

## **Krishnan Guru-Murthy celebrates sustainability in education sector achievements at the Green Gown Awards 2011**

Thursday's Green Gown Awards, hosted by journalist and presenter Krishnan Guru-Murthy, was a resounding success and a fitting celebration for the pioneering environmental and sustainability initiatives that have been championed in the education sector this year. Winners and Highly Commended awards were bestowed across 13 categories and guests from universities and colleges from across the UK were joined by leading figures from institutions such as HEFCE, Universities UK, The Guardian Higher Education Network and the Carbon Trust to commend visionary projects which are pushing the environmental best practice boundaries.

Organised by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Chief Executive Iain Patton describes the Green Gown Awards as a shop window for environmental and suitable best practice, stating that "although it is a challenging and anxious time for universities and colleges, 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".

Winning entries included Salford University's "Energy House" - 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 and Coventry University's "Carbon Challenge" scheme which empowered staff and students to take responsibility for their own electrical consumption, resulting in saving of 2,000,000kWh, £213,000 and 1100 tons of carbon in two years. A full list of this year's winning and Highly Commended entries can be found on the Green Gown Awards website [www.greengownawards.org.uk/](http://www.greengownawards.org.uk/)

Now in their 7<sup>th</sup> year, The Green Gown Awards were founded in 2004 by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement project and have grown in reputation and stature year on year. With a record number of entries, the Green Gown Awards are firmly established as *the* most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in the further and higher education sectors.

### ***Ends***

### **Notes to the Editor**

#### **About the EAUC:**

With a membership of over 300 universities and colleges, the EAUC is the environmental and sustainability alliance within Further and Higher Education in the UK. For more information on the EAUC please visit [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk).

#### **About the Green Gown Awards:**

The Green Gown Awards, now in their 7th year, recognise exceptional initiatives being taken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. The Awards took place on 3 November 2011 at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London.

The Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC and are run in collaboration and governed by a cross-agency steering group with key sector bodies:

Green Gown Awards steering group are:

Association of Colleges  
Association of University Directors of Estates

British Universities Finance Directors Group  
Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement  
Guild HE  
Higher Education Funding Council for England  
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales  
The Higher Education Academy  
National Union of Students  
Scottish Funding Council  
Universities UK

### Winners

**Coventry University** *Carbon Reduction*  
**South Lanarkshire College** *Colleges and Smaller Institutions*  
**Plymouth University** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*  
**University of Exeter Business School** *Courses*  
**University of Hertfordshire** *Green ICT*  
**Loughborough University** *Promoting Positive Behaviour*  
**University of Salford** *Research and Development*  
**South Eastern Regional College** *Skills*  
**London College of Fashion** *Social Responsibility*  
**Nottingham Trent University** *Space Efficiency*  
**Lancaster University Students' Union** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*  
**Queen Mary University (Fraser Brown MacKenna Architects)** *Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment*  
**Durham University** *Sustainable Procurement*

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### Highly Commended

**Imperial College London** *Carbon Reduction*  
**Coleg Gwent** *Colleges and Smaller Institutions*  
**Blackpool and the Fylde College** *Colleges and Smaller Institutions*  
**University of Edinburgh** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*  
**University of Gloucestershire** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*  
**Staffordshire University** *Courses*  
**Bedford College** *Courses*  
**Imperial College London** *Green ICT*  
**Queen Margaret University** *Green ICT*  
**University of Leeds** *Promoting Positive Behaviour*  
**Cranfield University** *Research and Development*  
**London College of Fashion** *Skills*  
**New College Stamford** *Social Responsibility*  
**Pembrokeshire College** *Space Efficiency*  
**University of Warwick** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*  
**University of Edinburgh** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*  
**University of Ulster** *Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment*  
**Edge Hill University** *Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment*