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An Introduction to LiFE



Learning in Future
Environments (LiFE) is a
comprehensive
performance improvement
and benchmarking system
developed specifically to
help colleges and universities to manage, measure,
improve and promote their
social responsibility and
sustainability performance.

LiFE has been developed with generous support from our funding partners Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Department for Employement and Learning in Northern Ireland (DELNI), as well as direct input from people across the sector.

# An Introduction to LiFE

#### WHY WAS LIFE DEVELOPED?

LiFE was developed in response to a growing need to embed social responsibility and sustainability into the activities of universities and colleges to enable them to meet the challenges they face in the currrent economy.

Throughout the development of LiFE, the EAUC has worked extensively with people and institutions from across the sector. This support as been crucial to develop a system that will be relevant and beneficial to all. This system in has in every way been developed for the sector, by the sector.

#### LiFE consists of 3 elements:

The LiFE Index - an online system featuring multi-user access, communication and management tools and improvement resources to help institutions manage every aspect of your social responsibility and sustainability activities.

**LiFE Accreditation** - an annual performance accreditation programme providing participants with an independent assessment and verification of their institutions performance. This can be used to publicly and positively promote their achievements and benchmark their success, nationally and internationally.

**LiFE Improvement Centre** - access to a resource and improvement centre featuring guidance, tools and CPD programmes that have been developed by the EAUC to further enhance performance improvement.

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

We've put a lot of work into making a system that will be easy-to-use and bring real benefit to every area of your institution. The LiFE index manages performance improvement across four institutional priority areas. These priority areas have been developed to accurately reflect specific challenges that face the higher and further education sectors.

### These priority areas are:

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



Within each of these priority areas there are a series of comprehensive frameworks to guide users through social responsibility and sustainability management in a simple, systematic and proactive way.

#### WHY LIFE?

LiFE a simple and intuitive system that will bring direct benefits to your institution, these include:

- Actively manage and improve your sustainability development.
- Be more resource efficient
- Realise financial savings in uncertain times
- Demonstrate commitment to wider societal goals
- Position yourself for the future.
- Remove the burden of reporting
- Contribute to reporting for a wide range of mandatory legislative measures.
- Raise your profile on this agenda.

The new LiFE Index features several innovations:

#### New Software Platform

We've worked hard to ensure that the LiFE Index is intuitive and easy to use. Our new system features multi-user access, communication and management tools and improvement resources to help you manage every aspect of your social responsibility and sustainability activities.

## Independent Peer Review

We are creating an Independent Peer Review Board, who will audit the LiFE Index on an annual basis to ensure that we are continually developing the right tool for the college and university sectors.

### Independent Verification

LiFE Performance Accreditation will be an annual independent review, assessment and accreditation process that will help your organisation gain the most value from the LiFE Index. Participants will have their performance independently reviewed and verified by our experts and will receive a bespoke report detailing how they can improve their performance.

#### **Resource Centre**

LiFE is being developed by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, who are leading the way in integrating social responsibility, sustainability and environmental management within colleges and universities throughout the UK. We have a wide range of Best Practice and Improvement Resources that have been developed directly for the sector.

#### Share Ideas & Communicate

Sharing knowledge is a key part of what makes the college and university sectors the leaders in social responsibility and sustainability. The LiFE Index will feature an internal communication and knowledge transfer section that will help you share ideas with your staff, other institutions and the LiFE system administrators.

# Priority Areas & Frameworks Benefiting Your Institution Integrating with Your Institution Promoting Your Efforts Investing in LiFE

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