



# Green Gown Awards 2011

November 3rd  
London

Awarding  
Sustainability  
Excellence

# 2011

## WINNERS' BROCHURE

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# Foreword

With 240 applications this year, a rise of 25% from 2010, the Green Gown Awards are firmly established as prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in the further and higher education sectors.

With sustainability a mainstream core business agenda, it is right that universities and colleges recognise the potential and responsibility that they have to make the appropriate changes in order to meet the needs of our future green economy and society.

It is a challenging and anxious time for universities and colleges, but this year's winning and commended entries demonstrate not only that innovative institutions are taking successful action to minimise their environmental footprints and enhance their social contribution, but also that this is often accompanied by other organisational benefits. The financial savings from many sustainability actions are certainly compatible with the belt tightening that seems inevitable in future years.

It is therefore all the more important the whole sector learns from the successes of the Green Gown Awards' winning and commended entries. This will be assisted by the support and encouragement of the Green Gown Awards' partners and sponsors, and the quality assurance provided by the rigorous assessment of applications by independent judges with great experience in the sector or the category topics. Their number and diversity demonstrate that the demands of sustainable development are relevant to everyone, and to every aspect of further and higher education.

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CEO

Environmental Association  
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Disclaimer: The information provided within this publication has been provided solely by the applicant as defined by the Awards through the two stage application process. No member of the Green Gowns Awards team or steering group will be liable for any misrepresentation.



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# Supporters

The Awards are run in collaboration and governed by a cross-agency steering group with key sector bodies.



Founded by HEEPI, the Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC. For more information please visit: [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk)

# About the Awards

The Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional environmental and sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities, colleges and the learning and skills sector across the UK.

The Awards were founded by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project which was funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and are administered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC).

The Awards are governed and run in collaboration by a cross-agency steering group with key sector bodies: The Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE), The British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG), Association of Colleges (AOC), Guild HE, The Higher Education Academy (HEA), Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI), Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), National Union of Students Services Ltd (NUS Services), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Universities UK (UUK).

The Awards began in 2004, have grown tremendously and continue to gain in strength and reputation. The number of applications has risen with a record 240 submitted for 2011. This achievement underlines the value and recognition that winning offers, and highlights the growing importance of sustainability within the further and higher education sector.

The Awards have been supported and sponsored by a number of organisations during its lifetime and huge thanks go to past and present sponsors.

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Awarding Sustainability Excellence  
in Further and Higher Education





## Categories

**Carbon Reduction:** Recognising initiatives that have achieved significant reductions in the carbon footprint of a university or college.

**Colleges and Smaller Institutions:** Recognising the difficulties that FE and smaller HE institutions have and encompassing any environment-related initiatives which contribute to sustainable development.

**Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change:** Recognising sustained and successful activities, running for at least five years, to improve the performance of whole further and higher education institutions.

**Courses:** Recognising innovative actions with regard to sustainability in undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational courses in Further Education and Higher Education institutions.

**Green ICT:** Recognising the growing environmental importance of ICT within the sector, and encompassing a variety of actions that will help minimise environmental impacts associated with ICT use.

**Promoting Positive Behaviour:** Recognising innovative approaches to promoting changes in behaviour within an institution, or through its activities.

**Research and Development:** Recognising research activity within universities and colleges that has had tangible effects on practice with regard to mitigation of environmental impacts and/or other areas which fall within the domain of social responsibility.

**Skills:** Recognising achievement in the development of skills relevant to sustainability. To provide a clear differentiation, the main focus of this category is activities that are not central to the pursuit of academic qualifications.

**Social Responsibility:** Recognising initiatives by Further Education or Higher Education institutions that create significant benefits for local communities, disadvantaged groups and society as a whole.

**Space Efficiency:** Recognising that more efficient use of space produces considerable environmental and economic benefits.

**Student Initiatives and Campaigns:** Recognising initiatives that have been developed and/or substantially influenced by students, including activities such as awareness campaigns, procurement actions and sustainability activities organised by unions and student bodies.

**Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment:** Recognising new or refurbished buildings and campuses in further or higher education that have good energy and environmental performance.

**Sustainable Procurement:** Recognising actions to take greater account of environmental and/or social responsibility issues within procurement of buildings, goods and services.



# CARBON REDUCTION WINNER

## Coventry University

### Carbon Challenge

The Carbon Challenge scheme at Coventry University is an inter-faculty energy competition with eagerly anticipated monthly reports, quarterly league tables and prizes.

Initially created as a way of meeting corporate carbon reduction targets, the scheme has empowered students and staff across the University to take responsibility for their own electrical consumption and thereby saved over 2,000,000kWh, £213,000 and 1100 tonnes of carbon in two years.

Coventry University has created a prestige around reducing consumption and raised the profile of carbon on campus. The number of staff now reporting ideas or examples of wasted energy has increased dramatically as they identify with one particular building and want to see its performance improve.

Motivating energy reduction by inter-departmental competition has relevance to any higher education establishment or business with more than one department or building where energy use can be accurately measured and apportioned. The scheme has no cost as prizes are distributed from energy savings, and administration costs are more than offset by the dramatic savings obtained.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*Coventry is an excellent example of a wide staff/student awareness campaign. Excellent incentives and competitions give real drive for building occupants to change behaviour, returning 50% of savings to departments. A cost-effective way of making real savings in cash-strapped times.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Imperial College London

*Continuous Optimisation of Plant & Services – a partnership in sustainability by conserving carbon through energy reduction*

Imperial College  
London

Imperial College London is committed to providing a more sustainable operation of its estate, despite a strategy of refurbishment, new build and staff/student growth.

To support this Imperial has proven and implemented a methodical application of 'Continuous Optimisation' (ConCom) recommissioning building plant and services, delivering cuts in carbon consumption, conservation of energy and reduction in operational costs.

With support from consultants ABS, the Facilities department, working in partnership with Imperial's academic community, has to date accumulated real sustainable savings amounting to £518,350 and 2,846 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. ConCom is now an embedded component of the University's Carbon Management Plan and is expected to contribute savings of up to 4,900 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the next five years. The lessons learnt are now being incorporated into refurbishment and new-build strategies.

### The Higher Education Academy (HEA) congratulates the winner of the Courses Award at the Green Gown Awards 2011

The HEA is the national body for learning and teaching in UK higher education.

Our work on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is one of our priority themes and helps higher education institutions to give students the skills and knowledge to live and work sustainably.

The HEA provides a range of support to individual academics, discipline communities and institutions in this important area. [www.heacademy.ac.uk](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk)





# COLLEGES AND SMALLER INSTITUTIONS WINNER

## South Lanarkshire College

*Low-energy, low-carbon future-proofing of the curriculum*

South Lanarkshire College is the largest college in Scotland that provides construction education and training, and students win proficiency awards regularly at national and international level. The college wanted to influence industry, as well as its construction (and other) students to be early adopters in low-energy, low-carbon and sustainable approaches. The Energy Efficiency Code for Sustainable Homes and Low-Carbon Building Standards Strategy had been published. However, legislation to deliver low-energy, low-carbon approaches in new housing would not be in place in Scotland until 2016. The college felt that this was too far away and it was time to lead the way with a 'big idea' and thus decided to:

-  design and build an affordable, low-energy, low-carbon house within the campus in partnership with 50 private-sector companies, including Dawn Homes
-  change its curriculum to embed low-energy, low-carbon approaches in Construction and in other areas
-  incorporate sustainability into all lesson plans
-  develop and deliver new bespoke micro-renewables courses
-  use the project as a knowledge transfer facility for industry
-  draw issues to the government's attention by bringing Scottish Government ministers, including the First Minister, on site and engaging them on the economic and social benefits of affordable low-energy housing.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*South Lanarkshire College's project is responsive to the policy agenda and boasts an impressive list of partnerships from the private sector which could provide excellent exemplars for others. Ambitious in supporting skills and innovative in approach – a worthy winner.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Coleg Gwent

#### *Continuous Improvement in the College Environmental & Sustainability Programme*



As the largest FE college in Wales with some 1600 staff and 37000 students over five campuses, Coleg Gwent understands the importance of excellent environmental and sustainability leadership within its community. Over the last four years the college has given the highest priority and appropriate resources to establishing a structured environmental management system. To achieve this the college decided to implement the Green Dragon Environmental Standard, initially achieving level 2 in 2007, progressing through the standard each year and finally achieving level 5 during August 2010 across all five campuses.

Having successfully implemented a structured environmental management system the college set clear objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the environmental and sustainability performance year on year by developing sensible but clear objectives that would increase its waste recycle rate, reduce its energy consumption and reduce CO2 and greenhouse emissions.

### Blackpool and The Fylde College

#### *Driving Ahead With Waste Oil*



In July 2010 the college began an innovative and experimental project, the object of which was to recycle waste vegetable oil produced on college grounds and transform this substance into bio fuel. Working with various stakeholders across the college, the project was headed up by the estates team working in collaboration with a foundation degree eco-technology student. Using a bio-diesel fuel pod based at the Bisham Campus, 50-litre batches of low-cost, low-emission fuel were produced.

This project has proved to be an excellent learning resource which offers students the unique opportunity to learn about the benefits of sustainable initiatives while also developing an understanding of health and safety, project management and team working skills.



# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WINNER

## Plymouth University

*Research teaching operations – a tri-cameral approach to sustainability*

Plymouth University has demonstrated good practice in many aspects of sustainability, highlighted by the funding of its Centre for Sustainable Futures as a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning between 2005 and 2010, and its outstanding People and Planet Green League performance. To extend and embed good practice across its sustainability activities the university has built a new tri-cameral approach.

-  In research, it has created a new institute which has begun to pull together its inter-disciplinary expertise across all faculties and directorates.
-  In teaching, its Centre for Sustainable Futures is continuing to embed the principles of sustainability across the curriculum.
-  In its operations, it is committed to not just adopting a green approach, but it is also acting as a catalyst for the city and the region.

This work is overseen and coordinated by the Sustainability Executive Group, which is working to implement the strategy and recognise potential synergies. As a result, Plymouth is developing an institutional intelligence regarding the embedding of sustainability.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*The tri-cameral approach embracing university research, teaching and operations is a powerful, holistic and systematic approach which has embraced staff, students, estates, curriculum and community well after external funding has ceased. The University has found its place as a catalyst for change in the city and region. Coupled with its commitment to sharing its growing institutional intelligence regarding the embedding of sustainability, the Plymouth experience is highly relevant and transferable to the sector.*

**CONNECT  
WITH  
PLYMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### The University of Edinburgh

*Edinburgh's continuous investment in social responsibility and sustainability measures*



Edinburgh's 21-year-old programme of sustainability initiatives has had significant impact across the university and contributed to sector-wide improvements in performance. Since being launched by the then Principal and Vice-Chancellor Sir David Smith, nearly £20m has been invested in environmentally friendly initiatives. This has contributed to a reduction in the university's carbon footprint by over 30% since 1990 and has enabled it to take a lead in framing the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland.

Initiatives have ranged from a £12million investment in green energy installations such as combined heat and power systems serving three campuses, a reinvestment of 5% of all utility spend into green initiatives, a reduction in landfill waste and increase to 71% recycling rate, and a considerable investment in taught programmes in the environmental and sustainability field.

### University of Gloucestershire

*Reporting on a Decade of Institutional Change towards Sustainability*



The University of Gloucestershire is committed to a whole-of-institution approach to sustainability that exemplifies living and learning for sustainability for staff, students and the communities that it serves. This year marks a decade of institutional change for sustainability during which the university has sought to model sustainability across its campuses and change mindsets in order to tackle the root causes of unsustainable practice rather than its symptoms.

The last 10 years have seen the university consistently improve its sustainability performance as judged by external assessments and rankings - it is the only university to retain a top five position in the Green League since the rankings began. A decade of commitment has culminated in the publication of the university's first sustainability report, which documents performance improvement and places it among the few HE institutions globally that have achieved the goal of reporting sustainability activity across all professional and academic departments.



Category sponsor



## University of Exeter Business School

*The One Planet MBA*

The University of Exeter has launched The One Planet MBA – a unique programme designed to develop a new generation of managers and leaders who will transform businesses and deliver more sustainable strategies. The One Planet MBA challenges the traditional approach to management education and includes a unique partnership with an NGO and new approaches to teaching and learning.

The University of Exeter is well-known for its environmental credentials and research in climate change and sustainable futures. It is also leading the field in embedding sustainability into its educational programmes.

In 2010, the Business School took a bold step to radically reposition its flagship programme, the MBA. Hitherto, the MBA had followed traditional business principles and the usual emphasis on short-term profit. However, prompted by a growing relationship with WWF – the School decided it was time for change. Future business leaders needed to be trained to understand the growing challenges of resource depletion, pollution, population growth and climate change and how business can reduce the effect of this change.

The full One Planet MBA launched in September 2011. The focus on sustainability has attracted considerable interest from applicants and employers alike. Alongside WWF there are 11 corporate partners to support the programme. In a declining MBA market, Exeter has demonstrated that there is still demand for an innovative and green approach to business.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*Although many may think our choice is predictable, the Exeter programme is truly innovative and interdisciplinary. The impact is international and evidence clearly shows demand is high for a transformative curriculum. Exeter deserves recognition for being bold and brave.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Staffordshire University *Responsible Designer*



Responsible Designer is an educational tool which encourages design students to embed a more responsible approach to their creative problem solving and working methods. It aims to make the issues of responsibility a fundamental part of the design process, decision-making and creative practice. The system has two exciting elements that utilise new technology and traditional teaching and learning methods; an A3 graphic document and a smartphone/tablet app.

Responsible Designer embraces the use of new technology to support traditional learning in a dynamic and accessible system that provides insight and understanding of the pivotal role creative's will play in responsible decision making for the future. The system equips students with 'future proof' understanding into the issues relevant for an evolving society and sustained employment within the creative industries.

### Bedford College *Interactive Learning for Sustainability*



Staff and students have joined forces at Bedford College to develop a comprehensive set of highly engaging interactive learning resources to develop understanding of sustainable development and its relevance to all curriculum areas. With a full range of high-quality generic and subject-specific resources accessible through the LSIS Excellence Gateway, now every training provider within the learning and skills sector can have the confidence and capability to embed sustainability into their strategy, curriculum, operations and partnership activities.





Category sponsor



## University of Hertfordshire

*Reduction and re-use of energy in institutional data centres (RARE-IDC)*

This project enabled the university to further reduce the environmental impact and power consumption as well as refurbish a data centre. Working closely with other key departments such as the Environment Team, Estates and IT ensured that cross-pollination of experiences and skills between departments made the university more efficient in its day-to-day activities and enhanced everyone's future. The key deliverables and achievements of this project were:

- 🌿 To achieve a substantial and sustainable reduction in the environmental impact associated with a data centre. This was achieved with a reduction of Power Utilisation Efficiency (PUE) from (est.) 2.2 to 1.22 (Annualised).
- 🌿 To reduce total cost of operation by achieving a return on investment from the solutions implemented. Operational cost savings of an estimated £39,000 per annum was achieved.
- 🌿 To reduce the risk and impact to university systems of fire, flood, criminal damage, loss of power and/or cooling systems. This was achieved by the addition of resilient infrastructure and fire suppression.
- 🌿 To raise the standard and specification of the accommodation for the university's core network and systems to deliver highly available and resilient IT services. Improved fire suppression, environmental and power monitoring, security, 24-7 CCTV, a specific separate plant area and better working environment.
- 🌿 To demonstrate and share the techniques used and lessons learned, providing a model for other institutions to follow in achieving the 'Greening' of their data centres.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*Impressive example of best-practice features which could easily be adopted by others. These include hot aisle/cold aisle separation, high efficiency UPS, wider humidity and temperature bands, heat recovery, re-use of existing equipment. Performance validated through a variety of mechanisms, including use of Green Grid PUE metric, accreditation to EU Code of Conduct (being the first European University to do this an impressive achievement) and awards.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Imperial College London *Imperial ICT steps up sustainability*



Globally renowned for its cutting-edge teaching and research, Imperial College's ethos for innovation is applied across all of its operations and reflected particularly, at this time of mounting environmental concern, in its approach to green IT. In parallel with the College's sustainability policy, the Information and Communications Department (ICT) assembled a comprehensive Green IT Policy underlining its commitment to follow current best practice in providing sustainable IT. This resulted in ICT actively leading a number of initiatives across the sustainability spectrum as part of the college-wide 'Step Change' campaign.

Imperial College produces the equivalent of 4,400 tonnes less CO<sub>2</sub> per annum on average and saves £700,000 per annum as a result of the sustainability improvements made in IT-related activities. The hope is to improve this by a further 1,600 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per annum in the next year, translating into a total annual saving of £1m.

### Queen Margaret University *Beyond thin-client: Green ICT at QMU*



QMU has a holistic approach to achieving a lasting legacy of sustainable practice and thinking, not only in managing its immediate environment but also in its pioneering approach to curriculum development and leadership training aimed at achieving far reaching positive impact for future generations.

While these initiatives are being undertaken by others in the sector, the holistic approach to green ICT at QMU ensures it supports and actively contributes to the university commitment to climate change. So integrated are the buildings and ICT that the institution have developed a combined estate and information strategy to ensure both elements are recognised as inseparable. QMU have demonstrated a continual, concerted effort not only to push its green ICT agenda, but also to drive down costs and make the ICT function more efficient.



## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR WINNER

Loughborough University

*Changing people first, environment second*

"It's Better OFF to be sustainable" is a successful awareness campaign that has promoted positive environmental behaviours and embedded sustainability across the university.

The campaign promotes best practice in all areas of the sustainability agenda covering energy, carbon, water, travel and transport, biodiversity, waste, recycling, building, refurbishment, and procurement.

By working with university staff, students, suppliers, contractors, research departments and the students union, the campaign has made significant steps in changing environmental behaviour across the campus and among all stakeholders. The campaign was designed to be flexible enough to cater for the diverse nature of the sustainability agenda and this has proved to be the case, as it has enabled Loughborough University to promote best practice and positive behaviours in all areas.

Measuring the effectiveness of the campaign has been an important consideration and environmental surveys have been conducted to establish and evidence impact at home and at work.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*A holistic, well structured programme with clear objectives and outcomes. Well monitored including attitudes. Well presented with significant outcomes for relatively modest investment, it has disseminated learning and experience to the wider sector and the judges can't wait to see if this could be disseminated further. Could be easily replicated in other institutions.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

University of Leeds  
*UTravelActive project*



UTravelActive is a pathfinder project with a strong partnership programme of successful behaviour change interventions promoting walking and cycling. It supports students and staff at three higher education Institutions in Leeds to adopt healthy and sustainable travel, and be active travel champions in their organisations and local communities. The project includes the Velocampus Leeds student bike hire, the first of its type & scale in the UK, and on-campus bike hub. Through a range of campaigns and engagement activities, including cycling training, bike maintenance and small and large scale events, alongside infrastructure improvements, more than 2000 people have changed their travel behaviour. There have also been more than 800 extra cyclists locally on hire bikes. It demonstrates that bike hire and additional supporting activities facilitate cycling in under-represented groups and is a catalyst for sustained behaviour change to cycling.

The SPCE is a HEFCE funded project which aims to embed sustainable procurement in the HE sector, working with consortia and institutions.

The SPCE Knowledge Base is a constantly evolving repository of guidance, toolkits and best practice. If you're looking for guidance by commodity, check out our Knowledge Base page on the website: <http://spce.procureweb.ac.uk/knowledge-base>

Our Sustainable Projects page on the website has a wealth of best practice examples from institutions embedding sustainable procurement into their university: <http://spce.procureweb.ac.uk/index/sustainable-projects>

To keep up to date with the latest sustainable procurement training, guidance and events from us and other organisations, check out our News page available on the website: <http://spce.procureweb.ac.uk/news>

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# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WINNER

## University of Salford

*University of Salford Energy House*

"At the cutting edge of research" - the words used by Climate Change Minister, Greg Barker, when he officially opened Europe's 1st Energy House within a fully controllable environment in January 2011. The Salford Energy House provides a platform for leading academics to collaborate with industry in the development and testing of products to reduce the carbon emissions of our 21 million existing homes, which account for 26% of all UK carbon emissions.

Salford Energy House is Europe's only full-size fully functioning house, which has been reconstructed to replicate the UK's hard to treat properties in a fully controllable climatic chamber. This unique facility allows leading academics and researchers from across the institution to work collaboratively with businesses on issues associated with reducing the threat of fuel poverty. Recent figures published by the Department Energy and Climate Change (DECC) indicate that there are over 5.5million homes in fuel poverty of which 4.5m are classed as vulnerable.

Since its launch the Energy House has attracted international interest from leading businesses, general and specialist media (including a 5 minute feature on the BBC Six O'Clock News) and visits by a number of government ministers. More recently the Energy House has been listed by Research Councils UK (RCUK) in the top ten research projects in the UK.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*The University of Salford's project boasts an impressive level of collaboration across many sectors with a truly interdisciplinary approach. Real time data is produced and the university are keen to share results in a much wider context. Work is local with schools but the project also has national scope and provides insight and practical solutions into fuel poverty – currently a hot topic on the national agenda.*

University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Cranfield University *Carbon Brainprint*



We must all take responsibility for reducing our own carbon footprints, but higher education Institutions also have a duty to create and transform knowledge into sustainable solutions that address the challenge of global climate change. This intellectual contribution of helping other organisations and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint is higher education's 'Carbon Brainprint'.

Cranfield University's Carbon Brainprint project has developed a robust lifecycle-based methodology for quantifying the carbon brainprint of its research and training activities. The methodology has been tested using six case studies related to research and innovation, training, process improvement and influencing behaviour, in collaboration with Cambridge and Reading Universities.

The case studies show that the carbon brainprint of HEIs is potentially enormous. For example, the carbon brainprint of just two research projects undertaken by Cranfield was 50 times greater than the carbon footprint of the whole university.





Category sponsor



## South Eastern Regional College

*SERC's Environmental Skills Centre*



Northern Ireland's South Eastern Regional College (SERC) opened a brand new Environmental Skills Centre on its refurbished and extended Ards Campus in October 2010 delivering both upskilling and reskilling to boost the transition to a low-carbon economy. At the opening the Minister for Employment and Learning pronounced, "This state-of-the-art facility provides an ideal environment in which further education and business sectors can cooperate to their mutual benefit. The cutting-edge skills honed here will provide a huge boost to both the local community and economy, whilst also helping to drive the sustainable energy and renewable technology agenda forward."

Already, SERC has trained well over 2,000 people in the area of sustainable development and renewable technology. The college provides specialist training and support in heat pump installation, biomass and solar technologies, energy assessment, the code for sustainable homes, wave and tidal energy, deep geothermal power, energy storage and passive and zero carbon homes – from information seminars and short courses for practitioners and interested individuals to skill-focused training providing vocational and professional qualifications.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*South Eastern Regional College Environmental Skills Centre has significant regional impact and contribution. SERC offers a wide range of practical courses which should achieve wide ranging and visible benefits, especially as we move into a new era of higher education. Much of the project was achieved in a short timescale and offers a clear and inspiring exemplar for others.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

London College of Fashion

*London Style - transforming sustainable design for a thriving fashion industry*

The London Style programme at the Centre for Sustainable Fashion supports industry transformation through sustainable skills development for fashion business. From 2008-2011 the CSF has run a fully subsidised programme of support for small to medium sized businesses towards the embedding of better processes and practices in the fashion industry of the future. The programme explores the business case, design, materials selection, production and communication for sustainability through a series of small group workshops, one-to-one advice and mentoring. It has significantly contributed towards the creation of exciting new models for fashion to operate, helping businesses to grow in a dynamic and sustainable manner. Over the three year period, it has supported over 100 fashion businesses, exceeding proposed quantitative and qualitative targets relating to profit and sales growth, jobs created and new approaches to design – all during a period of recession.



# LSIS

LEARNING  
AND SKILLS  
IMPROVEMENT  
SERVICE

Supporting sustainable thinking and practice

**Congratulations to the winners  
and all those shortlisted!**



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WINNER

## London College of Fashion

*Fashion Education in Prisons*

The Fashion Education in Prisons project partnered serving women offenders with students and staff from the London College of Fashion. The project saw participants share and teach useful design and pattern cutting skills which could then be used and further developed during the women's time in prison and open up employment and educational opportunities on release.

Female prisoners are generally primary carers, whose main aim upon release from prison is to reintegrate with society and maintain family ties. However, women ex-offenders face barriers to employment and education, and LCF's intention was therefore to:

- Teach vocational fashion – related skills to women prisoners
- Contribute to the rehabilitation process by providing opportunities to build confidence through collaborative work and individual achievement
- Give students an opportunity to engage in socially beneficial activities and break down preconceptions about women offenders.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*London School of Fashion's project is an excellent example of creating a meaningful and effective partnership, particularly in often difficult and trying circumstances was a win-win activity for all involved. Whilst small scale, the judges felt that the programme was effective in broadening the horizons of staff, students and the often neglected women prisoners themselves.*

*All the prisoners completed the programme and with plans in place for further partnership working, the panel felt that the model was highly transferable and could and should be replicated by other institutions.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

New College Stamford

*Making social responsibility second nature*



Social responsibility has been likened to taming a dragon, turning social challenges into productive capacity and developing the competences of individuals to cope in a future where nothing can be taken for granted. New College Stamford has been making continuous improvements to its environmental policy, and have recently established an environmental and sustainability strategy with high emphasis placed on social responsibility.

NCS is committed to building upon that good practice by including the principles of sustainable development as an integral aspect of the college strategy and operations for the future. The environment team works with students, staff, and the wider community, delivering a range of environmental and social awareness projects to influence positive student behaviour as an integral part of their experience at NCS. Projects are unique, having positive impact from the local to the global scale; from preschool into retirement, and the college's recent Ofsted inspection demonstrates the importance attached to this ethos.

## *Congratulations to all from the EAUC!*

The EAUC's vision is a university, college and learning and skills sector where the principles and values of environmental, economic and social sustainability are embedded.

The EAUC administer the Green Gown Awards for the sector, as well as leading, inspiring and equipping Members and stakeholders with a shared vision, knowledge and the tools needed to embed sustainability within curriculum and operations.

To ensure the sustainability of the Green Gown Awards, the EAUC is dedicated to promote dissemination of the learning and best practice shown in the Awards to the sector through events, case studies and resources throughout the year.

To learn more visit [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk)





## SPACE EFFICIENCY WINNER

### Nottingham Trent University

#### *Continuous Utilisation Survey*

Nottingham Trent University have embarked on a utilisation survey for the whole academic year. The largest survey carried out by NTU records the utilisation of 335 rooms every hour across the three campuses, giving an invaluable insight into the use of the estate. Analysis of the data captured has been used to inform decisions on future developments and quantify demand for different types of space.

The Continuous Utilisation Survey is a physical check of 335 rooms every hour between 9am and 6pm to count the number of occupants. The completed surveys that have been carried out were conducted for the whole of term one, each third week in term two and the whole of term three excluding exam periods.

To avoid excessive paper waste and saving £570 in printing costs, temporary members of staff used iPads to record data. To synchronise records and mitigate the need to manually transfer all information, as well as significantly streamlining data capture and analysis, drop box was used.

Following the success of the teaching space based utilisation survey it is now being rolled out into staff offices, this also ensures that NTU are making progress to the government guidelines stating a 0.8:1 ratio of desks per FTE.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*The judges were impressed with the innovative and detailed approach to space utilisation surveys that goes beyond teaching space by including self-directed learning space with plans to roll out to office space. They liked that the initiative engages users of the space through 'no-show' emails and workshops.*

*The application included a clear explanation of how results are used to manage space use and this has resulted in a reduction of overall space.*

*The use of hand-held collecting devices helps manage the process effectively and sustainably. The judges felt it was an effective approach to space utilisation surveys that could be used by other institutions.*

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Pembrokeshire College *Space efficiency reduces emissions*



Pembrokeshire College has adopted a holistic approach in reducing carbon reductions across its activities and operation which has included rationalising its estates portfolio to create a more space and energy-efficient estate.

Pembrokeshire College has set out to become one of the most energy efficient further education colleges in the sector and to engage with staff and students in this CO2 reduction challenge. The college is embedding an ethos of reducing CO2 emissions at every opportunity, both in the way it operates and in the implementation of their estate strategy which focuses on providing a high-quality, efficient and sustainable learning and working environment. Such an approach encompasses space efficiency at its core which has already delivered substantial sustainable benefits.

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# STUDENT INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS WINNER

## Lancaster University Student Union

*Exodus*



GreenLancaster has created a student Exodus project that sees waste diverted from landfill turned into cash to sustain the project in a self-financing model. Exodus works across campus and with local student housing companies to encourage students to recycle their reusable waste at the end of the academic year. With one member of staff on the project in 2010, Exodus diverted 4 tonnes of reusable waste from landfill, saving Lancaster University approximately £500 and a carbon equivalent saving of 30 tonnes. By selling on donated books, the project made £600.

This year, the project has expanded employing 10 students for six weeks along with two members of GreenLancaster's full time staff. 2011 results have exceeded expectations with 17.4 tonnes of reusable waste collected, saving the university approximately £2,311 and a carbon equivalent saving of 133.5 tonnes. The books collected have an Amazon-rated value of 12-28k. Exodus now becomes a self-financing model for reducing waste to landfill.

GreenLancaster supports Lancaster University students to translate their concern for environmental issues into action. In October 2009, thanks to external funding, the GreenLancaster hub, a former retail unit, was created at the heart of campus.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*An exceptional programme of its type, where a student-led campaign has realised a significant profit. Highly transferable to other student unions and institutions, with excellent attention to student learning outcomes such as employability.*



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### University of Warwick *Turbine trials and tribulations!*



The University of Warwick student society 'Engineers without Borders' undertook a project to design, construct and install a 1kW turbine at Warwick's main campus in collaboration with colleagues within the estates office. Little did they realise that the engineering challenge would be dwarfed by the planning, safety and other concerns identified during the course of the two year project. However, largely through their tenacity, the students succeeded in installing their own hand-crafted turbine and witnessing its generation of renewable energy. That was until one final twist of fate befell the project, serving to galvanise members of the team and inspire them on to bigger and better things.

### The University of Edinburgh *OurEd: an online social responsibility and sustainability community*



The University of Edinburgh has adopted a whole-institution approach to social responsibility and sustainability (SRS) – defined as understanding and addressing social, environmental and economic global challenges. In order to further student engagement with SRS they have developed [www.OurEd.ed.ac.uk](http://www.OurEd.ed.ac.uk) – an online resource to inspire present and prospective University of Edinburgh students to get involved.

OurEd maintains a holistic approach by bringing together all of the university's SRS-related activities in one place, including information on events, courses, societies, volunteering and internships. OurEd has been successful at demystifying SRS by conceptualising it as issues of environment, development, health and social justice.





# SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT

## WINNER

Category sponsor



WILLMOTT DIXON  
CONSTRUCTION

## Queen Mary University – Fraser Brown MacKenna Architects

*Recladding of the GE Fogg Building (The School of Biochemical Sciences),  
Queen Mary University of London*

A striking transformation of a tired and uncomfortable academic building for Queen Mary University of London, creating a new identity that's as green as it looks.

The GE Fogg building was uneconomic to heat and extreme solar glare meant that it was hardly a suitable space for some of the world's leading scientists. The concrete structure was corroded and the windows were leaking. With redevelopment not a feasible option, a three-fold sustainable retrofit solution was devised:

-  To increase the insulation of the existing opaque walls.
-  To install new high-performance glazing throughout.
-  To include monocrystalline PV cells on parts of the south and south-east facing elevations and sloped roofs.

In delivering the £2.9m project, QMU overcame the logistical challenges of working around live laboratories and a building which bridges a public highway, installing 4,600sqm of rainscreen cladding and curtain walling across the complex building geometry. The result is improved user comfort with solar gain reduced by 20% and improved thermal comfort, a striking new identity, energy demand reduction of 70% and the generation of 2700kWh/pa renewable energy through PV cells in the facade, contributing to an annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 6.0kg/CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>.

QMU have extended the life of the building for a fraction of the cost of rebuild and demonstrated that the sustainable refurbishment of even the most complex mixed use academic buildings is achievable.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*Excellent all round entry which managed to take occupier comfort into consideration while simultaneously transforming an operational building. Improvements will not only extend the life of the structure but will also result in a high energy demand reduction of 70% and similar improvements in u-values.*

FraserBrownMacKennaArchitects



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### University of Ulster

*The sustainable redevelopment of the university's Belfast Campus*



At the time of construction, the project was the university's most important estates development since the institution's formation in 1984. The project vision called for a landmark building built to the highest standards in sustainable construction to re-establish the university's presence in Belfast city centre, and provide a catalyst for the urban regeneration of the Cathedral Quarter area of the city. The result is a high-quality sustainable low-carbon building with state-of-the-art facilities resulting in improved interaction and collaboration between staff and students.

The project was conceived in 2002 and clearly demonstrates the university's forward thinking with respect to energy efficiency, carbon reduction and the wider sustainable construction agenda at a time when sustainability was not widely pursued across the sector. A key consideration within the sustainable design ethos was the principle that buildings that are able to adapt will in the long run prove to be the most sustainable.

### Edge Hill University

*The Durning Centre*



Edge Hill University

Completed in July 2010, the £4.2m Durning Centre at Edge Hill University is a building that incorporates unique innovations. It avoids the carbon equivalent of planting 823 trees per year. The building is entirely heated by recovering waste heat from IT servers and the University Data Centre, which is powered by a considerable array of photovoltaic cells. It also exports heat to two other university buildings.

Externally the Durning Centre is a contemporary design, with its central access and meeting room identified as a prominent architectural glaze. Natural ventilation louvres, brise soleil and photovoltaics allude to the sustainable nature of the building. It co-locates several university services reducing direct carbon emissions by eliminating the need for many unnecessary journeys.



# SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT WINNER

Category sponsor



## Durham University

*Leading the Way in Sustainable Food Procurement*



Durham University's procurement service and catering department have worked in unison to provide a range of services to its 10 fully catered colleges and other catering outlets. The aim has been to maximise buying power (£2.7m annual food spend) while taking into account environmental, social and economic values and responsibilities. Durham University heavily considers the sustainability of supply chains in relation to food and, as a result, sustainability is now embedded within the University's food procurement and production.

Durham University has taken a unique approach to the management of its food contracts to cover all aspects of the University's corporate social responsibility policy. By facilitating collaboration amongst university departments and suppliers, this initiative has addressed the following:

-  Social wellbeing and inclusion through healthy eating and the support of local charities.
-  Carbon reduction by significantly reducing deliveries, sourcing local products and banning air freight.
-  Supporting local suppliers, small/medium enterprises and the local economy.
-  Achieving significant financial savings to help manage food price rises.

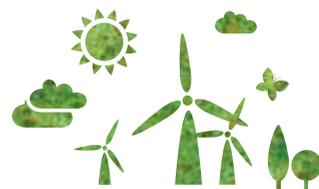
The work has been the result of a successful collaboration between Durham University's procurement service and catering department, with investment and support from suppliers. The majority of the improvements have been undertaken over the past 18 months and through regular meetings continuous improvement will be identified.

### WHAT THE JUDGES SAY

*Evidence of grassroots thinking with impressive supplier engagement, Durham University's entry is an all encompassing project looking at the whole procurement process. Solid, demonstrative sustainable benefits evidenced and a stand out entry in this category.*



## 2011 Green Gown Award Judges



Thank you to

AASHE - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in  
Higher Education  
ACTS - Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability  
AoC - Association of Colleges  
APUC - Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges  
AUDE - Association of University Directors of Estates  
The Australian National University  
BRE  
The Carbon Trust  
Change Agents UK  
CUBO - College and University Business Officers  
EAUC - Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges  
ESD Solutions  
Guild HE  
HEA - Higher Education Academy  
HEEPI - Higher Education Environmental Performance  
Improvement  
HEFCE - Higher Education Funding Council for England  
HEFCW - Higher Education Funding Council for Wales  
IEMA - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment  
JISC - Joint Information Systems Committee  
LSIS - Learning and Skills Improvement Service  
MEG - Mixed Economy Group of Colleges  
NIACE - National Institute of Adult Continuing Education  
NUS - National Union of Students  
SFA - Skills Funding Agency  
SFC - Scottish Funding Council  
SPCE - Sustainable Procurement Centre of Excellence  
UCISA - Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association  
Unity College Maine, USA  
UCU - University and College Union



The EAUC would like to take this opportunity to thank all guests for attending the Green Gown Awards 2011 and hope you have a pleasant and memorable evening. Should you like further any further information on any aspect of this year's event please feel free to contact us.

The Green Gown Awards is run in accordance with the EAUC's high expectations of sustainable standards and in order to compliment and represent the interest of its guests, the evening has been planned with great attention to detail and with sustainability at the fore. Some of the environmentally friendly concepts which have been woven into the fabric of this year's event include:

**The Grand Connaught Rooms:** has a "Green Team" initiative in place which covers the recycling of glass, paper and plastics as well as the recorded routine of switching off lights across the venue overnight. We have also worked closely with the Head Chef to deliver a menu which has been locally and ethically sourced where possible, with as much detail presented to the diner as possible. All catering will be served using non-disposable crockery and cutlery. Water is supplied in reusable bottles. Fairtrade tea and coffee and caffeine alternatives will be served where possible.

**Award Trophy:** each Award is a beacon of sustainable design which has again been hand crafted for us by Abglassart. Each award is carefully crafted from waste cuts of plate (window) glass and transformed into the stunning trophy which has become synonymous with the Green Gown Awards.

**Table Centres:** created using reusable artificial plants and fishbowls (which have been used at previous Redactive events) filled with glass gravel made from recycled wine bottles. All table centres will be reused for future events.

**SeedPaper Invitations:** one of the greenest forms of print around, SeedPaper is sourced entirely from post consumer waste and implanted with seeds. All printing is done using organic inks and once planted the paper completely biodegrades, allowing the seeds to grow into beautiful flowers or vegetables. Plant yours to grow your very own batch of wild flowers!

**Stage Set:** The panels from this year's stage set are reusable. Projection screens have been used so as to avoid the use of graphic wrap printing and the displayed sponsor logos are printed individually on board which means they are reusable.

**LED Lighting:** has been used across the event production - LED uses 83% less power than most incandescent lighting units.

**Winners' Guide & Guest Directory:** All documents have been printed double-sided on 100% recycled paper stock approved by the Forest Stewardship Council. All correspondence to delegates and sponsors has, where practicable, been sent via email to minimise waste.

**Sustainable Travel:** We encourage delegates to use public transport and the venue, being in Central London, is easily accessible. We have also partnered with Radio Taxis who are the world's first carbon-neutral taxi firm, with vehicles running on biodiesel fuel. We hope that if you do require taxis you will use them to ensure a carbon neutral journey.