



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Universities and Colleges are Creating Greener Buildings, and Responding Positively to Environmental and Social Issues**

14 universities and colleges are winners or highly commended for the prestigious 2007-8 Green Gown Awards. These recognise innovative actions in eight categories – Colleges and Smaller Institutions; Continuous Improvement; Courses; Energy and Water Efficiency; Residences; Social Responsibility; Student Initiatives; and Sustainable Construction.

The Awards are organised – in collaboration with AUDE, BUFDG, EAUC, UUK and other sector associations - by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project, whose Co-Director, Professor Peter James, commented that:

“Universities and colleges are under unprecedented pressure to demonstrate environmental and social responsibility. This is a key feature of a positive reputation amongst staff and students, and several schemes now compare performance. The sector must also respond to demanding new regulations such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Display Energy Certificates.

This year’s Awards demonstrate that many institutions are responding well, and highlight many innovations to create greater environmental awareness amongst students, and the communities which they and staff live within. The Awards also show that many universities are building impressive track records of continuous improvement of performance, and demonstrating a commitment to greener buildings.”

The Awards were presented by James Strawbridge from BBC 2’s ‘It’s Not Easy Being Green’ at the EAUC Annual Conference on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the University of Exeter.

Past winning and highly commended entries to the Sustainable Construction category of the Awards are also featured in two new publications on High Performance Buildings in Further and Higher Education.

**ENDS**

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#### **Further Information:**

For more information on the Green Gown Awards and the publications visit [www.heepi.org.uk](http://www.heepi.org.uk), or – for press queries only - contact HEEPI Co-Director Professor Peter James on 01260 290472.

## **About HEEPI**

The Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement project is funded by HEFCE. Its aims are to develop better data on the topic to facilitate benchmarking, and to use this data to inform workshops, guidance documents and other activities. HEEPI is based at the University of Bradford, and has representatives of the main sector organisations such as the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) and the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) on its management board.

## **Full List of Winners & Highly Commended:**

### **Colleges and Smaller Institutions**

Winner: Lancaster and Morecambe College  
Highly Commended: John Wheatley College  
Highly Commended: University of Cumbria

### **Continuous Improvement**

Winner (projects): Sheffield Hallam University  
Winner (whole institution): University of Gloucestershire  
Highly Commended (projects): University of Birmingham

### **Courses**

Winner: Bedford College  
Highly Commended: Somerset College of Arts and Technology  
Highly Commended: University of Manchester  
Highly Commended: University of Gloucestershire

### **Energy and Water Efficiency**

Winner: University of Dundee  
Highly Commended: Swansea Metropolitan University

### **Residences**

Winner: University of Manchester

### **Social Responsibility**

Winner: London College of Fashion, University of the Arts  
Highly Commended: University of Bedfordshire

### **Student Initiatives**

Winner: Sustainable Living Action Group, Durham University  
Highly Commended: Ethical Investment Campaign, University of St Andrews

### **Sustainable Construction**

Winner: Somerset College of Arts and Technology  
Highly Commended: University of Surrey