

Looking forward to the 16th Annual Conference

University of York, 27 - 29 March 2012



Early-bird prices end on 10 February and delegate bookings are now open

For further details on the Conference please turn over to page 2.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Company Members:

University of Sussex
 Student Union

Abricon Ltd



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

New year, new perspectives



New Year is traditionally a time to stop, step back and get some perspective on life.

However, at this time

of sector threat and change, that is easier said than done. The temptation to put the head down and pedal faster is overwhelming!

But the EAUC and sustainability is all about perspective - looking at a problem from a new angle, seeing the bigger picture. Our annual conference will be a huge shot in the arm for our Members with new perspectives coming from the Olympics, NHS, global industry and this edition of earth sets the theme with the perspective of a Director of Finance. As the EAUC Member network passes 3558 people (see page 3 for more EAUC

statistics), our diversity grows and so do our chances of seeing the big picture and finding new ways to solve old problems.

Happy New Year!

Iain Patton, EAUC, CEO

EAUC 16th Annual Conference

University of York, 27 - 29 March 2012

Delivering the framework for a sustainability learning legacy for the higher and further education sector

This unique event remains to be *THE* environmental and sustainability annual event for the higher and further education sector and is key in highlighting the sector's successes on sustainability issues.

With the Olympics coming to town, 2012 is going to be a great year for the UK, tourism and all the sporting capitals and venues up and down the country. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is not only ensuring that the venues, facilities and infrastructure will not only be on track and embedded as sustainably as possible, but also that they will deliver Games that leave a lasting social, economic and environmental legacy to London, the communities and the whole of the UK. The ODA's 'Learning Legacy' is a collaborative approach between the ODA, contractors, professional institutes, government bodies and academia.

Inspirational speakers

We are delighted to announce at one of the EAUC Annual Conference keynote addresses, we will hear more about the Learning Legacy from Simon Wright, Director of Utilities and Infrastructure at the ODA, and how we can use and adapt these learnings for the benefit of the sector. What better way to share and learn from the best!

Over the three Conference days, we will hear from other notable keynote speakers including:

- Dr Peter White, Director, Global Sustainability, Procter & Gamble
- Dr David Pencheon, Director of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit (England)
- Satish Kumar, Editor-in-Chief, Resurgence
- Prof. Sue Hartley, Director of York Environmental Sustainability Institute

Hearing about sustainability drives from out of the sector organisations (private and public) gives us valuable insight and motivation.

Engaging, challenging and interactive Conference sessions

The Conference sessions this year are based around the sustainability framework of the EAUC's Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) and will follow the four main streams set out by the Index:

- Leadership and Governance
- Partnership and Engagement
- Estates and Operations
- Learning, Teaching and Research

Each stream will be facilitated, interactive sessions with emphasis on delivering practical advice, sharing best practices and aids to delivery of sustainable strategies, projects, paths and challenges. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion, knowledge exchange, syndicate groups, panel discussions and Q&A and facilitated networking events to help show the way ahead on the sustainability path for colleges and universities.

New for 2012!

Following feedback from you, new initiatives for 2012 include online bookings only limiting our paper use, clearly displaying the carbon footprint and source of all food offered, longer sessions, more time between sessions and more smaller workshop-based sessions.

Book your place today www.eauc.org.uk/events - Early-bird until 10 February

More information on the Conference at www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference

The EAUC Annual Conference 2012 - aiming to deliver a sustainability learning legacy - what will yours be?

Huge thanks to our sponsors



Strength in numbers

2011 - a year in review

2011 has been a fantastic and successful year for the EAUC. More importantly, we have achieved so much from our numerous projects ranging from the Green Gown Awards to the Communities of Practice. The EAUC is truly committed to representing our Members and giving them a platform for their voice in the sector; although we stand strong as one we make a far stronger team working together.

TO PUT THIS INTO CONTEXT...



Not just a new year's resolution...

Are your new year's resolutions already a distant memory? Well not for the EAUC. We've been poring over the results of our Annual Members' survey which took place in November 2011 and have set out a number of key developments for us to focus on in 2012. We like to call these our 'commitments' as we'll report back next year to show how they've extended far beyond the average length of a new year's resolution!

Who responded to this year's survey?

We were delighted to see 360 individual Members taking part in both the Educational and Company Members' surveys totalling 215 organisations being represented. This is a fantastic result and allows us to interpret your thoughts into real action for the benefit of all Members.

70% of Educational Members agree that EAUC Membership is value for money

92% of Educational Members rate our efforts to keep them up-to-date on issues affecting sustainability in the sector as 'excellent' or 'good'

52% of Company Members joined the EAUC to give back to the sector by sharing experience and expertise

72% of Educational Members are satisfied with their Membership. We'd like this to be higher so we'll be addressing this in 2012

76% of Company Members agree that the EAUC raises the profile of sustainable businesses working in the sector

74% of Educational Members agree we clearly and confidently communicate our purpose and benefits of Membership. Again, we'll be working on this in 2012

Our commitments to you

We've picked out a few of the areas we'll be looking at in the coming months below as we're still busy gathering all of the results. You had a lot to say - this year's survey was a long one as we had so much to ask you!

COMPANY MEMBERS' SURVEY

You'd like us to further develop the way we help you build relationships with Educational Members

With the recent launch of our new Company Member packages, we have more ways to share your recent work, expertise and experience with Educational Members so they can see the clear value in working with you. As all current Company Members move onto this new structure, you'll be able to choose a package to suit you.

You agree that Insider is an effective snapshot of the sector and EAUC news

This is great to hear as we work hard to bring you interesting news and insight to help you learn about the sector and apply this to your work. We'll continue to send this monthly and would love more interaction with you on what you'd like to see in it.

You like the Green Directory as an immediate online profile

With the new packages, you can now get an enhanced listing and more promotional opportunities so make sure you pick a package that gives you the most flexibility in achieving your long term objectives.



Visit the Green Directory at www.eauc.org.uk/green_directory

A total of 360 individual Members took our 2011 survey - thank you!

EDUCATIONAL MEMBERS' SURVEY

Overall you like the size, frequency and content of eNews and earth

We've developed the look and feel of eNews, given it clear sections and more interactivity. You'd like earth to stay as it is but we'd like to investigate new ways of distribution so reading it is quick, simple and sustainable.



You like a number of external campaigns and see value in how they communicate the sustainability message

Find our new 'Sustainability Calendar' on the Member Zone which lists all the sustainability events you mentioned were important to you. The EAUC are taking this one step further and will be actively supporting Climate Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, Go Green Week and World Environment Day. You can add your own sustainable weeks to the calendar by emailing info@eauc.org.uk.

You have an appetite for more international voices from ACTS (Australasia) and AASHE (US)

We announced the exciting news in early December 2011 that EAUC Members will be able to access ACTS and AASHE's resources and vice versa. We're currently working out the finer details so watch this space! We're also looking to develop a twice yearly international eNews edition and clearer links to their websites.



You're not confident that your senior management are engaged with the EAUC and think it would be valuable if they were

We will address our strategy in terms of how we approach leadership as we already play a large role in their ongoing engagement with the EAUC. However, we acknowledge that we need to take this one step further to respond to your needs.

You value our key Member services and we need to continue working on them

The Annual Conference is an extremely valued Member service along with our resource bank, bespoke CPD events programme and the educational Members' network (JISComail). We will further develop a number of services such as Member-only offers to ensure you're aware of them and that they continue to offer value to your Membership.

You have limited knowledge of our Company Members and we'd like to improve that

They have a vast amount of expertise to offer our wider Membership. They've joined us because they genuinely want to share this knowledge and to learn from the sector (70% of them said this is why they joined the EAUC). By working with us they can help give the sector a sustainable future, so we'll be working on more ways to build on this relationship over the coming years.

You think that EAUC Membership offers good value for money

This is important as we're currently reviewing our pricing structure to ensure we can still offer quality services for the long-term. More information will be announced soon.



We know that surveys are a time consuming task but we can only respond to your needs if we can capture your views. On behalf of the EAUC, we'd like to thank all 360 of you for completing the 2011 survey.

THANK YOU, FROM ALL AT THE EAUC

Opinion

What does sustainability mean to the Finance Director?

If we were to analyse the language used in the financial and accounting media over the last ten years, my guess is that the word “sustainability” has become one of the most frequently used.



Sustainable development is generally defined as development that “meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”. This can certainly be adapted to a financial environment, but not without huge problems at a time when the rules of funding are changing so fast. Until recently, FDs and their Planning Office colleagues could make forecasts of student demand, and therefore income. However, across the UK, there is now considerable uncertainty about the way students will exercise their choice of course and institution, if they even wish to attend at all. One of the factors that will influence a student’s choice is whether they view a university or college as “sustainable”, based on, amongst many things, its CO₂ emissions, its use of Fairtrade catering products, or whether statistical indicators and media commentaries suggest that it is likely to go bust.

A recent report by accountancy and consulting firm Ernst & Young advises Chief Financial Officers [to] “work with your sustainability team to develop a sustainability story for your organisation. If current trends continue, the CFO will be the one telling it.” There are several challenges embedded in that piece of advice, and British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) members are prepared for them all.

Karel Thomas, Executive Director, BUFDG



Find the Ernst & Young report under ‘Communication and management’ in the Resource Bank.

South Staffordshire College’s learning journey towards sustainability

After the invaluable experiences shared by Exeter College’s learning journey last year, we searched for another Member institution who were keen to share their 2012 ‘sustainability journey’.



South Staffordshire College receiving their Silver EcoCampus Award

In October 2011, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) awarded funds supporting fourteen providers in the development, dissemination and embedding of sustainability and carbon reduction in their institution. South Staffordshire College is one of these providers and have also committed to sharing their 2012 journey with earth readers.

From 2005 to 2008, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) sponsored the SAFE (Sustainable Agenda in Further Education) initiative, designed to support sustainability in Further Education (FE) colleges across the West Midlands and directed by Mark Phillips (image: top, centre). Three of the founding members of SAFE (Tamworth & Lichfield, Cannock and Rodbaston Colleges) merged in January 2009 to create South Staffordshire College; recruiting Mark to drive the sustainability agenda forwards and placing the new College in the lead of sustainability initiatives in FE.

Chief Executive Principal, Graham Morley, and College Governors were determined to place sustainability at the heart of the College, making it central to the purpose of the organisation and establishing it as a core principle. They understood that independent external assessment of the efforts and investment in sustainability would be required in order for the College to be recognised as a leader in this area. This vision was rewarded in 2009 when the College became the first FE establishment in England and Wales to achieve ISO14001 certification. Aspiring to challenge excellence in sustainability practice in FE, the College went on to become the only college in England to join the Higher Education (HE) EcoCampus.

The recent LSIS funds means the College has new initiatives to keep moving forward. Realistic but challenging targets have been set:

- 25% reduction in carbon footprint by 2016
- Saving approximately 1,172 tons of CO₂ a year
- Cumulative savings of over £1 million
- To achieve Gold EcoCampus by 2012 and Platinum by 2013

Mark has recently been appointed as the LSIS Regional Sustainability Advisor, demonstrating the College’s commitment to support other institutions in their own journey toward sustainability.

Follow their journey over the year, read it only in earth!



Meet a Member – Alison Plamer



I’ve always been passionate about environmental and social justice issues and have been involved

in voluntary action around the environment for 25 years, initially for Greenpeace. My experience and academic background informs the way I design my work now.

I’ve worked in the FE sector as a Psychology lecturer for 20 years and after a few years at Sussex Downs College I set about looking at our environmental credentials.

In 2005, I decided to make a direct bid to the then Principal using quotes from “From here to sustainability” (LSC, 2005), plus some uneasy facts about climate change. I proposed they hire me as a green champion, where I would reduce our carbon footprint. This led to an excellent conversation with one of our previous Deputy Principals who said there and then “you’re hired - do a 10 week trial to see how things go”.

I’ve since had my yearly contract as Environment Coordinator renewed each summer. I’m constantly creating the role and the activities done within it, including integrating sustainability into the curriculum, e.g. “Trashion” courses. I also joined the Embedding Positive Behaviours Community of Practice (COP) last year.

I’m very proud and happy to continue to be such a pivotal part of this process.

Alison Plamer, Psychology lecturer and Environmental Coordinator, Sussex Downs College

To join the Embedding Positive Behaviours COP email info@eauc.org.uk

Legal Spotlight



Be prepared for the Green Deal

Further information on the scheme can be found in the Resource Bank

In October 2011, the Energy Act 2011 was published. The flagship policy of this Act is the Green Deal, which is due to be launched in the second half of 2012.

The Green Deal is a new financing framework being introduced to allow households and businesses make improvements to the energy performance of their properties, and to repay the costs of doing so through the savings on their energy bills. The idea behind the scheme is to allow energy improvements to be made at no additional upfront cost to the property owners themselves. Institutions are able to take advantage of this new Green Deal, without the need to raise any funds upfront.

The process will be as follows:



Also within the Energy Act are provisions affecting the private rented sector, making it unlawful for any residential or business premises to be rented out after April 2018 without reaching a minimum energy efficiency standard. Institutions leasing out their own properties can use the Green Deal to ensure any of their properties reach this minimum standard in

advance, which is anticipated to be Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating E.

Mary Garwood
Graduate Environmental Consultant
www.waterman-group.com



Boardroom developments



Do you want to influence the future of the EAUC?

Our continued success will draw on the strength and diverse skills of our Board of Trustees: maintaining its balance of knowledge and experience from across the sector is essential to our future success. We're looking for two motivated and dynamic Trustees with strategic, senior board-level experience with particular expertise in human resource management and sustainability. We also value the broader perspective from out of sector experience. Applications close on 21 January 2012 and will be put forward to vote at the AGM on 27 March 2012 at the University of York. For more information and an application form email info@eauc.org.uk

For further details visit www.eauc.org.uk/news

Start 2012 with bespoke training live from your desk!

The EAUC is determined to make 2012 an even more successful year for our Members, with more opportunities to continue your training and keep you up to date with the latest policy, legislation and hot topics from the sector. At the last five EAUC events, almost one quarter of delegates who filled in the post-event survey had travelled to the event by car. In keeping with our ethos championing sustainability in the sector, we are incorporating webinars into our events programme with two events already lined up for 2012 - Partnerships and Engagement and Research and Sustainability.

For more details visit our Events page



Printed on FSC certified, 100% post-consumer content paper, using fully sustainable, vegetable oil-based inks, power from 100% renewable resources and waterless printing technology. Print production systems registered to ISO 14001: 2004, ISO 9001: 2008 and EMAS standards and a carbon free status (PURE) by offsetting all site emissions.



Designed by Plus One Design, Bristol
www.plus-one.co.uk T: 0117 9238638



Printed by Park Lane Press, Wiltshire
www.parklaneprint.co.uk T: 01225 815010

Views and opinions expressed in earth do not necessarily reflect the official policies or views of EAUC. The editor reserves the right to edit or amend all contributions and to reject any contributions that are, in any way, deemed unsuitable for publication. The EAUC and EAUC logo are registered trademarks. © 2011



EAUC UK Office
University of Gloucestershire, The Park,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2RH
T: 01242 714321