



earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

March 2011

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Earth Goes Global



Buriru Rehabilitation Cheshire Home near Mbale, Uganda.
Visited by EAUC CEO Iain Patton, February 2011
www.foag.org.uk

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

- Lancashire Global Education Centre
- NESCOT
- New college Nottingham
- North Glasgow College
- South Devon College

Company Members

- Arup
- Colour Studios
- Dyson
- Hambleside
- IMP Consultants
- MITIE
- Ricoh
- Schneider Electric
- Waste Action



A Silver Lining in our Cash Strapped Cloud



Travelling in the savage heat of Uganda recently visiting development projects, the ‘chill air of lean financial times’ (as Sara Parkin describes on pg 8) was almost tempting. Well, the chilled air anyway. Life is hard in Uganda and on a different plane, life is

about to get harder here. But there is a silver lining in our current cash strapped cloud. As sustainability leaders this is our moment to step up with solutions to our failing climate, society and economy. We need a new confidence in the contribution our sector makes to society. Alongside the Opinion piece from Sara Parkin who you will hear at our Annual Conference next month, this edition of Earth announces dramatic changes with the Universities that Count

Programme, a new carbon fund for colleges and continues our insight to Exeter College’s sustainability Learning Journey.

This one’s jam packed so I hope you enjoy.

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

Universities that Count is changing to support you

Based on the evidence collected in the recent independent review of Universities that Count (UtC) and on direct feedback from the sector, the UtC index is changing dramatically.

The developments will complement the 'impact' agenda that Universities are being invited to consider by both government and funders. It's recognised that the index needs to help participants deliver an operational, strategic and learning environment that produces institutions, staff and graduates able to cope with the large global challenges of the future.

To achieve this, the new index will:

- Focus on measuring impact and performance improvement, while retaining its value as an assured benchmark of the sector's sustainability and social responsibility impacts
- Ensure the diversity of the sector and the varying missions of different institutions are recognised
- Address the wider public benefit of Universities, including fully integrating Teaching, Learning, Research and Knowledge Exchange and give them appropriate weightings
- Demonstrate benefits to senior managers in Universities

- Engage fully with sector bodies, including funding and research councils
- Remain robust, with all questions phrased in terminology that the HE sector can relate to

As you already know, there will be no UtC Index to complete in 2010/11. This will allow previous participants to reflect on the feedback they received and allow for the development of the new index.

Development of the overall UtC framework is underway, and it is likely that the Index will consist of three equally weighted sections: Strategic; Academic; and Operational. A number of short-term advisory panels are being set up to ensure the index questions and coverage is right.

Read the independent review: eauc.org.uk/independent_review



EAUC Annual Conference

Be inspired today, to inspire tomorrow!



- Exceptional headline keynote speakers inspiring us each day with their view on sustainability and the way forward
- Member-led inspirational sustainable strands offering practical and extremely relevant conference sessions with delegate participation at the core (24 in total)
- Knowledge Exchange Sessions for one-to-one advice from the experts

To book your place visit www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference

PC Power Management

In order to help minimise ICT energy consumption within the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, an energy saving solution to monitor PC activity was installed.

The software creates reports showing individual or groups of computers activity levels. Additionally, it provides the ability to implement power-saving measures such as shutting down PCs when they're idle.

The first phase was reporting on workstation use and monitoring inactivity levels. In phase 2, a set of measures were introduced to power off PCs not in use.

The effect of this activity was dramatic, particularly on public workstations which were commonly left on for the entire day.

Written by S. Chesters London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine s.chesters@bbk.ac.uk

Meet a Member: Dr Neil Smith



I'm the Environment Manager at the University of Southampton. My remit is to act as a focal point for environment matters, keep the organisation legal and provide strategic direction. I'm also on the team taking part in the Higher Education Academy (HEA) pilot Green Academy: Curricula for Tomorrow providing the link between estate management and embedding sustainability into the curriculum.

I'm an EAUC Board member and chair the Southern Central Environment Managers group,

who meet to discuss issues of interest and share experiences. I also co-chair the Southampton Energy Partnership with the city.

I'm a member of the EAUC South Coast Affinity Group, or SCAG to its friends, which consists of universities from all along the south coast. Currently we're working on a joint waste management venture – clubbing together to become a bigger customer and strengthen our ability to challenge the contractor. This contract is worth about £1M per year and is based on a pay by weight system for both general and mixed recyclables.

Written by Dr Neil Smith, University of Southampton

Join the EAUC South Coast Affinity Group



Velo-Education with Sustrans

In September 2010, Sustrans launched the UK's biggest University bike loan scheme in Nottingham. Five months later, the majority of the 460 bikes are being used. In Leeds, the Velocampus project now has a fleet of 400 bikes and is in its third year with participation growing yearly. Along with the bike loan scheme, the team offers cycle maintenance, cycle confidence training, bike buddying and route planning. In both Leeds and Nottingham, the Sustrans projects are exemplars of partnership working in action with local authorities and the NHS all in close partnership. The result is joined up thinking across city planning and infrastructure, which in turn helps to achieve attractive and consistent cycling and walking environments.

At the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, Sustrans worked with its Human Resources team to reach its 10,000 students and 1360 staff. As well as a tangible reduction in campus traffic congestion, there has been 32% drop in staff sickness absence!

Written by Mia O'Hara, Sustrans mia.ohara@sustrans.org.uk



Exeter College: A Learning Journey

Exeter College has been making great headway with their Urban Garden Project. The planning phase is now complete, site clearance is underway and construction work will commence following clearance of some large trees on site.

The Urban Garden

The involvement of the students has been one of the great achievements of this project, in particular the Foundation Studies students, who have adapted their curriculum to make the most of its opportunities.

As a multi-functional and attractive space, the Urban Garden is raising questions about how to regulate informal activities. Can it be everything it set out to be: an outdoor classroom; a productive kitchen garden; a safe space for the college and wider community to use; and a good neighbour to the adjoining Students' Welfare Department, where quiet and privacy is essential?

Quick ICT Wins

Meanwhile inside, the ICT department are leading the FE

sector in greening their operations. One particular area is workstation energy management. Working with Microsoft, the ICT department monitor the 2,500 workstations and collect relevant data. This data management has identified that over half of the College's computers aren't turned off, or in use, from around 4.30pm, opening discussions regarding whether the present 10pm shut-down could be brought forward, or to shut-down workstations after 30 minutes of inactivity after 4.30pm. David Batho, ICT Manager endorses installing the workstation power management facility, quoting many benefits including. "At cost of £100 per server per year, it is an affordable and achievable step that all Colleges can make in greening their IT operations."

Written by Kirsti Norris, Action for Sustainability



How can British Gas Business Energy Suppliers Help Unlock Energy Savings in the Education Sector?

As an energy supplier with the expertise in providing added value supply solutions British Gas Business can also deliver a comprehensive range of technologies which are sustainable, carbon friendly and targeted to unlock energy savings which could otherwise go untapped.

We're at the EAUC conference



Dylan Crompton
Senior Business Manager
British Gas Business

More information on how BGB can help the education sector deliver on its carbon management obligations then visit our web site www.energy360.com



Legal Spotlight



Inspection of Air Conditioning Units Coverage Increases

Requirements for the inspection of air-conditioning are often overlooked in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2003, transposed under various regulations in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Legislation requires building owners or managers to inspect air-conditioning systems every five years for energy efficiency and improvement opportunities. This could include centralised systems, individual or multi-split systems or distributed heat pump systems. Inspection and reporting requirements are not the same as those for ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated

gases, but can be incorporated into the same visit by maintenance contractors if they are accredited by BESCA, the government-designated independent assessment and certification body.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, inspections must take place within five years for air-conditioning systems with an effective rated output of 12kW put into service on or after 1 January 2008. Pre-existing systems must have been inspected by 4 January 2009 (for systems with an effective rated output over 250kW) and, importantly, by 4 January 2011 (for systems over 12kW).

In Scotland, systems with more than 250kW must have been inspected by 4 January 2011, with 12kW systems to be inspected by 4 January 2013. Fines and penalties can be imposed for non-compliance with these requirements.

Waterman Greenspace takes the hard work out of compliance.

For further information, please see www.legalregister.co.uk or call 0114 229 8900

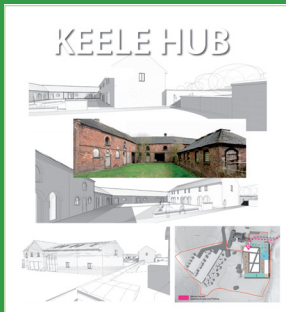


The Keele Hub for Sustainability

With the aid of £3.4 million secured from HEFCE's (Higher Education Funding Council for England) Strategic Development Fund, Keele University is renovating a derelict 19th Century farmhouse situated in its grounds to become The Sustainability Hub Building. The building will be an exemplar in energy terms, incorporating:

- Solar thermal
- Solar PV
- Climate control and under floor heating
- Rainwater harvesting
- Ground source heat
- A Bio-fuel woodchip burner

The aim is to turn the Hub building into a research and educational complex that is also completely energy efficient. The University campus has excellent potential



for delivering energy from a diverse range of local energy sources, which will power the Hub building as well as most of the campus. Potential energy sources include coal bed methane, wind turbines and geothermal energy.

Written by Huw Evans, Keele University h.a.evans@kfm.keele.ac.uk www.keele.ac.uk www.keele.ac.uk/keelehub

Colleges Cut the Carbon with LSIS

After launching a new grant opportunity, LSIS (Learning and Skills Improvement Service) is supporting 9 FE projects helping to reduce carbon emissions in the sector. The EAUC and LSIS say a huge congratulations to the 9 successful bids from:

- City College Plymouth
- Craven College
- Fareport Training with Vocational Innovation and the ALP Hampshire and Isle of Wight Network
- Grantham College with Boston College
- New Directions, Reading Borough Council
- South Staffordshire College
- Walsall Adult & Community College
- Walsall College with the New Engineering Foundation
- Weston College with Education4me

More information www.eauc.org.uk/new_ls_is_cut_the_carbon_fund

A University's Eye View of Green Impact: Anglia Ruskin University

How did Anglia Ruskin encourage team leaders and teams to join?

We identified environmental champions. People who are leading by example and embracing environmentally friendly practices. The most interesting thing about these champions is that they belong to a myriad of positions across the university including academic staff, students and administrative personnel.

How did you enthuse students?

Working with Dr Beatriz Acevedo in our International Business School led to the idea to incorporate our sustainability initiatives into students' coursework. The experiment showed that students can play the role of auditors in a professional fashion. Going forward, we will encourage students to become facilitators.

Written by Sarah Johnson, Anglia Ruskin University, Sarah.Johnson@anglia.ac.uk



Staff at Anglia Ruskin University, Green Impact Awards, 2010

Are your Degrees Cooler ?

Funded by Defra's Greener Living Fund and tasked with changing the habits and behaviours of over 90,000 staff and students at 20 universities across England, Degrees Cooler is now in its second year.

The following snippets of success provide a taster of what's been achieved in Year 1:

- Over 15,000 staff in over 350 departments have been actively involved in greening their department through Green Impact Universities;
- Over 700 students and staff have enhanced their CVs through receiving training in environmental auditing, social marketing and campaigning techniques;
- Over 6000 students have actively been involved in ongoing behaviour change campaigns at their universities.

In its second year, Degrees Cooler will focus on encouraging students to be departmental environment auditors as well as providing employment opportunities for recent graduates.

Written by Charlotte Bonner, CBonner@nusli.co.uk
www.degreescooler.org.uk



DEGREES COOLER
Save energy
Recycle more
Less flying
Sustainable local food

Eco Power rangers,
University of East Anglia

Treat your Data Centre as an Energy Source

Data Centre Designers at Future-Tech feel the re-use of data centre heat should be the main focus for every new data centre build project. It's not always possible but this option should always be explored.

The last two data centres completed by Future-Tech both have the ability to re-use the heat produced by their servers. The first at St Andrews University can direct the warmth from the water in the cooling system, through a plate heat exchanger, to an under floor heating system. As under floor heating systems run at relatively low temperatures there is no requirement for a heat pump, meaning the data centre can deliver, at full load, 270kW of heating power to the library.

Written by James Willham, Future-Tech, info@future-tech.co.uk



Opinion

The Big Question

Keynote
speaker at the
EAUC annual
conference



So, presuming post-school education has a major role to play in what happens next in UK society – and its future economic health – it seems a lot of people are not aware of what that role might be.

Whose fault is this? Ministers love to radically reorganise further education and get involved in everything in schools – from details in the class room to system engineering. But, historically, universities are, by law, beyond the reach of political interference. All government can do is tighten or loosen purse strings.

Now comes nemesis. Universities have not used their freedom in times of plenty responsibly.

If I had a £ for each Vice Chancellor who had told me that if government put money on the table for sustainable development they would be

I HAVE JUST BEEN READING A PAMPHLET'S WORTH OF ARTICLES ABOUT THE BIG SOCIETY FROM MOST PARTS OF WHAT USED TO BE CALLED THE PUBLIC SECTOR; FOURTEEN ARTICLES, AND NOT ONE MENTIONED FURTHER OR HIGHER EDUCATION.

on it in a trice ... I would be able to add a crate of fine whisky to my investment portfolio!

Certainly, since Forum for the Future finished its Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability in 2003 there has been improvements (with EAUC and HEFCE taking a good chunk of credit for that) but progress, in the light of evidence, much from UK university-based researchers, is criminally slow.

What is it that prevents the academy from assuming a leadership role in helping us all to implement sustainability solutions? National Scientific Academies get together to exhort governments and issue stern 'to do' lists. But is there a similar collaboration of universities and colleges – in their regions – to help the rest of us – schools, businesses, local governments, associations, concerned citizens – put what we all know needs to be done into practice? Not that you'd notice. Perhaps this is why writers from fourteen different parts of the public sector do not see universities as relevant to their constituencies at all, never mind in a way that contributes to a more sustainable future for all.

As the chill air of lean financial times blows through the sector some of the progress that EAUC and its members have made will be seen as 'non-essential'. How many universities and colleges have twigged that their own survival might depend on whether or not they are seen as essential to the future of their communities and regions? That is the question.

SARA PARKIN
Founder Director
Forum for the Future



EAUC Helps Make a Positive Change to Behaviour

Are you trying to encourage change within your institution?

As a part of the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCfS), the EAUC has undertaken a Behaviour Change Programme Management pilot. As a result, a number of exciting new resources and campaign materials are now available online.

Resources include:

- Step-by-Step Guide to: Find, record, use and manage data and accompanying spreadsheet
- How to use the Traffic Light stickers

- Unit Converter
- Quick Communication Messages
- UCCCfS Electrical Equipment Room Guide
- Electrical Equipment Checklist
- UCCCfS Poster Guidance Sheet
- Posters include Scotland's Commitment; Flick the switch; Report wasted resources; Ideas for resource reduction; Information on temperature control and Cut Scotland's waste over lunch



Read these resources on the eauc website

http://www.eauc.org.uk/bcmp_resources

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EAUC Boardroom Developments



Fraser Lovie
(University of Aberdeen)
Scotland Branch Convener

The Board is working to ensure member interests are recognised in the development of EAUC products and services. The forthcoming Member Advisory Council and Communities of Practice will build on lessons from regional branches and topic networks to establish a national conversation to which all members can contribute.

Two further exciting initiatives are the emerging collaboration between the Scotland Branch and colleagues in Northern Ireland, and the EAUC's development of an international strategy. Both emphasise the role of sustainability networking and will enhance best practice sharing within the EAUC and with sister organisations.

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

Paul Cross – Chair, Oxford Brookes University, **Derek Jones** – EAUC Wales – Convener, Glyndwr University, **Fraser Lovie** – EAUC Scotland – Convener, University of Aberdeen, **Robert Bellfield** – Board Member, Aberdeen College, **Di Dale** – Board Member, Wiltshire College, **Helen Manns** – Board Member, Northumbria University, **Harriet Sjerps-Jones** – Board Member, University of Exeter, **Neil Scott** – Board Member, Staffordshire University, **Neil Smith** – Board Member, University of Southampton, **Georgiana Weatherill** – Board Member, Leeds City College