



Green Gown
Awards 2012



Green Gown Awards
International

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebration of the tertiary education sector's sustainability achievements at the Green Gown Awards Ceremony and the inaugural launch of the Green Gown International Awards 2012.

Monday's (5 November 2012) Green Gown Awards, hosted by broadcaster and writer Simon Fanshawe, was a resounding success and a fitting celebration for the pioneering environmental and sustainability initiatives that have been championed in the tertiary education sector this year. The Awards Ceremony venue, The Great Hall, University of Birmingham, maintained the important connection between the Awards ethos and its continued support for the sector.

Winners and highly commended Awards were bestowed across 13 categories and included the inaugural launch of the Green Gown International Awards. The UK and Australasia winners across 3 of the categories went head-to-head for the coveted "International Award" for each category.

Guests included university and college representatives from across the UK, joined by leading figures from institutions such as the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE), Association of Colleges (AoC) and the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) to commend visionary projects which are pushing the sustainable good 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 social and environmental sustainability good practice, stating that "sustainability isn't going away: we can't let it. Although it remains a challenging and anxious time for universities and colleges, this year's winning and highly 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 gained from many sustainability actions are certainly a much needed and welcomed benefit. It is therefore all the more important the whole sector learns from not only the successes of the Green Gown Awards' winning and highly commended entries but also from all finalists. By promoting these good practice initiatives – nationally and internationally, we hope some of these great achievements can be replicated by others".

With the inaugural launch of the Green Gown International Awards, combining the excellence from the UK and Australasia, Leanne Denby, President of Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability and partner with the EAUC in delivering the International Awards says "internationalising the Awards provides further opportunity to share learning and experience to ensure that as a sector we continue to improve, progress and recognise the great work being done. These Awards show that the tertiary education sector is committed to sharing examples of best practice internationally and at home, further demonstrating the critical role tertiary education plays in delivering sustainability."

Applications went through a rigorous two-stage screening process and were reviewed and judged by a panel of sector representatives and experts. It is their substantial experience in the sector that truly makes the Green Gown Awards sector owned.

A selection of winning entries include: the University of Bradford (Construction and Refurbishment category sponsored by CUBO) with "The Green", a large scale sustainable student village allowing residents to experience and be educated in living a sustainable lifestyle; Lewisham College incorporating Southwark College (Learning and Skills category) with "Eco-skills to influence communities" innovatively providing skills training to hard to reach individuals; De Montfort University (Social Responsibility) with "Square Mile", an innovative project tackling deprivation through a wide range of disparate projects; Scotland's Rural College (Research and Development category) with "Green Cow" tackling one of the world's most intractable problems with immense significance for world agriculture and the University of Technology, Sydney (International Award – Student initiatives and Campaigns category sponsored by SFC) with "Bluebird Brekkie" showcasing an excellent example of an initiative run by students for students incorporating all aspects of sustainability – social, environmental and economic.

The Green Gown Winners' Brochure incorporating all this year's winning and highly commended entries can be found on the Green Gown Awards website www.greengownawards.org.uk.

In an effort to promote dissemination of good practice, all the 2012 Green Gown winners, highly commended entries and finalists have all been asked to provide a case study and a short video on their projects. These will be available from the Green Gown website in early 2013 and is supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Now in their 8th year, the Green Gown Awards were founded in 2004 by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project and have grown in reputation and stature year on year. The Green Gown Awards are firmly established as *the* most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in the tertiary education sector.

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Notes to the Editor

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Images can be found at www.greengownawards.org.uk for use.

About the EAUC:

With a membership of over 300 universities and colleges, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is THE sustainability champion for universities and colleges in the UK. Run by members, for its members, the EAUC seeks to work with members and partners to drive sustainability to the heart of tertiary education. For more information, visit www.eauc.org.uk.

The Sustainability Exchange www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk is just one of a number of projects the EAUC is currently involved in. It offers the UK's first sustainability information portal and online community and has been created with the support of 23 top sector organisations.

The EAUC also delivers LiFE (Learning in Future Environments), a comprehensive performance improvement system developed specifically to help colleges and universities to manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance. For more information on LiFE, visit www.thelifeindex.org.uk.

Green Gown Awards steering group members are:

Association of Colleges
Association of University Directors of Estates
British Universities Finance Directors Group
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement
Guild HE
Higher Education Funding Council for England
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Learning and Skills Improvement Service
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
National Union of Students Services Limited
Scottish Funding Council
Skills Funding Agency
The Higher Education Academy
Universities UK

Green Gown Awards 2012 - Winners

- South Thames College** *Best Newcomer*
- University of Cumbria** *Carbon Reduction*
- Walsall Adult and Community College** *Colleges and Smaller Institutions*
- University of Bradford** *Construction and Refurbishment*
- Manchester Metropolitan University** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*
- University of Manchester** *Courses*
- De Montfort University** *Green ICT*
- Lewisham College incorporating Southwark College** *Learning and Skills*
- University of the West of Scotland** *Modernisation: Effectiveness and Efficiency in the Estate*
- University of Leeds** *Promoting Positive Behaviour*
- Scotland's Rural College** *Research and Development*
- De Montfort University** *Social Responsibility*

Green Gown International Awards 2012 - Winners

- Manchester Metropolitan University, UK** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*
- De Montfort University, UK** *Social Responsibility*
- University of Technology, Sydney – Students' Association, Australia** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*

Green Gown Awards 2012 - Highly Commended

- Belfast Metropolitan College** *Best Newcomer*
- Bloomsbury Colleges** *Best Newcomer*
- Redbridge Institute of Adult Education** *Best Newcomer*
- University of Bradford** *Carbon Reduction*
- University of Cambridge** *Carbon Reduction*
- Circus Space** *Colleges and Smaller Institutions*
- Aston University** *Construction and Refurbishment*
- Harper Adams University College** *Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change*
- Nottingham Trent University** *Courses*
- Nottingham Trent University** *Green ICT*
- The University of Nottingham** *Learning and Skills*
- University of Worcester** *Modernisation: Effectiveness and Efficiency in the Estate*
- University of Salford** *Promoting Positive Behaviour*
- Aston University** *Research and Development*
- Hull College** *Social Responsibility*
- Nottingham Trent University** *Social Responsibility*
- London School of Economics and Political Science** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*
- University of Southampton** *Student Initiatives and Campaigns*

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