

# Breathing LiFE into universities and colleges

*Since being launched eight months ago, LiFE has been going from strength to strength*



LiFE, the Learning in Future Environments index, is a comprehensive performance improvement system. Developed and delivered by the EAUC, it specifically helps colleges and universities manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance. Unlike other accreditation schemes, LiFE gives institutions an easy to use system that helps improve and promote their activities, allowing universities and colleges to learn from, and share, best practice with one another.

With a wide range of institutions now signed up, LiFE has really taken off and is well on the way to being the standard for sustainability for universities and colleges across the country. However, the system isn't just helping the further and higher education sector in the UK. LiFE has now been successfully launched in Australasia through the EAUC's sister organisation, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS).

## AN EVOLUTION

Back in the UK, to keep up with the ever-changing sustainability demands facing the further and higher education sector, LiFE is continually evolving. We have an ongoing dialogue with all LiFE participants to help shape how the system develops. Following such feedback from users, we sat down with our lead developer, Jimmy Brannigan, to create a set of five videos covering the key features and benefits of LiFE. These five short videos include: what is the LiFE Index, an introduction to LiFE, the main benefits, the strategic benefits and an overview of the frameworks. The videos are available to everyone and can be found on the LiFE website.

Having a system that continually evolves and encourages participants to feed back means LiFE continues to deliver real benefits.



Jimmy Brannigan, LiFE's lead developer



LEARNING IN FUTURE  
ENVIRONMENTS

As a result, we're pleased to announce that LiFE has developed new functionality:

- **online accreditation** – offering bespoke feedback to those submitting evidence for accreditation
- **reporting functionality** – you can export documents from the tool at a framework level
- **self assessment** – you can export self-assessment scores across for the purpose of

comparison and reporting

- **relational reporting** – tag and generate bespoke reports at an institutional level
- **multi-viewing functionality** – when the institution is ready, the tool can be viewed by colleagues across the institution.

These are in addition to LiFE's existing functions, which allow participants to:

- **store, view and update sustainability-related documentation**
- **self-assess performance on key areas of sustainability**
- **allow a team-based approach beyond the sustainability champion through multi-user access**
- **share their thoughts and start discussions with colleagues in the UK and Australia through the community forum.**

## SUPPORTING OUR USERS

Along with improved system functionality, we have also developed a suite of user guides to provide everyone with the tools they need to understand how the system can benefit their institution.

If you're already convinced of the benefits, our new resources will help you gain internal support from key decision-makers. It is all part of breathing LiFE into universities and colleges.

For more information about LiFE and to view the new videos and resources, visit [www.thelifelifeindex.org.uk](http://www.thelifelifeindex.org.uk)

If you would like to talk to us about becoming a LiFE participant or to have a live demonstration of the system, contact the EAUC on 01242 714321 or email [info@eauc.org.uk](mailto:info@eauc.org.uk) ●

## GREEN GOWN AWARDS 2012 – SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The EAUC are delighted to announce another excellent year for the Green Gown Awards. Now in their eighth year, the Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for

excellence and are well respected by governments, funding councils, senior managers, academics and students.

Applications to the 2012 Awards were received across the 14 categories, including the new 'Modernisation – Effectiveness and Efficiency in the Estate' and 'Best Newcomer' categories. Stage 1 applications for the Awards closed in July and a judging panel, representing the diversity of the further and higher education sector, was called upon to provide a shortlist of entrants. Shortlisted applicants were notified of their success on 6 August. We would like



to say a huge congratulations to the shortlisted institutions and we wish them all the best of luck in Stage 2 of the Awards. To view the shortlisted applications to

the 2012 Green Gown Awards, visit [www.greengownawards.org.uk](http://www.greengownawards.org.uk)

The winners of the Green Gown Awards 2012 will be announced in November. As part of our ongoing commitment to share the sustainability excellence highlighted by the Green Gown Awards, we will once again be producing resources and case studies from the winning and highly commended entries to ensure the whole sector learns from their successes.

To find out more about the Green Gown Awards, contact us at: [greengown@eauc.org.uk](mailto:greengown@eauc.org.uk)