



earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

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www.eauc.org.uk

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Make 2012 the year you win at the Green Gown Awards



The Green Gown Awards 2012 are now open for entries! Go to pages 4 and 5 to view the categories and for entry inspiration.

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

Moulton College
University of Hull
South Nottingham College
Craven College
North West Kent College

Company Members

Changemaking
WasteCare
Cycleworks
Oxford Brookes Enterprises Ltd
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Let your imagination take flight



As we start to look forward to the summer break to catch up on trials and tribulations of the past academic

year, we often find ourselves taking the time to reflect on the year's sustainability achievements. With the launch of the 2012 Green Gown Awards, now's never been a better time to acknowledge the work achieved during the year. With two new categories, a growing library of

winners videos and case studies plus an international award – 2012 is the year to apply.

Also, with plans for the next academic year high on your list during the summer, why not take the opportunity to develop your key creative skills to create a plan of attack for the fresh intake of students. We're often asked to help Members with these essential skills so we've developed two fantastic courses for you: How to run a successful campaign (28 June, London) and Harnessing behaviour

change through social media (5 July, Leicester). Both courses will let your imagination run wild so you can start your planning with a fresh new outlook – visit our website for more information and to book.

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

Please pass onto a colleague and recycle when finished

Meet a Member – Sue Brimlow

Up until five years ago, I was in IT and project management. A stressful job working long hours and a daily three hour commute was losing its appeal, and although going to Monaco in a day for a three hour meeting sounds glamorous, it really wasn't! It was the birth of my first grandchild that was the trigger to re-evaluate my priorities.

I now work part-time for Hadlow College, a land-based specialist college only ten miles from home. You can see the attraction; short commute, more 'me time' and a working environment that is busy and interesting but not the rat-race that investment banking was. Compared to global compliance projects this was a whole new world!

As Sustainability Co-ordinator, I developed and helped implement our Sustainable Development Strategy, which is all common sense really. Installing better insulation or more effective boilers aren't headline grabbing projects, so I got some much needed stimulation at the Leaders of the Future workshop in 2011 which is funded by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) and delivered by the EAUC. This gave me valuable access to resources and networks and, inspired by EAUC's CEO Iain Patton's presentation, I persuaded the college to join the EAUC.

We've made tremendous progress in the last year. We signed up to the Carbon Trust further education pilot and produced our Carbon Management Plan, signed off by the Carbon Trust. With three campuses, a dairy, sheep farms, and scattered sites with their own meters, it was a great help to see the overall picture and be able to identify priority areas for improvement. It also raised the profile of sustainability across college and we've set up a Sustainability Champion



network, so I don't feel like I'm the lone voice any more.

My resource footprint of 2.56 planets is lower than the UK average of 3.1 but could be better. It's easy to do the obvious things like recycle and switch off lights and equipment, but not always practical for instance taking public transport if there isn't any or if it would triple your commuting time. But if I want my grandchildren to have the opportunities that I grew up with, I'm going to have to do more myself and continue encouraging others to do the same. For me, that's the personal spin on the standard sustainable development definition – they are my own future generation.

Sue Brimlow
Sustainability Co-ordinator
Hadlow College



Rural Regeneration Centre (Passivhaus standard), Hadlow College

Look out for new Leaders of the Future events coming soon, on our events page.



A flooring design of distinction

Universities and colleges should be vibrant places where students are inspired to learn, grow and express themselves in defined areas; where there are spaces to study, live and socialise; and where the environment is engaging, clean, and safe



University of Bradford

Having worked in the education sector for many years, Interface is well versed in understanding the pressures facing education procurement and facilities

managers, and has a wealth of experience in working with individuals to deliver exciting

places to learn.

With carpet tile flooring from Interface, education specifiers have the freedom to take control of spaces. The array of designs, textures and patterns in its portfolio provide the opportunity to create exciting and visually stimulating designs that are perfect for every lecture room, library, social area, function room, refectory and halls of residence.

In addition to creating designed schemes that look good and create a positive atmosphere,

education sector specifiers are under increasing pressure to specify products that also offer a sustainable solution for the client. Interface is a global leader and pioneer in sustainable business and as such, its team of experts are on hand to provide experience and support in creating a flooring solution that meets their sustainability requirements.

InterfaceFLOR  Gold Company Member

Legal Spotlight



Implications of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012

For the full article visit www.eauc.org.uk/legal_spotlight

Back in August 2011, Legal Spotlight in earth highlighted that the Draft Controlled Waste Regulations planned to make legislative changes allowing local authorities to charge for the disposal of waste arising from a wider range of non-domestic premises than previously. It was noted that this may require schools, colleges and universities to pay for waste disposal, as well as waste collection.

The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 have since been introduced in March 2012, and came into force on 6 April 2012. Amendments to the draft legislation mean that the implications to schools, colleges

and universities are different to anticipated during 2011.

In Wales, waste from premises forming part of a school or other educational establishment are now classed as being liable to pay disposal charges for waste, as well as collection charges.

In England, waste from premises forming part of a publicly funded school, college or university currently receiving free collection or disposal will not be liable to pay the disposal charge as planned, and may retain this service on the same basis as before.

However, any new establishments in England coming to the Local

Authority for waste disposal services after 6 April 2012 will now be subject to the full waste disposal charges.

For those establishments in Wales, as well as any new establishments in both England and Wales not entitled to free waste disposal from the Local Authority, this is likely to have a significant financial impact.

Mary Garwood
Environmental Management
and Due Diligence
www.watmangroup.com





Green Gown
Awards

Applications from institutions for the 2012 Green Gown Awards (GGAs) are now open. Stage 1 deadline is noon on 13 July 2012.



Awarding sustainability excellence - Green Gown Awards 2012

Stage 1 applications open!

Now in their 8th year, the Awards recognise the exceptional initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. Administered by the EAUC, and governed by a cross agency steering group, the Awards have become established as THE most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence within the further and higher education sectors.

With a record of 240 entries in 2011, 2012 looks set to be another amazing year for the Awards with the introduction of two new categories. In fact, the Awards have proved so successful that they

now have an international presence with the Australasian Green Gown Awards entering their 3rd year.

To further develop the links between the UK and Australasian Green Gown Awards, there will be certain categories with international awards. Winners and highly commended entries from UK and Australasia will be pitted against each other in the coveted International Award category. The three International categories are: "Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change", "Social Responsibility" and "Student Initiatives and Campaigns".

Judging criteria will be based on the wider dissemination and learning gained from the entries and Stage 2 applications.

Enter the 2012 GGAs and gain recognition for your sustainability initiatives. Categories are open to all post-16 educational institutions (further or higher education institutions, work-based or adult and community learning providers).

Could you be the Best Newcomer?

This year we want as many newcomers as possible to apply! This category recognises those institutions that are starting their sustainability journey and is only open to those who have not applied for a Green Gown Award previously. Initiatives could include those which have achieved significant sustainability achievements in a relative short period and/or with a restricted budget.

Do you want to apply but not sure how? Would you like a bit more guidance? The section below guides you to all the information you need to shine at this year's Awards.



This year's categories are:

- Best Newcomer - **new for 2012!**
- Carbon Reduction
- Colleges and Smaller Institutions
- Construction and Refurbishment
- Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change – **International Award inclusion**
- Courses
- Green ICT
- Learning and Skills
- Modernisation - Effectiveness and Efficiency in the Estate – **new for 2012!**
- Procurement
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Research and Development
- Social Responsibility - **International Award inclusion**
- Student Initiatives and Campaigns - **International Award inclusion**

Learning from the best

Need inspiration? Want to pick up some top tips on what to think about when filling in your application? Want some guidance from previous winners?

The Green Gown Awards ethos is to ensure the lessons and examples of good practice are shared within the sector and we are working hard with the steering group to ensure this information is disseminated far and wide. Case studies and videos from 2011 winners and highly commended entries are available on the EAUC website.

Take time to go through our Green Gown Awards resource bank bursting full of supporting material to ensure you are armed with the information you need to make your application stand out from the crowd.

- Top 10 tips for awards success – take time to ensure you plan and think about your entry. You only get one chance to make an impact!
- Watch our short Green Gown Awards video

- Learn from 2011 excellence - read case studies and watch engaging videos from previous winners and highly commended entries to pick up some good ideas
- Share the excellence demonstrated by the Australasian Green Gown Awards in 2011
- Hear about previous winning entries from two special 'GGA Learn from the best' sessions which took place at the 2012 EAUC Annual Conference:
 - Session 1 - University of Hertfordshire, Blackpool and the Fylde College and Pembroke College.
 - Session 2 - Cranfield University, University of Exeter Business School and Bedford College.
- Frequently asked questions – got a question to ask? Chances are it will be covered here!
- Read the Guidance Notes for Applicants
- Now you are ready to complete your application form!

Visit www.greengownawards.org.uk for all the information you need to make a truly inspirational and successful entry into the 2012 Awards.

This is your chance to shine!

Category Sponsors:



Media Partner



Opinion

Supporting sustainability through procurement

Entries for the Green Gown Awards Procurement category are now open!

Sustainable procurement has long been a hot topic on the higher education (HE) and further education (FE) agenda, but it is only recently that institutions have looked to develop their own sustainable procurement strategies and plans.



this is incorrect – there needs to be support from all staff and students within the organisations especially those from IT, estates, the environment team and procurement.

The Defra Flexible Framework Tool is an excellent start for any institution wanting to improve their sustainable procurement practice. It not only measures which level you are currently at, but it also provides guidance and advice on how to progress through the levels. The SPCE has on a number of occasions visited institutions that are just beginning to develop sustainable procurement practice to assist them in identifying the challenges and solutions with implementing sustainable procurement, and then using the Flexible Framework Tool to assess where they are before developing a strategy for where they want to be.

The SPCE sponsored the Procurement category at the Green Gown Awards 2011 and will do so again this year to promote fantastic examples of good practice and the importance of sustainable procurement in FE and HE in improving our environmental impact. You can find these good examples of sustainable procurement in practice from the Green Gown Awards on our website.

With Scope 3 reporting just around the corner, the FE and HE sector needs to be able to grasp where their emissions are coming from, and how they can use sustainable procurement to improve their environmental impact.

At the Sustainable Procurement Centre of Excellence (SPCE), a Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) funded project, which aims to assist institutions in embedding sustainability into FE and HE procurement, we often find that institutions are at very different levels in terms of their sustainable procurement practices. If there has been clear guidance and support from the top-level of an institution, it usually means that they are at a higher level than those who lack the support or resources to make significant changes.

There is also a lack of awareness and engagement through staff and students, as people tend to associate sustainable procurement with the procurement team alone. However,

Kat Gorham, Sustainable Procurement Project Co-ordinator, SPCE



You can find SPCE Good Practice examples at www.spce.ac.uk



South Staffordshire's learning journey to sustainability



Wetland and wildlife garden created by students for the Foster Centre, a BREEAM Excellent New Build

Rising to challenges

Successfully implementing an effective Environmental Management System (EMS) and meeting sustainability targets is a major task for all further education colleges. One of our greatest challenges is keeping sustainability programmes high on a packed and competitive budget agenda. There is of course no doubt that an EMS will cut waste and resource composition over the

medium and long term, however, colleges all have to meet targets on their return on investment, often with pressure for more immediate results.

South Staffordshire College was recently identified by figures from the official Data Service as the most successful in the area. Without doubt this has enabled the College to invest in sustainable practices from a position of relative strength, backed by Governors who have contributed their own persuasive arguments to the debate from experience in the private and public sectors.

We have been able to support this with income from diverse consultancy work involving BREEAM assessment and consultation on educational buildings, implementing ISO14001 and assisting organisations with their own sustainability projects. We have also been successful securing Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) funding for our initiatives, obtaining SALIX loans and forming effective partnerships with the voluntary and other public sector organisations in order to secure ESF funding.

Keeping the profile of sustainability high is difficult but a necessary part of the process for successfully implementing an EMS. Our approach has been to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the College's own media – in particular the excellent staff newsletter. We include statements on sustainability in all job descriptions and we have a universal on-line qualification in sustainability which every member of staff and every student is required to obtain. Using our communications network and the media in creative ways ensures that sustainability maintains its profile. Our CEO, for example, includes the subject as an agenda item in all his staff campus meetings.

Finally we intend to make sustainability a key objective of a volunteer day and to align it with climate change week to further raise its profile.

Mark Phillips, Sustainability Manager, South Staffordshire College



South Staffordshire College

Lichfield • Cannock • Tamworth • Roodbaston



Revisiting UCCCFs



With the last of the sector signing up to Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCFs) in October 2011, it's now more important than ever not to become complacent and lose momentum. The Scottish Government is focusing on where sectors can help meet the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 targets. Institutions can showcase the collaborative approach taken to becoming more sustainable through signing the Commitment. This combined effort demonstrates the impact the whole sector can make to reducing its carbon emissions and increasing efficiencies in its operations, and learning and teaching curricula.

There are, however, some challenging times ahead. The existing college structure in

It's great to see 100% of Scotland's institutions making a commitment to addressing climate change issues last year; so is it now a case of where to next?

Scotland is potentially being reduced to nine regional 'super' colleges, the landscape is changing and it's crucial that institutions continue to embed sustainability into their daily operations.

The EAUC Scotland office provides support and guidance to Scottish institutions in helping achieve this goal through its Topic Support Networks, events and bespoke institutional support. Sarah Lee now heads up the office as Scotland Manager and Alexandra Henderson is our Scotland Project Officer (pictured above). If you need some help, don't hesitate to get in touch!



For more information on UCCCFs, visit: www.eauc.org.uk/ucccf

Celebrating key sustainability events with Members

Our 2011 Annual Members' Survey gave us an understanding of the most popular sustainability campaigns in your calendars.

The four most popular sustainability events were chosen and we joined our Members in their participation. Go Green Week, Fairtrade (FT) Fortnight, Climate Week and World Environment Day were chosen. For Go Green Week, EAUC staff took part in daily themes such as 'Meat-free Monday', and FT Fortnight had EAUC staff make one FT pledge to be implemented throughout the two weeks.

Have you organised or taken part in an event celebrating sustainability? Let us know! Email info@eauc.org.uk

Find out what Members have planned in our sustainability weeks calendar. Go to www.eauc.org.uk/sustainability_calendar

Boardroom developments

The Board and staff are busy working on drafting our next 5 year plan. It is essential for Members to feed into this and we are gathering initial input from staff and utilising key Member feedback from the recent Annual Survey (November 2011). In June the Member Advisory Council, as elected representatives of Members, will be meeting to feed into the process at this early stage. This will then be feed into a strategic Board meeting along with additional stakeholder input. The Board will then share a draft 5 year

plan with all Members and stakeholders for comment.

We are at a critical stage for establishing sustainability as a core business agenda for universities and colleges and the aim of the 5 year plan is to ensure we focus on delivering the services Members need and continue to show value. Throughout this process we will continue to provide updates to Members.

Learn more about the Board at www.eauc.org.uk/our_executive_committee

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