

Q&A with Ian Lane, Environmental and Energy Manager, University of the Arts London

How have you used LiFE (Learning in Future Environments) across the institution?

We have been using LiFE for about two and a half years. There was a review of which EMS to install just before I arrived and LiFE was part of the mix. We've adopted it really as our EMS; it's how we gauge environmental stewardship as we term it. It's up front and centre for us, it's how we define what sustainability is, how we measure progress and how we set targets. So it's an important tool for us.

How did you get buy in from senior management and how did you convince them this is the right tool to develop sustainability across the institution?

The decision was rubber stamped by our Pro Vice Chancellor who chairs our sustainability board. The board is made up of two Pro Vice chancellors, three departmental heads and some support staff. They report into our executive board so it's fairly senior.

Do specific departments have control over an area or is it run centrally from the executive team?

It is administered by me but then there are four project chairs and each take ownership of an area. We have a Pro Vice Chancellor that looks after leadership and a Dean looks after business, operations and procurement. Estates look after the estates and operations area and a couple of professors look after learning, teaching and research. We are a federal relationship art college but we think we can have coverage across all colleges and central services.

How often do you report on the frameworks and areas?

Quarterly, each chair reports progress on each of their aspects to me and then we deliver that in our quarterly sustainability board meetings.

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Do you have any targets in place for frameworks?

In January 2013 we set a target to achieve bronze across all of the areas in 12 months on from then. In 2014 we set a target to achieve Silver by that academic year so we can move on to gold.

Will you be able to successfully to achieve those targets?

We are pretty much there; there is only communications in each of the areas that is a sticking point at silver. But we have got coverage all over our curriculum in the more difficult areas.

Do you include it within any internal reports across departments to show how each area is performing?

Yes, we have produced an infographic to easily describe how it's arranged. We use it as a visual grab to show where we are.

What has been the overall impact of LiFE on the institution?

It has helped concisely define what the issue is first of all and in the last couple of years we delivered our BREEAM outstanding rating for our buildings. We have reduced our whole carbon footprint by 32%; scope one and two emissions are down by at least 10%. We are up in the Green League from 122nd to 61st and have been awarded Green Gown Awards and other external awards. There has been a huge cultural shift and it does it point back the LiFE scheme. We have been more robust in it, we are very conscious about dragging in the curriculum work and the only way we can capture is through LiFE.

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