



earth

The Newsletter of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

January 2011

www.eauc.org.uk

info@eauc.org.uk

A very warm welcome to Earth Magazine 2011



We know that EAUC Members have many challenges in the year ahead, so we've taken your advice and

shaken up Earth to ensure it better meets your needs. Earth is now bimonthly, allowing news stories to keep you right up-to-date on current opinion and developments in the sector. So we bring you Earth, the world in your pocket (or laptop!) in this ten minute version. It's all about listening, that's why enews is now shorter and more frequent and why we'll be changing the website to provide personalised information relevant to your job and interests.

I'm acutely aware of the challenges facing us all this year and encourage you to draw on the sector's strength. Earth Magazine is the space we've set aside to allow the diverse voices of members and partners to be heard. It is an evolving space, flexible and always ready to respond to the sector's needs. So if you read something that inspires you or want to contribute, please do.

P.S. look out for details of our conference – it's going to be very different and better than ever.

Iain Patton, CEO

EAUC Boardroom Developments



In 2010 the Board put greater emphasis on strategic thinking, gathering expertise in ESD from across the UK. Our vision has changed in order to see sustainability embedded into our sector and provide the help members need to achieve this; an Audit sub-committee and People and Performance sub-committee were set up.

2011 sees the EAUC in its strongest position yet to help members tackle the challenges ahead with an online best practice forum (the exchange) in

development and initiatives to progress the ESD agenda. Communities of Practice will be introduced and the Membership Advisory Council will bring the members' voices into the boardroom. Strong links are being developed with HEFCE, AUDE, AoC and other bodies.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Educational Members

Coatbridge College
Copenhagen Business School
Kendal College
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama
Sabhal Mor Oastaig
Sussex Downs College
Walsall Adult and Community College

Company Members

Centrica
Future-Tech SCI Ltd
Loop Computer Reuse
Julabo UK Ltd
The Waste Recycle Company
UNIT 4 Business Software

Partners

Computer Aid International
CUBO
Energy Saving Trust



eauc
The Environmental Association
for Universities and Colleges



eauc annual conference

Be inspired today, to inspire tomorrow!

University of York, 11th – 13th April 2011



Confirmed Inspirational Keynote Speaker

Dame Ellen MacArthur first hit the headlines in 2001 when she single-handedly raced non-stop around the world in the Vendee Globe when only 24 years old. In 2003, Ellen set up the Ellen MacArthur Trust. The Foundation's goal is an education which sees the challenges of a resource-constrained world as an opportunity to innovate and accomplish remarkable things in the redesign of our industrial systems (circular economy). For more information, visit www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org.

Be Inspired at the EAUC Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference has been designed by our Members, through our Conference Steering Group, ensuring that every aspect of the programme is relevant to Sustainability Professionals in Universities & Colleges.

This year we have a very different conference structure: Sharing and learning from Members and other colleagues has been put at the heart of the new-look conference as we believe knowledge exchange is key to success.

NEW STRUCTURE FOR THIS YEAR

- 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

Conference Strands

Inspire Operations – changes for sustainability in what and how we do things

Inspire Estates – changes for sustainability in our physical environment

Inspire People – changing culture, how we engage and take everyone with us

All sessions are tailored towards both the higher and further education sector and will offer practical advice, best practice sharing, forums for discussions and networking and much more.

Also new for this year is the **Knowledge Exchange Session** where you can sign-up for individual meetings with the Experts. This gives you the opportunity to get tailor-made, practical advice on such topics as; how to construct a strategy, how to approach high level buy-in, how to achieve change or on another challenging situation which you are facing.

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE
- 25TH FEB 2011

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

Revolving Green Fund – Update

The Revolving Green Fund is proving a vital driver of energy efficiency in the Higher Education sector



Fiscal performance: six months to 30/09/2010

Total number of projects: 266

Total project value committed: £5,243,672

Projected CO₂ savings: 9,973 tonnes annual

135,648 tonnes lifetime

Projected financial savings: £1,571,815 annual

£22,144,806 lifetime

To date

Total number of projects: 881

Total project value committed: £18,314,144 (circa 75% of total fund)

Total Fund size £24,974,811

Projected CO₂ savings: 36,716 tonnes annual

469,419 tonnes lifetime

Projected financial savings: £6,154,253 annual

£78,989,536 lifetime

Joanna Simpson, Senior Higher Education Policy Adviser at HEFCE, comments: "I am pleased that the fund is working effectively to both drive down carbon emissions and reduce costs. HEFCE is delighted with the excellent start this fund has made."

Alastair Keir, Chief Executive, Salix Finance says: "This partnership is a unique opportunity to drive delivery, putting energy efficiency high on the agenda within HEIs. I urge Institutional Small Projects Fund clients to build on the excellent outcomes achieved to date by continuing to commission new projects."

HEIs can implement over fifty eligible technologies that work quickly to save energy but continue to work effectively for many years. These include upgraded lighting, heating and insulation systems, combined heat and power plants, and energy efficient ICT hardware and controls systems. Salix's team of client relationship managers are happy to advise participating HEIs on the continuing management of their funds.

www.salixfinance.co.uk/home.html



The Bardon Grange Project

The Bardon Grange community food project's main site is an old walled garden in North West Leeds, adjacent to Bardon Grange house which is part of one of the halls of residence. People can come along to learn, practice and enjoy growing organic food with other students and people from the local community. The project was established in January 2009 and is coordinated by Leeds University Union's Volunteering & Community office who say:

"We grow lots of organic fruit and veg in the garden, support and teach people how to grow their own, and also sell lots of plants and some produce to help fund the project, including to the university catering services, and we aim to encourage people to grow and eat locally produced food."

The project holds weekly gardening sessions and monthly work days at the site, and is in the process of developing a programme of workshops and events to help people learn more about sustainable food production.

bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk



Exeter College: A Learning Journey

'A Learning Journey' is a project to document the journey of Exeter College in their first year of incorporating sustainability into their College strategy.



Exeter College carried out a Sustainability Audit in May 2010, aiming to identify sustainability practice occurring in the college with a view to developing sustainable strategies. 'A Learning Journey' will follow Exeter College as they report on the highs and lows of this process.

Since May, Exeter College have:

- formed a Sustainability Group of staff, students, Exeter City Council, Pro Serv (college caterers) and the cleaning company
- written a Sustainability Strategy approved by the Senior Leadership Team
- signed the Association of Colleges / EAUC Green College Declaration, making a visible declaration to the community of the College's commitment to sustainability
- been awarded £25,000 LSIS funding to develop the Exeter Urban Garden Project – to develop an area of College ground into a sustainable garden and outdoor learning space.

So what has worked well?

“ THE SINGLE MOST CRITICAL THING IS TO GET A SENIOR MEMBER OF STAFF TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY

[for the sustainability agenda]
Malcolm Walsh, Assistant Principal

“ HOW RECEPTIVE STAFF HAVE BEEN, WITH LOTS OF SUGGESTIONS BEING PRESENTED TO THE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP, AND WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM

Chris Lorimer, Director of Marketing and External Relations, the driver behind the sustainability work at the College

“ SEEING THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA AS “NO LONGER THE GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY”, BUT “A BUSINESS INITIATIVE”

Ian McGregor, College Governor

And what can we learn from any challenges so far?

The struggle to engage with students. This came as a surprise to the Sustainability Group who is working to improve this, by helping to set up a student Green Team, and have prioritised becoming a Fairtrade College in early 2011 – an issue of real importance to the students.

Developing effective sustainability KPIs that do not penalise the College's growth in recruitment. The College would like to see more leadership from the sector with this challenge, as all institutions will face this difficulty.

www.exe-coll.ac.uk/

'A Learning Journey' will feature in Earth over the coming months, as well as on the SORTED website, with video-interviews and articles documenting progress, so watch this space.

Computers 4 Africa

Many of us enjoy the benefits of owning a computer, whether that's for work, social networking, online shopping, entertainment or surfing the internet. But, for millions of Africans, using a PC has been an improbable dream – until now.



Each year in the UK over four million computers are discarded, but if the charity Computers 4 Africa achieves their mission, this unwanted equipment could soon be put to good use.

Chair of Trustees Aseri Katanga is appealing for universities and colleges to donate their redundant computers in a bid to give some of the world's most deprived nations the opportunity to become educated and self-reliant through computer technology. He pledges "that one day every African child will know the difference between a mouse, and a mouse!"

A lack of resources and education remain a stumbling block to Africa's development, but computer donation can act as a catalyst for change: for example, in Tanzania, the government has now provided funding to build new schools and colleges, as well as initiating the installation of used computers into public libraries, police stations and hospitals.

"I have a job because I understand how to repair and use a computer," explains Jessica Barongo, who works as a full-time IT teacher at Tweyambe secondary school in north-west Tanzania. 'It is an advantage to learn IT skills as you have a strong chance of getting a job.'

Computers 4 Africa holds donation appeals across the UK for individuals, institutions and companies to donate their surplus IT equipment, which is erased of all data before being shipped to beneficiaries in Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, Gambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. So, make a difference and donate your unwanted PCs now: your computer cast-offs could radically transform someone's life.

www.computers4africa.org.uk/



The EaRTH Project takes off

Building work for EaRTH, the new centre of excellence for renewable technology and sustainability training at Bicton College, the premier College for the land and the environment, begins early this year.

EaRTH incorporates a range of renewable technologies including solar PV, solar thermal, under floor heating, air source heating, biomass heating, grey water systems and rain water harvesting to provide a working example of a carbon neutral retro fit building.

Lisa Stroud, Project Manager says, "It is predicted that to meet the

national 2020 targets for carbon reduction, we will require a 100% increase in the number of qualified workers able to offer sustainable solutions and install renewable technologies. EaRTH is leading the way in offering practical skills to students as well as being an open resource for guidance on renewable technology and sustainability issues."

Initial courses in Photo Voltaic Panel Installation and Micro Certification Scheme Accreditation are planned for Spring 2011.

www.bictonearth.co.uk



Love your future, love your climate

From 7-14 February 2011, People & Planet will be putting on a programme of eco-activities for Go Green Week.



Students and staff will be working to create a positive vision of the FHE sector by showcasing creative and practical solutions for a low-energy future. As well as showing their 'love for the climate' through practical projects, students will call on the government to invest in their futures by giving adequate funding to the sector.

On Friday the 11th universities and colleges will unite for a co-ordinated day of action calling on the government to 'cut the carbon, not education funding'. Students will urge David Willets, the Minister of State for Universities and Science, not to divert finance away from carbon-cutting initiatives.

www.peopleandplanet.org/gogreenweek

We're at the EAUC conference

Join the EAUC Transport Planning Community of Practice

Uni-Link Southampton

The University of Southampton have operated the Uni-link bus service since 2001, currently operated in partnership with Go South Coast. In 2010, Uni-link carried more than 3.5 million passengers, and was voted the premier bus operator in Southampton by passenger focus.

The university and Go South Coast have worked hard to make Uni-link even better, completing a new £1.5M interchange in the heart of the

university's Highfield Campus. The new facility has provided an attractive gateway for anyone travelling to the campus, as well as improving the safety of the space for passengers and allowing the expansion of the flagship U1 service (connecting the university to the city centre and rail stations) to a 10 minute frequency.

Written by Adam Tewkesbury,
Transport Operations
Manager, University
of Southampton.
ajt1d09@soton.ac.uk



Opinion

Waste Management in Further and Higher Education Institutions



Universities and colleges face a brave new world of cuts and budget restraints. So with landfill taxation increasing year-on-year, waste management is becoming a high priority. The growth in statutory disposal requirements is compelling universities and colleges to take waste reduction seriously and having a green reputation is also increasingly important: witness the rise of the University Green League, environmental benchmarking and the growth of sustainability awards such as EAUC's 'Green Gowns'.

Putting all these factors together means that Further and Higher Education Institutions are signing up to greener systems of waste disposal. Food waste recycling schemes which diverts food waste from landfill, processing it instead by anaerobic digestion are becoming increasingly popular;

SAVVY UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES RECOGNISE THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF WASTE IS NOT AN UNWANTED SUBSTANCE BUT RATHER AN UNDER-USED RESOURCE. AND WITH MUCH OF THE NEW GREENTECH BEING DEVELOPED BY THE SECTOR, THERE IS EVEN MORE REASON TO DEPLOY IT THERE.

the end products are 'green' electricity and fertiliser.

Using facilities such as MRFs (materials recycling facilities) enables Further and Higher Education Institutions to recycle and recover around 60 per cent of their general waste.

But universities and colleges will also generate waste that must be handled with care and diverted from landfill including WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) and waste that is classified as Hazardous (waste that may be harmful to human health or the environment). An organisation generating more than 500 kg of hazardous waste per annum is required to register with the Environment Agency and must dispose of waste through the correct channels.

Waste chemicals, often decades old and either banned under current legislation or unidentifiable, can be a major issue. Older laboratories may contain asbestos that must be removed with extreme care under licence. Radioactive and explosive materials, interesting scientific specimens, stuffed and pickled specimens – including octopus, lizards and items

of human origin – must be handled with due caution and sensitivity before they are sent for incineration.

Written by Kate Cawley, Business Development Manager, Cawley's





15th eauc annual conference

University of York, 11th – 13th April 2011

Early Bird Now Available

Be inspired TODAY to inspire TOMORROW!

The EAUC Annual Conference covers inspirational sustainability themes with facilitated interactive sessions that focus on delivering practical advice, sharing best practices and aiding the delivery of sustainable strategies.

Inspirational Themes

- Inspire Operations - changes in what and how we do things
- Inspire Estates - changes in our physical environment
- Inspire People - changing culture and taking everyone with us.

Be at the sustainability learning event of the year - www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference - info@eauc.org.uk

Delegate bookings now open

**Dame Ellen MacArthur
Confirmed Keynote Speaker**



Coming soon- great new member benefit

Keep your eyes peeled for the all-new My EAUC page:

- Member profile – Make linkages with your colleagues through your membership

- Personalised news and resources – Get the information you want according to your interests
- Green Directory – Find great and innovative sustainable companies

- Keep up to date on the latest from EAUC CEO Iain Patton

EAUC is working hard to keep you well connected and up-to-date to give you the tools to embed sustainability.

**ISSUE NUMBER 46
ISSN 1465-9107**

Printed with electricity generated from renewable sources using an alcohol free printing process on 100% recycled paper Cocoon 100 Offset (FSC) 140gsm

Please pass onto a colleague and recycle when finished.



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

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

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. Thank you to all the contributors in this issue. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges and the EAUC logo are registered trademarks. © 2011.



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

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 – Convenor, Glyndwr University, **Fraser Lovie** – EAUC Scotland – Convenor, 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