible for managing, planning, constructing and maintaining the higher education (HE) estate. When I joined fourteen years ago, I was in awe of the AUDE Executive. It was an Executive made up of established DoEs from prestigious and important national Universities, or so it appeared to me at the time. The myriad activities and scale of operations within the estate means that separate sub or interest groups form to share best practice. One of these many interest groups I came across was the EAUC. As is the way with large organisations, a separate subgroup

was set up to manage the numerous interest groups! This subgroup was HEEAF, the Higher Education Estates Association Forum.

When sustainability became an important subject in HE, AUDE realised it had to focus on carbon reduction, as it was, along with environmental issues, the main drivers of the agenda. HE funding councils for England, Scotland and Wales formed an advisory group, producing the publication 'Sustainable Development in HE'.

I formed the AUDE sustainability advisory group (SAG) supported by DoEs with their limited resources. As chair of the SAG, I'm now an invited member of the AUDE Executive. Sustainability is now in the mainstream, but we all have to refresh and raise the agenda. EAUC is at the forefront of raising awareness by providing tools and processes to enable sustainable thinking and a change in attitudes. AUDE Executive is a different animal now. We still have HEEAF, but rather than being suspicious of interest groups we talk of collaboration and alignment of strategies and how we can work together to solve problems.

So, relating back to T.S. Elliot's quotation, the relationship between the AUDE Executive and EAUC has been explored over the past fourteen years, as has



how sustainability can be practiced in HE. What has become crystal clear for the first time is that AUDE and EAUC have to work closely together to enable the HE sector to imagine a believable sustainable future that is possible and desirable, and co-evolve ways of getting there.

Roger Bond,
Director of Estates,
University of East Anglia

Roger is also an EAUC Trustee

Sustainability Exchange - the sector's online portal for sustainability is live!

For the first time, leading organisations from across the tertiary education sector have joined forces to create the 'Sustainability Exchange'.



Combining resources and experience from 23 of the country's top sustainable development and tertiary education bodies (including AUDE, SPCE, BRE Group and WRAP amongst the founding partners), it will pioneer the UK's first centralised information portal and online community for the sector, sharing a wealth of information that is available to everyone.

Today, all departments in institutions face enormous pressure from stakeholders and students alike to be as sustainably-minded as possible. This pressure, along with

the need to comply with ever-changing legislation, means the want for knowledge, discussion and debate on sustainable development is greater than ever.

The Sustainability Exchange has been created with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) via its Leadership, Governance and Management Fund (LGM). The management, planning and implementation of this project promises to produce greater efficiencies through a collaboration of organisations that has been driven by the EAUC, Staffordshire University, HEFCE and AUDE.

It provides a place for colleagues in different institutions to interact and share their sustainability experiences via active community forums, a news feed, events diary, and a searchable repository containing best practice guides, case studies, tool kits, reports, research and videos, many of which are freely shared by the Sustainability Exchange's partner organisations!

EAUC Members will benefit immensely through the Sustainability Exchange with a wider knowledge network.

Ian Patton, EAUC CEO, explains: **The dynamic sustainability sector, with constant updates to compliancy and new legislation means that the Sustainability Exchange adds value from day one. Accessible via a website portal, it will provide colleges, universities and other education providers with information and resources that were previously unavailable to many and, most importantly, all in one place.**

Steve Egan, HEFCE's Deputy Chief Executive, who leads on Sustainable Development in the Council, comments: **"Higher education has a unique role to play in sustainable development, making a vital contribution to society's efforts**

EAUC Members can just use their EAUC email address and password to log in and start using all resources, including special resources just for you



to achieve sustainability. It's essential that the sector's collective expertise should be readily available and therefore we are delighted to have supported this innovative project."

Adam Van Winsum, Environmental Manager at Staffordshire University adds: **"Sustainability is a key driver in decision making at Staffordshire University, so we are delighted to have led the development of the Sustainability Exchange. It is such a fantastic resource, which will really benefit every department - estates, finance and academia alike. This is essential as we've seen the sustainability agenda widening out from what used to be typically managed by estates/facilities. I also believe that a wide range of sector colleagues will find it a very useful tool in helping drive the sustainable agenda."**

EAUC Regions and Communities of Practice should take full advantage of the functionalities on the site - it has been designed to optimise the experience of Members in these groups, from activity discussions to sharing knowledge and files



www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk



BOOK NOW to benefit from early-bird hotel rates

Green Gown Awards 2012

Monday 5 November, Great Hall, University of Birmingham

Be at the who's who event that recognises those at the leading edge of sustainability for universities and colleges across the UK

The Green Gown Awards black-tie ceremony brings together the leaders, drivers and thinkers of sustainability initiatives within the tertiary education sector. Show your support for and get inspiration from our finalists by being a part of the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the education sector.

The Awards ceremony host is...



We are extremely pleased to say that our host for the evening is Simon Fanshawe. Currently Chair of the University of Sussex, Simon is a writer, broadcaster and a non-executive director in the public and private sector.

Book your hotel room here

Need accommodation?

The University of Birmingham has its own hotel located within close proximity to The Great Hall. A number of rooms are reserved for Monday 5 November and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the following fantastic rates:

- **Single room (B&B) £50**
- **Double/twin room (B&B) £70.**

This early-bird offer is only valid until 12 October. Bookings made after this date will increase to £65 (single) and £85 (double/twin).

Hotel rooms are to be booked directly with The University of Birmingham. (The EAUC is unable to take any hotel bookings.)

Take your seats at the sustainability awards ceremony of the year and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the tertiary education sector in dramatic style. Get your colleagues and senior management on board and book your tickets now. Book a table of 10 and SAVE!
As always, EAUC Members can book single tickets and tables at discounted rates.

www.greengownawards.org.uk

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Annual Conference 2012 carbon offset donation



The EAUC makes a conscious effort to reduce the environmental and social impacts of its Annual Conference and we work very closely with the host venue. We offer to carbon off-set our impact by making a financial contribution to the venue to be put towards a sustainable initiative or project. This year, we donated £250 to support one of the projects being run by Professor Sue Hartley, one of our 2012 Conference speakers, from

York Environmental Sustainability Institute.

The donation has gone towards producing a Public Engagement (PE) display for the Skygas prototype at York University. The display will explain what this highly visual new field laboratory is designed to do and, more importantly, why.

Find out more on the Skygas prototype

Legal Spotlight

The New Government website Gov.uk to replace Direct.gov and Business Link

From 17 October, a new Government website - Gov.uk - will replace Direct.gov and Business Link. According to the Government Digital Service, who built the new website, Gov.uk has been designed to give a simpler, clearer, and faster platform for users to access government information, whilst also reducing the number of publishing platforms and websites.

Once launched, this website is intended to serve as the best place to find Government services and information, including environmental information and advice on compliance with environmental legislation. This will include a number of services that are relevant to higher education institutions which can currently be found on the Direct.gov and Business Link.

a working resource. This is an opportunity for institutions to give their input and feedback on the website and to make sure that information that they feel is important to them is included, especially making relevant environmental information easy to access. Institutions previously using the Direct.gov and Business Link websites to gain information will not need to take any action, and should be automatically redirected to appropriate pages within Gov.uk upon its launch.

Mary Garwood, Graduate Environmental Consultant
www.legalregister.co.uk takes the hard work out of compliance
www.watmangroup.com

Currently the site can be accessed at www.gov.uk and is, at present a beta test version, thus not yet



Interface creates a design of distinction

Brunel University in Uxbridge recently unveiled its new look library, courtesy of leading global flooring company Interface. Interface's products were used in the 8,500m² refurbishment to improve the learning environment for its 15,000 students, in line with the University's credentials as a world class institution.



The project brief demanded a tailored solution that would combine design with durability. Hannah Harper, the Interface Concept Designer who created the interior scheme, said: "As well as creating a bespoke design to provide a much-needed update to the existing

interior design, we had to select products that would provide the necessary level of durability for a university building. As the library is in constant demand, it was essential that the specified products would disguise the effects of high traffic and clean well."

The newly refurbished library is now open for students. Ann Cummings, Library Services Director at Brunel University, said: "We're delighted with the new interior and have received very positive feedback from both

staff and students. The carpet tiles have given the library a fresh new look and, whilst contemporary, they are not so stylish that they will date too quickly. The library now feels so much brighter and the design is more fitting for a well-respected institution such as Brunel."

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Marshall ACM and the EAUC raise the sustainability bar across the tertiary education sector



E-learning experts Marshall ACM and the EAUC have joined forces to create an e-learning suite for EAUC Members.

EAUC Members now have exclusive free access to a 15-minute 'introduction to sustainability' e-learning module, which will be available to all

staff and students within each EAUC Member institution. This could include managers, heads of department, university stakeholders, students, academics and other administration staff.

This free module has been designed to broadly cover all universities and colleges within the UK. The aim is that EAUC Members will be able to use it as a tool to engage and introduce sustainability to a target audience of staff and students not currently involved in sustainability issues, such as green champions.

Users will view various thought-provoking facts and figures to illustrate the positive impact universities and colleges can make to driving sustainability forward, including an engaging introduction

from the EAUC's Chief Executive who explains the wider context and a high-level case for change. The module then moves to its more interactive content with a number of fun tasks that illustrate the positive impact that user can make. This particular section of the module showcases one-fifth of Marshall's full sustainability e-learning course thus demonstrating the potential of creating a fully bespoke module for your institution.

The full sustainability module is available direct from Marshall ACM. Please mention 'EAUC'.

NEW Member-only resource available here

Green Steps at the University of Warwick

This summer, twelve University of Warwick students took part in Green Steps a programme that provided participants with the skills they need to create positive environmental change.

Students were taught the basics of energy, water, carbon and waste auditing, and trained how to communicate what they learned. They then worked with Warwick's Estates Office on a range of different on-campus projects, before finally taking part in internships at various companies. Students created an energy trail around campus, conducted an environmental assessment of Warwick's central administration building, and audited water consumption in student residences.

Green Steps originates at Warwick's partner institution in Australia – Monash University. University of Warwick is the first university outside of Australia to offer the programme as part of a pilot project to develop interdisciplinary education for sustainability. Dr. Paul Taylor, the Director of our Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL) comments:

"We hope our Green Steps pilot will act as a catalyst, encouraging the study of sustainability at both Warwick and Monash, with two of Warwick's interns working with interns at Monash on an Education for Sustainability plan."

Mark Boulet, Green Steps Manager said: "We are really excited to be running this pilot at Warwick, and



Interested in finding out more or taking part in Green Steps? Email info@eauc.org.uk

look forward to extending the collaboration."

Samuel Davies, a student who took part said: "Green Steps massively improved my confidence to approach environmental change in organisations."

Sam Bouly, Internal Communications Projects Officer, University of Warwick

It's back – bringing you more Leaders of the Future

Following a successful tender, the EAUC are delighted to continue to offer the fantastic Leaders of the Future for Sustainable Development programme in partnership with LSIS with 3 new chances to attend.

A two-day residential, this course offers ample opportunities for learning, sharing and networking through a varied programme of workshops, presentations, activities and discussions, featuring sustainability leaders from within and outside the sector. It's suitable for anyone in the learning and skills sector at any level of management.

"I gained access to more material and contacts and I also felt much more supported. I also came away more energised to keep pushing the message across college." Past attendee

Choose from 7/8 November 2012, 23/24 January 2013 and 6/7 March 2013. All events take place at Woodbrooke Study Centre, Birmingham. Book now





Boardroom developments - 5 Year Strategic Plan update

The Board and the Member Advisory Council (MAC) have been busy working on the next 5 Year Strategic Plan. The Board have agreed a draft of the Strategic Aims, Themes and Objectives, now with key strategic partners and the MAC for further feedback. Following this feedback the Board will finalise

the Framework and send it out to the wider Membership for a final round of consultation, with the final Plan being issued in December. It's essential that Members feed into the future of the EAUC and we look forward to receiving your feedback on this.

Strength in numbers

Following the recent changes to our Membership fee structure announced in May, we wanted to offer a huge **thank you** to all of our Members for supporting us through this critical time. Renewals are continuing at the normal level and new Memberships are on the up. We will also soon be offering a recommend a member scheme which will allow us to reach and support more of the sector and will give you a little something back as a thank you!

As we are a not-for-profit charity, every Membership we receive we plough back into the creation of new Member services such as the new Member pack, new insight guides, and the upcoming introduction to sustainability elearning module. **Thank you for your support - we truly are stronger and better placed to serve you.**

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Are you making the most of your EAUC Membership?

We've responded to our Members' needs in helping them engage their institution with sustainability issues and principles by creating our new **Member pack**. Full of useful resources, this will give you everything you need to take full advantage of your EAUC Membership!

By being a Member of the EAUC you're already ahead of the rest so let us help you promote this!

The pack includes:

- **email templates to spread the word internally to find new contacts (more contacts means more value) and to reinvigorate existing contacts**
- **a generic press release for use on intranets, websites and for external release**

...and much more. It also includes our new **Membership support tool** which can be used and adapted to help build a case for justifying budget for Membership now and for the long-term future.

Visit the Member Zone and download your Member Pack today

www.eauc.org.uk