

The Newsletter of The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

# **EAUC Conference Success!**

With a record number of delegates and exhibitors, with over 340 people attending this year's event, the 2009 EAUC Annual Conference was the biggest and best yet!

The event was held at the University of Warwick, which provided an excellent backdrop to discuss the sector's successes in sustainability and the way ahead. Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor of the University, kicked off the three day conference and extended a warm welcome to us.

The EAUC was delighted with the excellent line-up of keynote speakers that attended the conference including Jonathon Porritt, Founder Director of Forum for the Future, Mike Barry, Head of Sustainable Business, Marks & Spencer, and Mark Edwards and his moving Hard Rain Bob Dylan photographic story. Steve Martin followed this with "A Different View" - Life in a Bangladeshi University' with a DVD link from our Bangladesh Member, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Plenary also included a well received Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) panel with Mike Barry, Joanna Simpson, Higher Education Policy Adviser, HEFCE; Simon Cooper, Universities that Count; and Jo Matthews, Executive Coach and former FE College Deputy

Principal. This is clearly an important and fast rising agenda for our sector but it is one that we can be leading. The potential of a college or university to be the power-house of economic and social regeneration has never been clearer.

Alongside the interesting and challenging plenary sessions, there were 35 workshops spanning the wide spectrum of sustainability and the Global Cafe sessions, which gave practical advice on how to discuss such issues back in delegates own institutions.

The conference was well attended by the UK Funding Councils, OFSTED and BREEAM, who gave presentations and took part in panel discussions. Closing remarks were given by Lembit Opik, MP for Montgomeryshire who gave a lighter but nonetheless important message - are we spirits or ghosts? Spirits fight for sustainability issues and take the next step.

A thank you to all who attended as delegates and exhibitors who helped to contribute to the success - we hope to see you again next year.

Thank you to Canon for sponsoring the 2009 Annual EAUC Conference





Top: Jonathan Porritt
Above: image from the Hard Rain presentation
Below: the CSR panel with Iain Patton (centre)



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This year's EAUC conference had the most challenging programme to date. The theme of the conference was 'Sustainability: Taking the Next Step'. The wide scope of this title allowed the EAUC to put together a programme that would allow delegates both to celebrate the successes of the sector, of which there are many, but also to tackle the hard question of where we go from here. There is certainly no room for complacency! We will have to move out of our comfort zones if we are to stand a chance of making our university or college more sustainable.

With important input from outside universities and colleges, and from outside of the sector in some cases, we were able to learn from the steps forward made by individuals and corporations. Of course, this also highlighted the issues the sector still faces and allowed delegates to question the way forward.

The EAUC made this conference as interactive as possible, offering plenty of panel discussions, Q & As from the floor, workshops and world café. This allowed delegates the opportunity to get more involved in smaller forums and to have their voice heard.

There was an excellent take-up of workshops at the conference which backed up the interactive theme

Networking between delegates, the value of learning from colleagues was at the heart of this event and lots of time was made between plenary and workshops to encourage this to happen. This year's exhibition was the biggest ever held by the EAUC and included a balanced mix of organisations from well known corporate energy providers and construction companies to sector specific suppliers and charities. To encourage more dialougue between the delegates and the exhibitors, the EAUC also held a Pimms drinks reception in the exhibition hall. This allowed delegates to chat informally with exhibitors and was warmly received on both sides!

For more information on the conference and post-conference documents, please go to our website http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual\_conference

### Launching New Initiatives

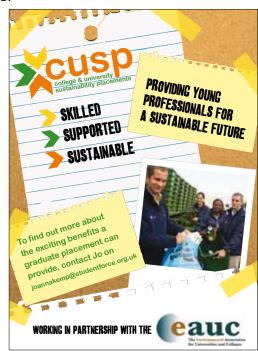
This year the conference saw the launch of two new EAUC partnership projects: CUSP and SHED. CUSP, Colleges Universities Sustainability Placement, is a project that the EAUC has launched with StudentForce to provide young professionals with a sustainable future. CUSP has a register of over 4000 experienced and knowledgeable graduates and provides a complete service on a not-for-profit basis, to place the right person in your institution. The service allows your graduate to continually develop their professional capacity, enhancing your institution's ability to deliver its sustainable development aims.

Iain Patton, EAUC Executive Director, said "The CUSP Partnership between the EAUC and StudentForce offers universities and colleges a lifeline! Student placements of this quality will bring new drive and skills to our members' often small sustainability teams. The EAUC is working with StudentForce to develop a programme of induction, training and support for the placement graduates to ensure we get the maximum out of this exciting resource." For more information please visit www.eauc.org.uk/cusp.

We were also pleased to announce that the EAUC and the HE Academy ESD Project have joined forces to launch a new concept – the SHED network. As we all know, lots of good ideas are dreamt up in the haven of the garden shed. We are hoping the same is true of the expanded network that we are calling SHED, standing for 'Sustainability in Higher Education Developers'.

The SHED network has two constituent parts: the current EAUC ESD mailing list, which will continue as before, with Arran Stibbe as Convenor. This will be renamed the SHED Share network. The purpose of this network, as now, will be to share information, announcements, post queries and so on. Anybody can use this network, whether or not they are active in ESD.

The second part will be a new grouping called the SHED Act network. The aim of SHED Act is to allow people to develop collaborative work more easily. SHED Act has an additional function to SHED Share, and will be designed for active and key people in HE to keep in touch with each other. For more information. please contact the EAUC National Office.





# The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009

These regulations came into force on 1 March 2009 for England only. These Regulations implement the EU Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC. The regulations make organisations responsible for causing environmental to protected species, natural habitats, sites of special scientific interest, water resources and land responsible for the prevention and remedying of such damage. A specific definition of 'damage' is included in the regulations.

A case of strict liability (i.e. no fault need be proven for an organisation to be held responsible) applies if the damage is caused by an operator undertaking an activity listed in Schedule 2 to the regulations (e.g. sites operating under an environmental permit and waste management operations). In the case of environmental damage (to protected

species or natural habitats or a site of special scientific interest only), caused by any other activity, an operator can be held responsible if it can be proven that they intended to cause environmental damage or were negligent. It should be noted that 'activity' is not limited to economic activities carried out for profit and therefore could include public sector enterprises, voluntary or privately organised activities such as schools, universities and colleges.

The regulations are enforced by the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Local Authority and the Secretary of State depending on the damage.

Broadly similar (separate) regulations for Scotland and Wales are expected in the next few months. In Scotland, the main ELD competent authorities will be: SEPA; Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Ministers. SEPA have provided a 'Quick Guide' to the regulations:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/ Publications/2008/05/14161737/50

The Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (DOENI) aims to launch a public consultation on the content of the regulations imminently with regulations expected to come into operation in summer/autumn 2009. These new regulations will also bring land contamination law into force for the first time in Northern Ireland.

# FORTHCOMING Legislation - Groundwater Regulations 2009

These regulations will replace the existing Groundwater Regulations 1998 and will

enact the Daughter Directive on groundwater into UK law. They will also apply to diffuse pollution sources from agriculture and historical pollution from land contamination. The new regime will provide a new, more flexible, regulatory setting for the protection of groundwater quality. The changes affect anyone who is currently regulated under the Groundwater Regulations 1998 but also cover anyone who stores, handles or discharges substances that could cause groundwater contamination. Updated guidance on water pollution can be found here: http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/63294.aspx

### **Duty of Care**

Guidance on the Duty of Care has been updated and is available on Netregs. http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/63197.aspx

# Changes to Scottish Waste Regulation

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has changed how it enforces the Producer Responsibility (Packaging Waste) Regulations, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) and the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations (TFS). Companies are no longer required to submit audit reports in relation to packaging waste or WEEE recycled, or exported for recycling, during 2008. Under the TFS, companies are no longer required to submit Annex VII forms for movements of waste to OECD countries if that is to be the waste's final destination. SEPA is also currently working to develop an online system to submit and handle Annex VII forms. Both of these positions are temporary and may be reviewed and amended as necessary. http://www.sepa.org.uk/about\_us/news/ sepa cuts red tape in waste re.aspx

# Welcome

We would like to give a very warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us recently:

#### **Institution Members**

West Nottinghamshire College Imperial College London Havering Sixth Form College

#### **Associate Members**

i-clean systems Ltd Union of UEA Students IT Energy

For information on the many benefits of membership visit www.eauc.org.uk



Thanks to Waterman Environmental for their support in preparing this Spotlight.

### Kate Humble to compere the 2009 Green Gown Awards!



Kate Humble is the voice for this year's Green Gown Awards. She is best known for co-presenting the phenomenally successful Springwatch and Autumnwatch series on BBC2, widely praised for re-igniting public interest in British wildlife. Armed with bundles of enthusiasm and knowledge, Kate has carved out a niche as a specialist on the natural world. She has reported on the impact of climate change and presented many other series such as Animal Park, Pacific Abyss and The Hottest Place on Earth.

Other presenters include: Baroness Warwick, Chief Executive of Universities UK; Martin Doel, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges; invited John Denham MP, Secretary of State for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills; and representatives from UK funding councils.

### To reserve your place please complete the booking form today!

Visit www.eauc.org.uk/2009 green gown awards for further details.



66A networking must for anyone involved in sustainability within the further and higher education sector<sup>9</sup>

## INVITATIO

Tuesday 23 June 2009 -Imperial College London

66THE sustainability who's who event of the year??

66 Education is at the heart of a sustainable future for the UK-its time to celebrate and be recognized, so go to this prestigious event! ??

### **Awards Ceremony**

18:00 Imperial College London, 23 June 2009

The winners for the 2009 Awards will be announced at a fabulous Gala Banquet at Imperial College London. This year's shortlist consists of 11 categories with 66 nominations. A new DIUS Award for outstanding contribution to sustainability in an English university or college will also be announced.



Compère and voice of this year's awards: Kate Humble, Wildlife and Science broadcaster.

Awards presenters:

- Invited John Denham MP, Secretary of State, DIUS
- Baroness Warwick, Chief Executive of Universities UK
- Martin Doel, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges (AoC)
- **UK Funding Councils**

Best of 2008 Green Gown Master Class 'The Secrets of our Success'

14:00 - 17:30 Imperial College London, 23 June 2009

Your opportunity to hear from previous winners, including leading experts, on how they reached the top. With a focus on campus, curriculum, leadership and community.

This event is open to everyone, don't miss out - be there!

Great thanks go to the sponsors for this year's key prestigious event:



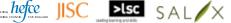












With support from







#### 3 events in 1!

**Universities That Count free working lunch** 11:00 – 13:30 80 universities will report on corporate responsibility in 2010. Be sure to be one of them

Best of 2008 Green Gown Master Class 14:00 – 17:30 Tickets available for purchase Green Gown Awards Ceremony (black tie) 18:00 Tickets/tables available for purchase  $Discounts\ available\ if\ attending\ both\ events\ or\ for\ booking\ tables.$ 

To book tickets for you, or your senior management team, go online at www.eauc.org.uk. Or contact Sue Hopkins, Green Gown Awards Manager. Tel: 01242 714321 Email: greengown@eauc.org.uk.

Book before 1st June 2009

and be entered into our organic champagne prize draw



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### **Green Gown Awards Shortlists** Announced

The 2009 Green Gown Awards shortlists were announced at the Conference Dinner on Wednesday 1st April. Many of the award candidates attended the social event to hear if their organisations would be called out to go through to the second phase of judging and, ultimately, to the Award Banquet in London on 23rd June where the eagerly awaited winners will be read out. The categories and shortlisted organisations can be found below:

Carbon Reduction Category, sponsored by The Carbon Trust, Salix Finance and Higher **Education Funding Council for England** (HEFCE)

University of Cambridge High visibility web based energy management system

University of Central Lancashire A model for international sustainability

Leicester College Counting the Carbs

Swansea Metropolitan University Meeting its Carbon Commitments

University of Ulster Coleraine Campus Wind **Turbine Generator** 

University of Warwick Strategic carbon management to improve performance

### Green ICT Category, sponsored by Jisc -The Joint Information Systems Committee

University of Bradford Second Life

Cardiff University A green supercomputer City and Islington College A greener ICT service Imperial College London Greening the supply chain with ICT

University of Plymouth Enhancing Green Credentials with Plymdesk5

Queen Margaret University RE:LOCATE

#### Continuous Improvement - Institutional **Change Category**

University of Bradford Ecoversity - beyond greening

University of Dundee Raising the green University of Wales Newport Continual environmental improvement

Oxford Brookes University The challenge from sustainability to corporate responsibility

Pembrokeshire College Embracing the sustainable challenge

University of Plymouth A model for institutional change

#### Continuous Improvement - Specific Area Category

University of Gloucestershire Greener by degrees University of Hertfordshire Improving resource efficiency

University of Leeds Transport Plan

University of Lincoln Yoyo – The paper recycling

Oxford Brookes University Sustainable travel planning

University of Warwick Enhancements to CHP from great to good

#### Courses category, supported by The Higher **Education Academy (HEA)**

University of Bradford From Archaeology to Zoology – Sustainable development for all

University of Central Lancashire Education for global citizenship with sustainable development

University of St Andrews Sustainable development for undergraduates

University of Sheffield An interdisciplinary approach to enhancing sustainable development in teaching

University of Strathclyde Sustainable development at the faculty of education University of Worcester Masters in sustainable development advocacy

#### Student Initiatives Category, supported by The National Union of Students (NUS)

Birmingham University Vale Festival

University of Bradford Kapow! - students as agents of change

University of Brighton Students Union & University of Brighton Sustainability Champions

Lancaster University Students Union and Lancaster University Green Lancaster

Leeds University Union Water shouldn't cost the earth and Leave Leeds Tidy

Stevenson College Edinburgh Wikis to Wormeries

#### Sustainable Construction and **Refurbishment Category**

University of Bedfordshire Butterfield Park Campus

London School of Economics and Political Science NAB BREEAM excellent refurbishment project

University of Manchester Students' Union Manchester academy transformation

Nottingham Trent University Newton and Arkwright transformation

Pembrokeshire College First BREEAM excellence in the UK

Plumpton College Sustainable building for vocational courses

Queen Margaret University RE:LOCATE

#### Research Category

University of Birmingham Hydrogen cars drive sustainability on campus

Edinburgh Napier University Integrated collector storage for solar hot water

University of Gloucestershire Improving investment and impact on education

Somerset College Outside the green box

University of Sussex Low carbon technologies to tackle climate change

#### Residences Category, sponsored by The College and University Business Officers (CUBO)

University of Bath "Excellent" sustainable building deserves recognition

University of Glamorgan Carbon reduction in residences

Kingston University End of term hall donation scheme

Lancaster University Eco-residences

London School of Economics and Political Science Zero Waste

London School of Economics and Political Science Sustainability champions in halls

#### Colleges and Smaller Institutions Category, sponsored by The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Ayr College Eco Warriors

Bedford College Embedding Sustainability

Harper Adams University College What makes students switch off?

Leeds City College Moving mountains, one pebble at a time

New College Stamford A small college with large aspirations

Warwickshire College Sustainability at the core, a journey

#### Social Responsibility Category, supported by The Universities that Count Project

University of Brighton Community university partnership

University of Chester Community carbon reduction

Keele University Sustainable approaches for sustainable communities

Pembrokeshire College PET project

University of Plymouth Shattering glass walls

Queen Mary, University of London Clean Living



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# Response-ability: supporting education for extra-ordinary times

How far is Higher Education (HE) responding to the really big challenges of our time - the new conditions of uncertainty, insecurity and volatility that increasingly characterise social, economic and ecological systems? On the face of it, reasonably well. The last few years have seen a stream of initiatives and changes including the People and Planet Green League, the Green Gown Awards, the HE Academy ESD Project, UNU Regional Centres of Expertise for ESD, a sustainable development action plan by DIUS, and most recently, publication of HEFCE's 'Strategic Statement and Action Plan' in February, after a long consultation.

There is undoubtedly some kind of very welcome and much needed shift taking place here, and yet hard questions remain about the pace, depth and extent of response, seen against almost daily headlines that raise sustainability concerns. It is easy to sound alarmist, but a cool look at current trends indicates that our graduates, let alone our children, face a very different future than that which previous generations entered. In a wide ranging study, Thomas Homer-Dixon (2006) states that 'surprise, instability, and extraordinary events will be regular features of our lives (in a)... turbulent future'. Has HE even begun to take on the implications of such a world, and educate for developing resilient learners with the awareness and competencies necessary to develop sustainable and resilient systems in whatever field they live and work in?

The HEFCE Action Plan, at first sight, gives some cause for hope. Take para 48, for example, 'The greatest contribution HE can make to sustainable development is by enabling students to acquire the skills and knowledge that allow them to make a lasting difference. What they learn and what they are taught are therefore critical'. Or the aspirational vision statement that 'the HE sector in this country will be recognized as a major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability' by 2015. Yet, whilst the Action Plan is strong on carbon management, there is a striking and puzzling mismatch between aspirations on the one hand and the means/ specific actions by which they can be realized, as regards the whole

area of teaching and learning. This despite the fact that the sector during the consultation (as reported by HEFCE <a href="http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/events/2008/sustain/">http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/events/2008/sustain/</a>) 'made it clear that HEFCE needs

to strengthen this area of the

document...(and)... provide specific actions' to address para 48.

actions' to address para

HEFCE, rightly, maintains that it cannot intervene in the curriculum. Yet it also says (para 50) that it can support HEIs and colleges in producing graduates 'with the values, skills and knowledge to address sustainable development'. What does this mean?

Serious consideration of the practical implications of HEFCE's vision for sustainability and HE - and also, of Lord Stern's Foreword in the Action Plan which talks about the 'need for minds capable of creating new possibilities' and the need to 'transform our current ways of thinking and operating' - logically requires a bold programme of action, capable of supporting and generating activity and innovation at both policy and practice levels, that can deliver the scale of change required. There is ample evidence of a growing groundswell of interest in sustainability and ESD in HE both at senior management and practitioner level, but at present, in my view and that of many others, the Action Plan does not yet offer a coherent means by which this can be supported, encouraged and developed whether or not this is channelled through the HE Academy or other mechanisms. What is at stake here is the 'response-ability' of the HE sector as a whole, and the responsibility we have to our students.

Written by Dr Stephen Sterling, Schumacher Reader in Education for Sustainability at the Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth, and Senior Advisor to the HE Academy ESD Project

Reference Homer-Dixon, T. (2006) The Upside of Down – Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilisation, Souvenir Press, London.

# earth hite

#### Website - My EAUC

The My EAUC section of our website enables you to manage your own membership online. From this section, accessed by clicking the tab at the top of the homepage, you can add colleagues, update contact details and renew your membership via the website.

It is also very important for us to have your current details and to get colleagues added on to make the most of your membership and all the benefits!

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If you have questions about your membership or how to use the website, please email them to info@eauc.org.uk.



## **United Nations University - UNU RCE Ireland**

The United Nations University is the lead organisation coordinating the activities of the Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) in **Education for Sustainable** Development and is an agency of the United Nations. The mission of the UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are a concern of the United Nations, its peoples and member states.

RCEs can be found all around the world and they bring together organisations at local and regional levels to jointly promote **Education for Sustainable** Development (ESD) to local and regional communities. Partner organisations include those involved in 'formal ESD' such as universities, colleges and schools, and those involved in 'informal ESD' such as the media, environmental education centres. community organisations, environmental regulators and advisory bodies, local and regional government, and local businesses.

The article here on RCE Severn is the first in a series of articles that will appear covering the RCEs in the UK and Ireland. Engaged Learning for Sustainability: Evidence based Practice



The European RCE Networking meeting took place recently at the University of Limerick, Ireland. The Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are a worldwide network working towards progressing ESD in their region. They were established by the United Nations University as a contribution to the UN Decade for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). At present there are 55 RCEs worldwide with 15 based in Europe, with new candidates applying on an on-going basis.

Dr. Roland Tormey from RCE-Ireland gave the keynote speech entitled 'Addressing the Challenge of Research for ESD- Research within the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'. He addressed two important aspects of ESD research coinciding with the aims of the decade, namely of measuring the impact of ESD and assessing the use of ESD appropriate pedagogy, citing situated learning as one possible innovative pedagogy. The keynote speech was well received with many interesting questions and discussions arising from it.

The 2-day meeting was a perfect opportunity for candidate RCEs to gain more understanding of the workings of the current RCEs. Other interesting workshops were also held on sustainable campus strategies, situated learning theory, and action research methodology. Some sessions were also held to discuss preparatory work for the Montreal

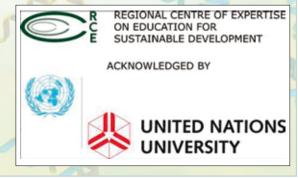
RCE International Meeting in May 2009 to be held in conjunction with the 5th World Environmental Education Congress, as well as the upcoming Bonn mid-term review of the UN Decade.

But it was not all hard work for the participants, who also enjoyed some evening events with traditional lrish music and dancing, a guided walk of the beautiful River Shannon which flows through the university campus, and an exciting trip to the West Coast of Ireland to see the magnificent Cliffs of Moher and the unique karst landscape of The Burren.

The next European RCE Meeting will take place at the University of Graz, Austria in September 2009.

For more information in RCE-Ireland visit www.rce-ireland.ie or email Nancyl.serrano@ul.ie, RCE Research assistant and administrator.

For more general information on RCEs please visit: www.ias.unu.edu.



# Universities and colleges commit to tackling climate change

Scotland's universities and colleges have publicly declared their intention to address the challenges of climate change and reduce their carbon footprints by signing the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCfS).

To date, 40 institutions have agreed to sign the Commitment, constituting over 60% of universities and colleges in Scotland. Signatories are committed to producing and publishing a 5-year Climate Change Action Plan by February 2010. Plans will include measurable targets and timescales to achieve a significant reduction in emissions from all business operations and activities, including:

- energy consumption and source
- waste reduction, recycling and responsible disposal
- sustainable estate development
- sustainable travel planning
- responsible procurement of goods and services

Institutions will incorporate work on climate change into established improvement processes and will publish annual results on progress, detailing outcomes achieved and further actions required.

The UCCCfS was developed with financial support from the Scottish Funding Council and through collaboration between the following organisations:

Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges

**NUS-Scotland** 

Scottish Association of University Directors of Estates

Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership

Scottish Colleges

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Funding Council

Scottish Further Education Unit

Scottish Government (Climate Change Policy)



Robin Harper, Green MSP and Queen Margaret University's Principal with Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony Cohen signing the climate commitment.

Scottish Government (Higher Education & Learner Support)

Scottish Trades Union Congress Universities Scotland

Underpinning the UCCCfS will be a package of support facilitated by the EAUC, which will include our ongoing professional development programme, our Sustainability Leaders Programme, the Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSPr) and our Topic Support Networks, all of which will provide CPD and networking opportunities for institutions plus opportunities for sharing good and best practice.

Universities and colleges have a key role to play in improving Scotland's natural and built environment:

- through their primary role as educators, skills trainers and researchers, institutions have the potential to make an invaluable contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;
- as owners and operators of large and

complex estates, universities and colleges can lead on the delivery of sustainable low carbon 21st century campuses; and

 as the focus of many local communities, institutions can influence and lead on wider community and social initiatives.

In recognition of the sectors' leadership in tackling climate change and in support of the UCCCfS, Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary of Education and Lifelong Learning, said:

Scottish Ministers welcome this timely and proactive initiative by Scotland's universities and colleges to tackle climate change. Delivering these commitments will lead to positive benefits, as well as raising Scotland's profile as a leading, learning nation, determined to make a positive contribution to one of the greatest global challenges.

For further information please contact Andrew Chamberlain, EAUC Scotland Manager, Tel: 0131 474 0000, email: achamberlain@eauc.org.uk or visit www.eauc.org.uk/projects.

### SIGNATORIES

The Open University in Scotland Queen Margaret University University of St Andrews Scottish Agricultural College University of Stirling University of Strathclyde UHI Millennium Institute Aberdeen College

University of Aberdeen
University of Dundee
Edinburgh College of Art
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow School of Art
Napier University



### A Home for EAUC in Scotland

The EAUC has a home in Scotland. Queen Margaret University (QMU) has agreed to host the new EAUC Scotland office at its flagship sustainable campus in Edinburgh. Andrew Chamberlain is heading up the office as the EAUC Scotland Manager and is supported by Sarah Lee, the new EAUC Scotland Project Officer. Also joining the team as the EAUC Scotland Convenor is Fraser Lovie from Aberdeen University.

The Scotland office was established to add value to the UK office providing a regional focus that is specific to Scotland's requirements, by working closely with its universities, colleges and strategic partners.

It has been a busy time for the team so far this year, with a new strategic framework and communications strategy for Scotland being launched. Additionally, the Scotland training and event programme for 2009/10 has been planned which continues to support the Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSPr) but also addresses the other strategic themes of learning, community and leadership. To view a list of events, visit www.eauc.org.uk/events.

The Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCfS) also continues to strengthen with 41 of the 63 institutions in Scotland now signed up since its launch in January. To support those signed up to the UCCCfS, a resource map has been developed which will soon be available online.

Other involvements include the sustainable ICT carbon management project, a college CSR programme, collaborative procurement and a review of the Scotland web pages.

By basing the Scotland operations at QMU, the EAUC is benefiting from a close association with one of the sector's leaders in sustainability and from working in state-of-the-art facilities. More information about QMU can be found at:

www.gmu.ac.uk/sustainability/default.htm.

To get in touch with the Scotland office please contact 0131 474 0000 or email Andrew Chamberlain at achamberlain@eauc.org.uk or Sarah Lee at slee@eauc.org.uk.



# Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

#### MARCH 2009

Anniesland College
Adam Smith College
Angus College
Ayr College
Cardonald College
Clydebank College
Dumfries & Galloway College
Dundee College

Edinburgh's Telford College Elmwood College Forth Valley College James Watt College John Wheatley College Langside College Lews Castle College Moray College Motherwell College North Highland College Oatridge College Reid Kerr College South Lanarkshire College Stevenson College Stow College West Lothian College

### Leeds University students have banned bottled water

A record number of University of Leeds students have voted 'yes' in a recent referenda, to ban the sale of bottled water in the students' union shops. Sales of bottled water accounts for five per cent of all drinks purchased at the Union and during the academic year 2007-2008, Leeds University Union sold almost 200,000 bottles of water, earning the not-for-profit organisation £32,000.

Leeds University Union is the first and only students' such a decision, and will now forfeit profit in the name of environmental sustainability.

# We are union in the country to make Leeds University

By 2010, students will see an environmentally friendly alternative of free water fountains installed and the Union will sell affordable, reusable bottles.

Laura McFarlane-Shopes, Communications and Internal Affairs Executive Officer at Leeds University Union, said: "Bottled water is the number one selling product in the Union shops, so this is going to have a big impact on both the students and the Union. We're going to phase them out by early 2010 and we've already had companies approaching the Union with solutions. However, in the meantime we'll be raising awareness about how unnecessary it is to buy bottled water."

Second-year student Guy Mitchell, 20, was also happy of the decision: "This vote shows that we're taking a stand against the big issues affecting the world today - climate change and scarce water resources. Hopefully other unions will follow suit. Leeds is a leading university, and it's proving it leads the way on environmental issues."

Last year's referenda saw students vote in favour of reusable paper bags and cotton carriers, as a result Leeds University Union have replaced the plastic bags in the shops for a more environmentally friendly alternative.

To find out more about the Referenda visit: http://www.luuonline. com/referendum/index. php

Written by Kal Sutcliffe, Leeds University Union k.sutcliffe@leeds.ac.uk





## WRAP Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment - Strong Take-Up EAUC and by Leading Universities

EAUC, the UK's sustainable champion for universities and colleges in the UK has signed WRAP's (Waste & Resources Action Programme) Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment ('1/2 W2L'). Four leading universities have also signed. Since the launch of the agreement in October 2008, EAUC, the University of Manchester, Imperial College London, Birmingham City University (City Centre Campus Project) and the University of Leeds have teamed up with WRAP to help the construction sector halve the amount of waste sent to landfill by 2012 by taking action on their building projects.

lain Patton, Executive Director of EAUC said "At EAUC we see the reduction of waste as a key area to target and given the very significant value of construction activity in the further and higher education sector combined with a drivers to both reduce costs and improve sustainability, the 1/2 W2L Commitment really does offer many of our member organisations the opportunity to meet this need".

Every year in the UK around 25 million tonnes of construction, excavation and demolition waste are sent to landfill sites - the equivalent weight of 68 Empire State Buildings. WRAP is working in partnership with each university to enable them to do their bit to reduce this staggering total. This is being achieved through a number of measures, such as incorporating model wording into the universities' procurement contracts, establishing a baseline for waste which they can measure improvement and setting challenging targets for waste reduction, recycling and increased use of recycled content in their projects.

While WRAP's work with each university is focussed to their immediate requirements, they are all progressing towards achieving real cost savings now and on all future projects. In due course, each will benefit from some significant environmental and sustainability wins and it is hoped that one or more of them may have the opportunity to submit their work for the 2010 Green Gown Awards.

For information about WRAP's voluntary commitment, and to find out more about the range of support offered to LEAs, Colleges and Universities - please contact john.holland@wrap.org.uk or Claire.hamilton@macegroup.com or visit the WRAP website www.wrap.org.uk/construction

# NetRegs

environmental regulations online

### www.netregs.gov.uk

# Help with green legislation

Busy college or university estates and facilities managers can ensure that they are managing to stay in line with environmental legislation just by visiting: www.netregs.gov.uk/education

NetRegs will answer questions like:

- Are we complying with environmental law?
- How should we dispose of used electrical goods?
- Are we disposing of on-site caterers' waste correctly?

The Education pages on the website summarise all a facilities manager, caretaker or principal needs to know about environmental law.

You can find out more about key pieces of environmental legislation affecting educational businesses, scheduled to come into effect this year:

- The Waste Controls (England and Wales) Regulation 2009 will affect many businesses that produce waste. Educational establishments using professional waste contactors to carry their waste must also check that those contractors are registered.
- The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation)
   Regulations 2009 will come into force in England on 1<sup>st</sup> March
   2009. The legislation requires businesses to take responsibility
   for and report any environmental damage to land, water or
   biodiversity caused by their activities. Businesses will have to
   pay for the costs of rectifying damage.

The website is easy to use. You can also register for email Updates from the home page and are automatically sent an update every month. This keeps you informed of the latest changes to environmental laws affecting businesses.

Visit www.netregs.gov.uk/education today and find the environmental guidance you need.





# Green energy heats up at Bedford College

National experts from the fields of sustainability and renewable energy put their ideas to an audience from the region's construction and housing industry at a seminar held at Bedford College.

Climate change and the fluctuating cost of electricity and oil have led to a need for an alternative form of energy to provide heat and hot water for homes. The seminar focused on ground source heat pumps for social housing that offer real savings in energy costs and CO2 emissions.

The seminar also focused on the cost of installation, including match-funding grant subsidies for social housing, along with selecting the right installation partner. The panel of 7 experts took questions from an audience of the region's leading housing and construction industries.

Warren Edwards, Centre for Construction Director at Bedford College, said: "At Bedford College we are keen to remain at the forefront of sustainability and renewable energy technologies. This heating system tackles fuel poverty with renewable energy technology, reducing household fuel bills and that has to be a winner. We will be working in partnership with Dimplex to deliver training on these latest technologies – this is also an exciting opportunity for our students to experience cutting edge technology first hand."

Bedford College's high-tech Construction Centre is recognised as the best of its kind in the region by Ofsted. With centres of vocational excellence in Plumbing Services, House Building for the Future and Skills for Energy it is well positioned to meet the needs of employers.

Written by Warren Edwards, Centre for Construction Director, Bedford College wedwards@bedford.ac.uk



### Delivering Sustainability: Member offer!

Sustainable Resource Solutions has pleasure in announcing its new member offer. EAUC members\* can receive 10% off resource management and sustainability services specifically designed for Universities and Colleges.

The approach used by Sustainable Resource Solutions is based on a partnership philosophy and practical project delivery. Tailored to your specific needs the focus will be on improving your sustainability credentials, reducing energy and water consumption, increasing recycling and reducing waste. Key elements of the service for the FHE sector include:

- Provision of expert environmental and resource management professionals with sector experience on a flexible basis
- Assured legal compliance, including preparation for the Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Design and implementation of effective monitoring and reporting systems
- Identification of opportunities to reduce resource consumption and organisational costs including the management of site specific projects

- Improving mechanisms for effective contract and contractor management
- Facilitating organisational engagement in resource management programmes
- Improving environmental and sustainability communications
- Provision of a range of bespoke sustainability services including EMS implementation, biodiversity management, sustainable construction and Site Waste/Resource Management Planning, Training, Sustainable Procurement, CSR and Sustainability Services

For more information please contact Michelle Dixon, Sustainability Manager, Sustainable Resource Solutions Limited, michelle.dixon@srs-eu.com

www.srs-eu.com

\*Offer available to new customers only for a limited period

Sustainable Resource Solutions Limited are Associate Members of the EAUC



# SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

### Veolia takes WEEE back from schools

Veolia Environmental Services is helping UK universities increase recycling and divert waste from landfill by advising on compliant disposal of their Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

Prior to the introduction of the WEEE directive in the UK, it is estimated that 400,000 tonnes of WEEE ended up in landfill sites around the country of which 95% could have been effectively recycled for re-use as raw materials. The directive has been introduced to insure 'Producer' responsibility of WEEE materials.

Along with private businesses, colleges and universities are addressing the complicated issues surrounding disposal of WEEE. Veolia are looking to support educational establishments in understanding the implications of the WEEE directive and to ensure cost efficient access to appropriate treatment of WEEE is made easily available to them.

Veolia Environmental Services' Executive Director, Tom Spaul said: "We are very proud to help these educational institutions meet their environmental goals. Our WEEE Producer Compliance Scheme not only arranges for the recycling of these valuable materials for universities across the country, it also ensures organisations with responsibilities are compliant with WEEE regulations by safely

disposing of obsolete equipment and lowering carbon footprints, taking full responsibility for what they produce."

Currently, the average UK citizen will use up to 3.3 tonnes of WEEE materials in a lifetime. Of these, 69% constitute large household appliances and 13% consumer equipment such as televisions. WEEE directly impacts the UK's sustainability efforts as resources need to be recovered for recycling and landfill diversion.

Veolia have a free advice service that offers guidance on all WEEE related topics and how to obtain the most cost efficient solutions as 'end users' of electrical goods. To take advantage of this support, please call 0845 8900463 alternatively, e-mail questions to compliance@veolia.co/uk.

Veolia Environmental Services are Associate Members of the EAUC.

Written by Lily Federico, PR Manager, Veolia Environmental Services lily.federico@veolia.co.uk





## **EAUC AGM Update**

Those of you at the AGM will have heard the plans for a review of EAUC Board of Directors. The past couple of years have seen us concentrating on determining a strategic direction for the organisation and increasing capacity to deliver it by expanding our staff base. With these now established we have turned the spotlight on ourselves and have started to review EAUC governance. The Board of Directors has evolved from an executive committee working as volunteers to produce Earth, the



Sheri-Leigh Miles, EAUC Chair of Board

annual conference and other products and services to a strategic visioning group charged with ensuring the strategic plan is delivered. We remain committed to reflecting and representing the members and to ensuring the organisation continues to deliver what the sector needs in a very fast changing external landscape.

The next few months will see us consulting with members about this review of governance and we urge members to participate; in order to best reflect your needs and aspirations we need to hear your thoughts. The current Board will remain as committed to delivering the strategic plans as ever but as we outlined at the AGM will not be seeking new members until we have determined how best to 'future proof' ourselves. We will be asking for member help with this process so please look out for the forthcoming consultation on this issue.

Finally, I know I speak for everyone when I pass on the thanks of the organisation to former EAUC Convenor Martin Wiles of the University of Bristol who stood down from the Board at the AGM. Martin's contribution has been very significant and the establishment of the national office and team in Cheltenham owes much to his hard work and determination. Thank you Martin.

Written by Sheri-Leigh Miles, Chair of the EAUC Board, info@eauc.org.uk

# SORTED

## **SORTED Update**

SORTED, the Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education funded by the Learning Skills Council (LSC), is currently undergoing an important review.

The review, which includes its content and structure and is based on user evaluation, will lead to a new look website that will make accessing SORTED even easier. It will enable you to choose your entry point, whether you are at the beginning of your sustainability journey or are already on the path, and will have quick reference points to current issues.

SORTED already has a wealth of very useful information including case studies, reports and guidance papers. However, at the EAUC we are always looking for new information to share. If you have information on an interesting sustainability-related project or situation that you would like to share through SORTED, please contact Abbie Weaver at the EAUC.

The new look website will be launched in the summer, so keep an eye on the website for further developments.

Written by Abbie Weaver, Professional Development Officer, EAUC, aweaver@eauc.org.uk

# **EAUC Professional Development Programme**

**EAUC Professional Development Programme -** Two NEW courses announced!

### **3-day IEMA-approved Internal EMS Auditor Course**

The IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) approved 3 day course provides a comprehensive package that includes all the tools and training necessary to effectively internally audit an EMS to the requirements of ISO 14001:2004 and BS8555. No previous auditing experience is required. The course gives practical auditing guidance through a combination of presented sessions and practical exercises.

Course date - end of June/early July - venue, date and prices to be confirmed

1-day Carbon Course - Reducing your High Carb Diet: Carbon Policies and Management for the HEFE Sector

"Reducing your high carb diet" is a one day course aimed at

all organisations in the HFE sector that wish to benefit from implementing low carbon strategies and policies. The course includes new requirements for all organisations in the UK and focuses on HFE sector-specific commitments.

Course date - mid July - venue, date and prices to be confirmed

### Who should attend these courses?

Estates & Facilities Managers
Environmental & Energy Managers
Employees involved in the auditing of the EMS
Project Managers
Senior Management

Members of Environment/Energy/Sustainability Committees

Numbers are limited on both courses! To provisionally reserve a place on either course, please contact Helen Exton (hexton@eauc.org.uk). For more information on all our events, please visit www.eauc.org.uk/events.

### ICT – Problem or Solution?

Further and higher education are becoming ever more dependent on ICT for administration, communication, research, and teaching and learning. This is creating ever larger environmental impacts – accounting, for example, for around 20% of the University of Sheffield's energy consumption, and a similar proportion of its carbon emissions. (Calculated by use of the SusteIT project's free ICT carbon and energy footprinting tool). This equates to annual electricity bills of roughly £116 million, and carbon emissions of over 500,000 tonnes for further and higher education as a whole.

Some of this ICT use – such as videoconferencing which replaces travel - can help the environment. Indeed, a recent study has argued that ICT can reduce global  $\rm CO_2$  emissions by 15% between now and 2020, with \$946 billion of cost savings. The main areas for savings are intelligent buildings, 'smart power grids' and new ways of working.

Of course, the ICT equipment itself creates  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions, but the report found that this was only equivalent to 20% of the emissions reductions from its application. There are many good practice examples of how this can be achieved within the sector, but also many opportunities to improve. State of the art data centres – which take advantage of higher permitted operating temperatures, and have 'free cooling' and good airflow management – can almost eliminate the need for energy guzzling chillers, for example. Further gains are possible when servers are used more effectively through virtualisation. Other proven means of reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions include:

- Buying low power devices (which can be made easier if thorough total cost of ownership calculations are done)
- Providing energy-related financial incentives for IT (e.g. paying energy bills for server rooms)
- Powering down computers when not in use (e.g. by using free software from the University of Liverpool)

 Reducing print-related energy and paper use from printing through print management software; easier online access to documents, and encouraging paper-efficient printing

However, these measures only address ICT use, and not the impacts of its production or disposal. (The SustelT report concluded that a reasonable

working assumption in UK FHE is that 50% of a computer's lifetime energy consumption is in use). In the short term, these can only be addressed through greener procurement (taking advantage of emerging and updated standards such as Energy Star 5 or EPEAT) extending refresh cycles, and taking more care over disposal (given that Greenpeace has found computers from British universities being disassembled in unsafe conditions in Africa). In the medium term, the sector could use its large purchasing power and influence to ask more of suppliers.

In the really long run, however, ICT's greatest sustainability impact may be through its application, and its merging with mainstream sector activities. For example, ICT-enabled location independent working can increase productivity, help work-life balance, and reduce travel, as a recent University of Coventry exemplar project has shown. And ICT can enable more effective teaching, learning and research - about sustainable development, as well as other topics. Of course, there are many potential downsides to be avoided. But, on balance, ICT can be one solution to the sustainability challenge.

Written by Peter James, Professor of Environmental Management at the University of Bradford, peterj@dsl.pipex.com. Peter also co-directs HEEPI and co-authored the JISC-funded SusteIT review of sustainable ICT in FHE (see www.susteit.org.uk).



Universities that Count (UTC), the HE Sector Corporate Responsibility benchmarking programme, has got off to a flying start with 60 universities and colleges taking part. Based on Business in the Community's (BITC) Corporate Responsibility Index survey, the programme is a partnership between the EAUC, BITC, CSR Consultancy and the University of Gloucestershire.

UTC is a UK wide tapered funding project by the 4 regional funding councils set up as a direct result of a successful pilot in 07/08. The project is initially for 3-years, leading to self-sufficiency in 2011/12.

The deadline for year one surveys to be completed and submitted was March 31st 2009, and headline results will be announced as part of the Green Gown Awards Ceremony in London on 23 June. Detailed feedback reports will be provided for each Higher Education Institution (HEI) to drive improvement programmes.



HEIs wishing to add their name to the UTC programme for year 2 can join now. Existing HEIs will be invited to sign up from April 2009. For more information, email <a href="mailto:liesl@csrconsultancy.com">liesl@csrconsultancy.com</a> or visit <a href="https://www.eauc.org.uk">www.eauc.org.uk</a>.

#### INVITATION

Come to the Universities that Count working lunch at 11am on Tuesday 23rd June, Imperial College London.

80 universities will report on Corporate Responsibility in 2010 – be sure to be one of them!

To attend the lunch, free of charge, visit www.eauc.org.uk/2009 green gown awards.



# £25 million awarded to transform approaches to energy consumption

44 higher education institutions (HEIs) have been awarded a share of £25 million from the Revolving Green Fund, a partnership fund between the Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) and Salix Finance.

The fund enables HEIs to radically transform their approaches to energy consumption and reducing emissions. HEIs applied for funds through two strands: an institutional small projects (ISP) fund and a transformational fund for large, one-off projects. £30million is available for the Fund, with £10million allocated to the transformational fund and £20million for the ISP fund.

Steve Egan, Deputy Chief Executive of HEFCE, said: "Higher education has a substantial contribution to make in the area of sustainable development. The level of interest shown in this fund demonstrates that institutions are embracing this agenda, and we believe that this funding will significantly contribute to the higher education sector's efforts in this area."

Alastair Keir, Chief Executive of Salix Finance added: "Energy-saving practices benefit the bottom line as well as reducing CO2 emissions; it is often the simplest of changes that can have the biggest impacts. The savings made from easy to implement projects ultimately free up vital resources to be spent on improvements to core services and facilities."

EAUC Executive Director lain Patton says: "The EAUC is pleased to sit on the Green Fund Advisory Board and it is important for us to be involved to represent our members and contribute to the strategic direction, implementation and improvement of the fund. The EAUC particularly wants to ensure the funded bids achieve maximum benefit for the wider sector. To that end, we will ensure that successes and lessons learnt will be covered in our newsletters, web resource bank and training events."

### Transformational fund

The £10 million available was allocated to three HEIs:

- The University of East Anglia project will establish a biomass energy centre at its Norwich campus. The project will become the first biomass gasification combined heat and power plant in England.
- Harper Adams University College's project will look into anaerobic digestion for renewable energy production.
   The project will use farm and food waste streams diverted from landfill to generate renewable power.
- Lancaster University aims to significantly reduce CO2 emissions from electricity consumption, reduce reliance on imported electricity, and address climate change and resource depletion.





Each of these HEIs will add further resources from their own funds, leveraging an additional £9.1 million in total.

Institutional small projects (ISP) fund 30 HEIs have been selected for the first round of the ISP fund. Together with the 11 HEIs already working with Salix, they will share £14.8 million. This money is to be spent on energy and carbon-saving projects. The full list of funded HEIs for the ISP fund is available at: www.salixfinance.co.uk/heenglandparticipants.html

Each beneficiary of the ISP fund has to contribute an additional 25 per cent to that provided by HEFCE and Salix, resulting in a further £5 million in total being leveraged for the ISP Fund from individual institutions. A second round of the ISP fund with a value of £5.2 million was launched in February. The outcome will be announced in May 2009 on the Salix web-site.

Further information on the Revolving Green Fund is available on the HEFCE web-site: www.hefce.ac.uk/lgm/sustain/carbon/



### XMA And Hewlett Packard - Making The Office World A Greener Place

"Reduce, reuse and recycle." That's the philosophy at the very heart of the environmental strategy of the UK's leading specialist IT provider, XMA Ltd.

XMA, which last year was awarded the coveted ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems standard certification accreditation, currently recycles around 70% of its waste and works hard to minimise the weight and size of its packaging.

XMA also offers a more environmentally friendly range of printer inks and toners manufactured from 100% recycled materials under the Longbow brand, and offers its customers and suppliers a specially written "Green Office Guide sponsored by Brother" to help them understand how being environmentally aware and acting responsibly can save a considerable amount of money and improve relationships with customers, stakeholders and the local community.

Tips include recycling and reuse; making environmentally sound purchasing decisions and conserving energy.

In addition, XMA work closely with Hewlett Packard who offer the HP Planet Partner Programme which provide customers with a free, convenient and environmentally responsible way of returning empty Original HP Print Cartridges and Computer Equipment www.hp.com/uk/recycle. The programme seeks to reduce the environmental impact of IT products, minimize waste going to landfills and help customers sensibly manage products at their end of life.

Hewlett Packard is committed to becoming the world's most environmentally responsible IT company and, as part of this drive, has developed "The HP Guide to Greener Printing". The free guide is available to (XMA





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services. Visit: www.hp.com/recycle

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download at www.hp.com/uk/greenerprinting and gives ideas on improving print efficiency - saving money and reducing environmental impact. For further information, visit www.xma.co.uk or www.hp.com.

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.

Sheri-Leigh Miles, University of Bradford, UK Convenor Elizabeth May, Swansea Metropolitan University, Wales Convenor Keith Pitcher, University of Leeds Neil Smith, University of Southampton

Gilbert Snook, City College Plymouth, Secretary Fraser Lovie, University of Aberdeen, Scotland Convenor Adam van Winsum, Staffordshire University Georgiana Weatherill, Park Lane College

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