



Green Gown *Awards 2010*

Winners' Brochure

*The annual awards, recognising excellence
in sustainability within the
further and higher education sector*

Many thanks to the Green Gown Awards sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible



**The former
Learning and Skills Council**





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Foreword

Now in their 6th year, the Green Gown Awards are established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in the further and higher education sectors. With sustainability becoming a mainstream core business agenda, it is right that universities and colleges recognise the potential and responsibility they have to make the appropriate changes in order to meet the needs of our future green economy and society.

The awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are well respected by governments, funding councils, senior managers, academics and students. Their value is reflected in an increased number of applications this year and the two new categories that have been introduced.

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 financial benefit. The scale of this benefit will increase as policy measures and regulations increase the costs of poor environmental performance, and as English universities (and eventually, perhaps, all of UK further and higher education) face the prospect of it reducing their funding. Sustainability is therefore 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 (of which there are also more this year) and the rigorous assessment of applications by independent judges with great experience in the sector or the category topics. Their number and diversity demonstrates that the demands of sustainable development are relevant to everyone, and to every aspect of further and higher education.

Iain Patton

Chief Executive
Environmental Association
for Universities and Colleges

Peter James

Chair, Green Gowns Steering Group
Higher Education Environmental
Performance Improvement



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 now 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, Higher Education Academy (HEA), Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), The former Learning and Skills Council (LSC), 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 are gaining in strength and reputation. The number of applications has risen, with a record 191 applications submitted for 2010. This achievement underlines the value and recognition that winning offers and highlights the growing importance of sustainability with 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.

2010 Award Categories

This year's awards have 12 categories, including two new ones in which all learning organisations can showcase their achievements.

Carbon Reduction

This category recognises initiatives which have achieved significant reductions in the carbon footprint of a university or college.

Colleges and Smaller Institutions

This category recognises the difficulties which FE and smaller HE institutions have, relative to larger universities, in taking action in many areas. It encompasses any environment-related initiatives which contribute to sustainable development.

Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change

This category recognises sustained and successful activities, running for at least 5 years, to improve the performance of whole further and higher education institutions, campuses, faculties and buildings over a number of years.



Continuous Improvement - Specific Area

This category encompasses initiatives which have been sustained over a period of at least 5 years, supported by long-term investment and/or which span a number of areas.

Courses

This category recognises innovative actions with regard to sustainability in undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational courses in FE and HE institutions.

Green ICT

This category recognises the growing environmental importance of ICT within the sector, and more generally and can encompass a variety of actions that will help minimize environmental impacts associated with ICT use.

Research and Development

This category recognises research activity within universities and colleges which 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 – *NEW!*

This category recognises achievement in the development of skills relevant to sustainability. To provide a clear differentiation, the main focus of this category is activities which are not central to the pursuit of academic qualifications.

Social Responsibility

This category recognises initiatives by FE or HE institutions which create significant benefits for local communities, disadvantaged groups, and society as a whole in either the UK or developing countries.

Student Initiatives and Campaigns

This category recognises initiatives which 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

This category recognises new or refurbished buildings or campuses in further or higher education which have good energy and environmental performance.

Sustainable Procurement – *NEW!*

This category recognises actions to take greater account of environmental and/or social responsibility issues within procurement of buildings, goods and services.



Carbon Reduction

Winner

Pembrokeshire College

Highly Commended

Loughborough University

Sponsored by



Winner

Pembrokeshire College

Carbon Reduction

Taking big steps to leave a small footprint



Project snapshot

Pembrokeshire College has adopted a holistic approach in reducing carbon across its activities and operation having set out to become one of the most energy efficient further education colleges in the sector.

Engaging with staff and students in this CO₂ reduction challenge, the College has embedded an ethos of reducing CO₂ emissions at every opportunity, both in the way it operates and in the renewable technologies that are incorporated into building projects.

Such is the College's commitment to improving energy efficiency, financial savings made have been re-invested into other environmental schemes. During 2009 the College invested in an energy centre of excellence which allows students to learn how to install and maintain the latest renewable technologies into buildings – thus embedding the ethos of carbon reduction and energy efficiency across the whole of its business.

What it means to win

Winning a Green Gown Award would be a deserved accolade for the staff and students at the college, who have shown commitment for the environment and sustainability by developing and implementing various initiatives. Achieving this award would also support and encourage future initiatives the college wants to undertake.

What the judges say

The judges thought this was an excellent use of a carbon reduction initiative within the curriculum and were particularly impressed with how the project encompasses the entire campus and all staff.



Highly Commended

Loughborough University

Carbon Reduction
It's Better Off



Project snapshot

The 'It's Better Off' campaign is aimed at increasing environmental awareness and reducing energy usage across Loughborough University's campus. It has allowed a consistent, recognisable message to be promoted cross campus.

As part of the campaign the university introduced ideas for saving energy in the home, including an energy monitor loan scheme, and gave tips, advice and useful links via an interactive website.

Since the campaign's launch in February 2009, it recruited 254 voluntary environmental champions, saw monthly visitor numbers to the website increase by 141% and received high level support from the University's Executive Management Group.

In the first twelve months the campaign reduced electricity consumption by 5.75%, which equates to a financial saving of £119,000 and a reduction in carbon-usage of 708 tonnes. Moving forward, 'It's Better Off' will be used to promote the wider sustainability agenda covering travel and transport, waste and recycling, biodiversity and active lifestyles.

What it means to win

Winning this award would reinforce Loughborough's vision to be a 'demonstrator campus' utilising its pioneering research and teaching in sustainability in the operations of the University.



The judges felt that this project demonstrated a very good example of an awareness campaign. Loughborough University offered a cost effective initiative that was highly transferable amongst the sector.

What the judges say



**Colleges and
Smaller Institutions**

Winner
National Star College

Highly Commended
**Bradford College
&
Coleg Gwent**

Sponsored by
**The former
Learning and Skills Council**

National Star College



Colleges and Smaller Institutions

*Climate Change is not Just About Polar Bears –
Our Whole College Approach to Sustainability*

Project snapshot

Climate change is not just about polar bears and the loss of ice caps and sustainability is not just about climate change. This whole college approach is based on creating fun ways to engage students and staff in what are undoubtedly the most crucial issues of today – how to live as sustainable as possible on the planet, how to leave a legacy to be proud of and how to play a leading role in Social Responsibility.

The National Star College's commitment to sustainability encompasses all parts of college life. The Senior Management Team has had a long-term commitment to protecting the College's future, which historically has focused upon developing the infrastructure through sustainable practices. Focused whole college development training has impacted upon the culture and enabled a bottom up as well as a top down approach.

Initiatives have led to the appointment of sustainability champions, carbon reduction and energy saving programmes encouraging students and staff to focus on sustainability at college, home and in the wider community.

What it means to win

Winning would provide much deserved recognition to the students and staff who have enthusiastically put sustainability at the forefront of their day to day activities. It would enable us to be an exemplar to other colleges and organisations and empower us to deliver our message to them



This was an excellent example of a vibrant, collaborative initiative that involved exceptionally strong levels of staff and student engagement. The judges were particularly impressed with the forward thinking approach adopted by all and felt the actions made within the project reflected the strong sense of ambition.

Highly Commended

Bradford College

Colleges and Smaller Institutions *Green Solutions*



Project snapshot

Bradford College developed a recycling service, primarily to deal with its own recyclable waste utilising its own resources. After local successes the Portage team at Bradford College have promoted themselves and the section to be a dynamic real life working example of an innovative recycling service.

The Portage team at Bradford College instigated internal paper and cardboard recycling collections in 2006 within the facilities department as an alternative to paying external contractors.

The income has been reinvested back into the College with the purchase of an industrial shredding machine. This provides security shredding services for the College and has now expanded to the local University. Some of the shredded paper is sold as animal bedding for horses. The team have expanded to cater for the local business community collecting paper and card and offering shredding services.

Expansion has followed into plastic, wood and metal recycling and now internal food waste by means of composting. A vegetable garden and wormery has been built that will provide the college vegetables to put back into the restaurants.

What it means to win

Winning this award would be great for the employees who work so hard, care so much, to make this project work. We have had to cross hurdles and break down barriers to get where we are. This would be a fitting reward to boost the team onto the next stage.

The judges were particularly impressed with the benefits that this initiative created in terms of job creation and protection. It demonstrated the excellent collaborative work that can be achieved with partners and contractors. The judges thought Bradford College showed a clear ambition about taking the project further.



Highly Commended

Coleg Gwent



Colleges and Smaller Institutions *Recycling and Carbon Reduction*

Project snapshot

Having successfully implemented a comprehensive Environmental Management System in accordance with Green Dragon Standards, the college set clear objectives during 2008/09 to reduce its waste production, increase its recycle rate, reduce its energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. As a result the college achieved:

- 72.3% of all waste produced was recycled and prevented from being sent to land fill sites;
- 100% of all paper and cardboard disposed of via the blue bin scheme was recycled;
- A 6.47% reduction in the total energy used throughout the college;
- A 11% reduction in direct CO₂ emissions;
- A 5.35% reduction in water usage across the college.

As the largest FE college in Wales with some 1600 staff and 37000 students over 5 campuses Coleg Gwent understands the importance of good environmental and sustainability leadership within the further education sector.

What it means to win

Winning a Green Gown Award would demonstrate that by taking proactive actions with regard to environmental management and sustainability Coleg Gwent can demonstrate to other further education colleges that environmental aims can be achieved both effectively and efficiently.



The judges were particularly impressed by the whole College's approach to the initiative. They felt this was a comprehensive application that reflected real effort in the data submitted.



**Continuous Improvement -
Institutional Change**

Winner

University of the West of England (UWE)

Highly Commended

Kingston University

Sponsored by



University of the West of England (UWE)



University of the West of England

Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change

Whole Institution Holistic Sustainability at the University of the West of England

Project snapshot

Since 2005 UWE has successfully integrated a whole institution approach to sustainability and demonstrated real performance improvement. The university chose not to cherry pick the easy wins but instead take a long term approach to create a genuinely sustainable organisation.

Strong leadership from its Sustainability Board and a visionary sustainability strategy have delivered and enabled UWE to become one of the leading institutions for sustainability performance. Recognising the need for broad engagement and behavioural change, UWE has adopted a whole institution integrated management structure.

Now over 100 staff are directly engaged in sustainability either as operational managers, sustainability coordinators or champions. All parts of UWE have worked in partnership to enable us to achieve genuine and significant improvement in performance, including a 26% reduction in buildings' carbon emissions.

What it means to win

Being acknowledged by our peers for making a real contribution to sustainability would be a highly valued and honourable reward for our efforts. UWE's staff and students deserve recognition for their commitment to helping UWE achieve its vision of being recognised as one of the most sustainable UK universities.



The application demonstrated the embedding of sustainability into the institutional strategy with an integrated management approach to continuous improvement.

The judges particularly highlighted the strong collaboration with other institutions and the engagement from all staff and felt the initiative showed a significant breadth and depth of sustainability activity.

Highly Commended

Kingston University



Continuous Improvement - Institutional Change *Gingering Sustainability- pip to tree - the Steering Group for Sustainability at Kingston University*

Project snapshot

From pip-to-tree, embedding sustainability at Kingston is a collegiate journey. Driven initially by individual grass roots activity, sustainability is now an acknowledged Senior Management remit for the University.

Since the 2002 formation of a consortium of academics, support staff, estates and facilities managers and student representatives (the Steering Group for Sustainability), sustainability has permeated all areas at Kingston.

Real-world sustainability has been promoted through new courses, research and consultancy; has been embedded into curricula, campus management and governance; business and community links have been established and utilised. External awards, large and small, local and national, have followed.

Sharing the journey has been Kingston's hallmark, from in-house debate and action to presentations at national and international events, Kingston's people have sought to contribute and promote the sustainability agenda. In 2009 the University established a Sustainability Hub to coordinate these activities more effectively from a core position.

The tree is blossoming.

What it means to win

The 'dream come true'. Winning would confirm the relevance and importance of our vision for Sustainable Kingston to everyone who has supported us. Winning would show that the small actions of individuals and lobbying of ginger groups really can make a difference. Change need not always begin at the top.

What the judges say *This was a strong story of institutional change that showed a wide range of sustainability activity. The judges were particularly impressed with how sustainability had permeated all areas at Kingston University*





**Continuous Improvement -
Specific Area**

Winner

University of Gloucestershire

Highly Commended

University of Bradford

&

University of Nottingham

Sponsored by



Winner



University of Gloucestershire

Continuous Improvement - Specific Area

Step Changes: Education and Learning for Sustainability at the University of Gloucestershire

Project snapshot

Over the past 20 years, the University of Gloucestershire (UoG) has pioneered and progressively extended sustainability thinking and skills in the curriculum. Its core commitment is to ensure that all UoG students, regardless of specialism, have opportunities to develop the capabilities and confidence to meet sustainability challenges in their professional and personal lives.

UoG, over time has learnt that changes are required to achieve the ambitious goal of offering sustainability education to all students. A fundamental shift of gear at executive level led to the introduction of new strategies, building upon the innovative work of individuals and ongoing collective learning. Creating institutional support mechanisms was key to transforming the learning for our students.

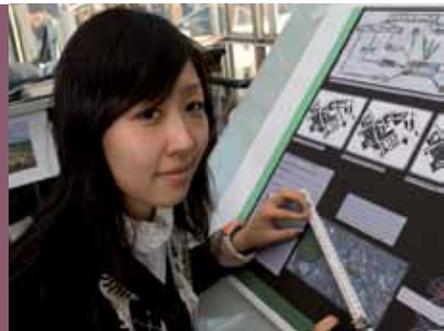
These actions are bearing fruit: graduates have skills for life and are more employable; they are in a good position to make a positive contribution to professions; as well as, act as change agents in their communities.

What it means to win

Winning this award would give recognition to staff who have worked hard to develop this exciting innovation. UoG hopes to see changes unfold over the longer term. The award could assist in spreading the motivation for change.

What the judges say

This judges felt that significant progress had been made in an important, challenging area. The initiative had very strong potential to be replicated across the sector with the University of Gloucestershire already attempting to do this.



Highly Commended

University of Bradford



Continuous Improvement - Specific Area

Being Well on a Greener Campus – Our Campus Well-Being Programme

Project snapshot

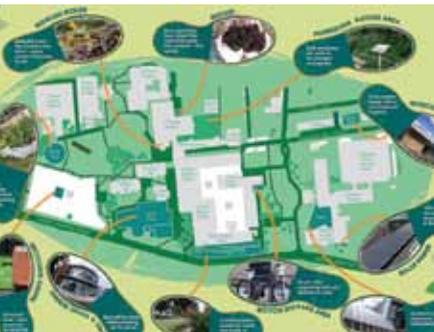
The University of Bradford has embarked on a visionary and transformational inner-city campus regeneration programme to promote well-being for all.

Acknowledging a number of significant negative problems surrounding the campus and well-being - a bold decision was taken in 2004 to regenerate a 'new' green, safe, healthy and socially inclusive campus. The programme integrates the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainability by investing in new and refurbished sustainable campus buildings and facilities, connecting these with major biodiversity and ecological landscaping projects to create a green heart whilst removing unsafe, inefficient, unhealthy and aesthetically depressing features.

These changes are creating new forms of activity (e.g. student growing group, staff and student annual bird watching survey), innovative schemes (orchards in the new car parks, new urban pond which will support sustainable urban drainage and biodiversity), institution-wide programmes (well-being festival) and new ways for staff and students to become involved in taking ownership of their own Campus Well-Being.

What it means to win

Winning would promote Campus Well-Being to the sector and wider society to show ways of promoting sustainable campus management from modest beginnings. It would promote institutional confidence to go further and maintain leadership for the sector on a key Higher Education issue.



The judges particularly liked the link to the well being agenda and felt the application brought in several aspects of sustainability, engaging staff and improving the environment for the wider community.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

University of Nottingham



Continuous Improvement - Specific Area

From Mower to Meadow, Incineration to Regeneration and creating an Open Community in just a decade' – the story of the transition of the grounds management to a sustainable landscape

Project snapshot

The University has improved and enhanced its landscapes and open spaces whilst expanding its academic and residential facilities by developing a nearby brownfield site into its Jubilee Campus.

An environmentally complimentary building strategy was developed focussing on high quality landscapes of indigenous species integrated with low carbon building designs with green roofs, rain water capture and lakes. There have been increases in native flora and fauna species, especially birdlife making Jubilee campus their home.

A review of the Grounds Maintenance section integrated sustainability into operational practices. Green spaces have been developed into meadow areas, increasing biodiversity. Green waste is recycled as mulches, reducing pesticide usage.

Benefits include new environmental understanding and skills for staff. Importantly, engagement with local communities has resulted in appreciation and understanding of the importance the University places on sustainability.

What it means to win

Winning a Green Gown Award would recognise the integrated, holistic work carried out by the University's Grounds and Projects teams in delivering significant sustainability initiatives. It would act as a springboard to demonstrate the success of the University's sustainability strategy and stimulate support from staff and students for future activities.

What the judges say *This application showed the journey taken by the University of Nottingham and the judges highlighted the wide range of initiatives related to the campus improvement programme.*





Courses

Winner

**The London School of Economics
and Political Science**

Highly Commended

University of Plymouth & Somerset College

Sponsored by



Winner

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Courses

LSE100 The LSE Course: Understanding the Causes of Things



Project snapshot

LSE100 is a compulsory course for incoming undergraduates in 2010–11 running alongside students' degrees. It introduces students to the fundamental elements of thinking as a social scientist. LSE100 draws on a range of subjects studied at LSE – be it economics, law, philosophy or geography – blending lectures, group classes and written coursework in order to explore real problems and 'big' questions which have world-wide economic, environmental and social implications:

- How should we manage climate change?
- Can we make poverty history?
- What caused the financial crisis?
- Is population growth a good thing?
- Does culture matter?
- Why are great events so difficult to predict?
- Who owns ideas?

The curriculum promotes an interdisciplinary-approach to understanding sustainability-related problems. It enables students to find and assess evidence, interpret and explain competing theories and present arguments persuasively when, for example, finding and presenting economic solutions to climate change.

What it means to win

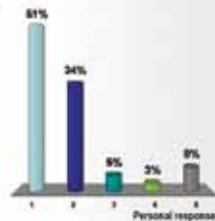
LSE is proud of its practical progress in implementing its Environmental Policy and this award shows that innovation in the curriculum has played its part. The LSE100 course builds on LSE's strengths to produce graduates who combine depth in their field with an interdisciplinary understanding of key environmental and social issues.

What the judges say

The judges were very impressed with this exciting, innovative and bold whole institution approach. Reflecting a clear commitment and willingness to lead, the LSE has created for its students an invaluable trans-disciplinary space.

"There is a powerful case for strong action on climate change"

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Unsure
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree



Highly Commended

University of Plymouth & Somerset College



Courses

Embedding sustainability across the curriculum

Project snapshot

The award of a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the University of Plymouth has enabled it to move forward from an established, but partly manifested, sustainability agenda to a broader and deeper commitment to embedding sustainability principles across all areas of university work.

As the CETL funding comes to an end there is clear evidence that sustainability is being deeply embedded in the curricular of all schools and faculties across the University.

A clear manifestation of this is the 'Outside the Green Box' project in partnership with Somerset College. So far, this has resulted in 900 trainee teachers graduating from the University and 8 FE Colleges in the South West with plans to introduce ESD to their students in subjects ranging from Health & Social Care to Construction, Art & Design to Engineering and Skills for Life to Hair and Beauty. This will influence students in a range of contexts including colleges, adult and community learning, the public services and private training providers.

What it means to win

Such prestigious and influential recognition of the quality of our curriculum and professional development project to embed ESD within our teacher training programmes for the Lifelong Learning Sector, would provide the impetus for our developments to influence even more teacher training providers, trainee teachers and their students in the UK.

With its foundation in the successful Centre for Sustainable Futures CETL, this pioneering course has gone much further with a new approach to teacher education. Being highly transferable this model of embedded ESD is having a powerful ripple effect on school, FE and HE teaching.

What the judges say





Green ICT

Winner

University of Liverpool

Highly Commended

Warrington Collegiate

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University of Liverpool



Green ICT

University of Liverpool PowerDown

Project snapshot

Liverpool University found that student walk-up computers were left running all the time, resulting in hundreds of computers busily doing nothing in buildings that were closed and locked outside business hours. Built-in Windows power management tools were unsuitable. The university investigated third-party solutions but found that none suited their needs.

Therefore Liverpool University devised its own method, which uses existing Windows features, simple scripts, and freeware utilities to power off idle computers when nobody is logged on. The resulting solution was named PowerDown.

Once distributed, PowerDown immediately avoided more than a million hours of needless uptime per month.

The University has made PowerDown freely available, allowing other organisations, both within the UK and around the world, to get control of their electricity bills and their carbon footprints.

What it means to win

The University of Liverpool is actively striving to reduce its carbon footprint. A Sustainability Strategy is being developed and initiatives such as PowerDown are encouraged to support these endeavours. Winning a Green Gown Award would validate our efforts and show stakeholders how committed we are to sustainability.



In PowerDown, Liverpool University has developed a tried and tested tool of huge value to the sector. The costs/benefits of the software are outstanding as is Liverpool's selfless willingness to make it freely available to the rest of the sector.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

Warrington Collegiate

Green ICT

IT is Green at Warrington Collegiate



Warrington Collegiate

Project snapshot

Warrington Collegiate is a major player in the local area and can act as an influence to both local people and local businesses. Having recently redeveloped its campus, Warrington looked at a number of other initiatives varying from wind power, solar power, recycling and cycling to work. Warrington have regulated the flow of power in to the building and reduced it from 230 volts to 220 volts, saving a small fortune. The one particular project that stood out as having a huge environmental benefit, whilst having a short payback time with a lot of extra benefits, was reducing the energy consumption of our computer systems.

So to date the college has worked on:

- Server Virtualisation
- Start, Shutdown, Restart
- Greener Printing
- Powersave
- In-house designed Shutdown and Power Off button
- ICT Recycling

The success of our projects has increased environmental awareness within the college. There is a real interest in saving energy from both the staff and the students. The next step is to offer guidance to staff and students for saving energy at home.

What it means to win

Winning would prove to others that there are both business benefits and cost savings to be had from projects that lower an organisations environmental impact. It would show that Warrington Collegiate are at the cutting edge technology-wise and that our hard work has paid off.

The judges were very impressed and encouraged to see a FE college punch well above its weight in this category. Warrington Collegiate demonstrates a very wide ranging portfolio of Green ICT activity which really pushes the agenda further and wider in FE.





Research and Development

Winner

Scottish Agricultural College

Highly Commended

**De Montfort University
&
Centre for Sustainable Fashion,
London College of Fashion**

Sponsored by



Winner

Scottish Agricultural College

Research and Development

Developing greenhouse gas marginal abatement cost curves for the agriculture, land use and forestry sector in the UK



Project snapshot

SAC has developed Marginal Abatement Cost Curves for the agriculture, land use and forestry sector on behalf of the Committee on Climate Change to inform the setting of UK carbon budgets. A MACC is a policy-support tool designed to identify the most cost-effective ways of reducing pollution. They show by how much different measures can reduce emissions and how much that reduction will cost.

The work has been used to develop economically efficient mitigation strategies by the UK and Scottish Governments and the farming industry. It also allows the cost effectiveness of mitigation strategies to be compared across sectors (e.g. agriculture, waste, transport, power, industry and domestic energy consumption).

The agriculture, land use and forestry sector is responsible for a significant proportion of the UK's Greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are increasingly recognised for their potential to help meet UK commitments on greenhouse gas reductions.

What it means to win

A Green Gown Award would be a great achievement for the Scottish Agricultural College. It would reflect the emphasis given in our research programmes and outreach activities, over the past five years, to the climate change agenda and would help promote our work to a wider

What the judges say This significant project demonstrated collaborative research that has stimulated additional research projects to be commissioned. It not only has a wide application for UK land use but is transferable in other countries and has been integrated into government policy. This is definitely a project that is not only benefiting one company.



De Montfort University

Research and Development
WATTBOX



Project snapshot

The WATTBOX, developed within the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development at DMU, began as a topic for a part-time PhD in 2004 and has progressed to a funded research programme and spin-out company.

It is an automated heating control system which:

- learns householders' daily routines and preferences from their use of electricity and hot water;
- uses this information to ensure that heating is only provided when needed and at the minimum temperature needed for comfort;
- is able to manage complex energy sources in the home (such as combined heat and power plants installed with solar hot water heating) so that they are used with maximum efficiency;
- delivers energy savings of about 10-20% relative to conventional controls;
- improved comfort can be provided to vulnerable people who have difficulty with conventional controls.

The Wattbox can be used in existing housing stock to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and deliver savings. The system can also be used to integrate existing and developing technologies such as domestic CHP.

What it means to win

De Montfort University has made significant progress in addressing sustainability issues through its teaching, estate management and in its research. Winning a Green Gown Award would be a fitting reward for the endeavours of the IESD and DMU in mainstreaming sustainability into its activities.



The judges recognised that this behavioural-based approach provided the opportunity to optimise heating and hot water control. They highlighted that although this was simple technology to use, it had not been done before and that the potential from this technology for massive cost savings was evident.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion

Research and Development
Centre for Sustainable Fashion



Centre for
Sustainable Fashion
London College
of Fashion

Project Snapshot

The Centre for Sustainable Fashion provokes, challenges and questions the fashion status quo.

Through collaboration the Centre designs transforming solutions that balance ecology, society and culture. The Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion develops research, curriculum, pedagogy and business innovation to support, inspire and create innovative future facing approaches to fashion.

Established in 2008, the CSF is a multidisciplinary centre of research, experimentation and collaboration, using design as the stimulus for culture change towards sustainability in fashion across higher education, industry and government.

It is the only organisation of its kind and has achieved significant indicators of success in the two years since it launched, building a strong platform to offer continued support and inspiration to educators and professionals across the creative industries.

What it means to win

Winning a Green Gown Award would give recognition to the HE sector for being progressive, innovative and ready to tackle the major issues of our era. Fashion is a great communicator and we believe that through radical thought and strategic change we can challenge accepted practices for a truly sustainable future.

What the judges say
This application demonstrated how the London College of Fashion thought laterally and holistically about the different ways Research and Development can change an industry.





Skills

Winner

Bedford College

Highly Commended

Coventry University

&

Keele University

Sponsored by

**The former
Learning and Skills Council**

Winner

Bedford College

Skills

Skills for a Low Carbon Economy



Project Snapshot

Bedford College is fully committed to developing a workforce with a clear knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and the ability to contribute to creating a low carbon economy.

Sustainability, as a key college priority, is embedded into all training programmes, preparing learners for work in a Low Carbon Resource Efficient Economy. There is a particular focus on areas with the highest potential impact on reducing UK's carbon emissions; Construction, Motor Vehicle and Building Services. A number of community sustainability initiatives provide real-life work experiences for students, enhancing their learning while supporting local developments.

The college plays a highly proactive role in national sustainability initiatives including many FE-sector developments, contribution to Sector Skills Consultations and Round Table discussions on Skills for a LCREE.

What it means to win

Winning this award would be a thoroughly deserved recognition of the excellent work and dedication of staff at Bedford College in responding to the national low carbon skills agenda.

This would help increase sector-wide awareness of our achievements, enabling us to better contribute to related FHE-sector developments.

What the judges say
This was an impressive application with an encompassing approach that showed genuine commitment and dedication to sustainability. Bedford College demonstrated their outward looking approach and ability to disseminate information to other institutions and partners.



Highly Commended

Coventry University



Skills

Add+Vantage Programme: The Environmentally Aware Graduate

Project Snapshot

Coventry University launched its unique Add+vantage Scheme in October 2006 to help students to improve their employability whilst studying. All of the modules in the Add+vantage Scheme have been selected to meet the requirements of employers, and stand alone as modules that enhance employability or support the growing number of students who want to set up their own businesses on completing their degree. The Add+vantage Scheme is available to all students on undergraduate degree courses. Modules are credit-bearing and mandatory.

Environmentally-Aware Graduate modules are aimed at students who wish to develop an awareness of environmental issues both personally or in the workplace. The scheme demonstrates the importance of environmental skills to employers and undergraduates. Environmentally-Aware Graduate modules offer students a number of perspectives on environment and sustainability – from personal carbon impact to fair trade and risk management.

What it means to win

Coventry University is increasingly becoming an environmentally sustainable university and is proud to be equipping our students with the skills required to lead the UK, and the world, into a sustainable future. A Green Gown Award would be extremely beneficial in providing national recognition of this mission.



The judges were particularly impressed by the mainstreaming of sustainability skills within undergraduates and felt these were very transferable to other institutions.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

Keele University

Skills

Project Green – Keele University's Sustainable Business Programme



KEELE
UNIVERSITY

Project snapshot

Project Green at Keele University pulls together a unique blend of private, public and third sector partners to offer 185 unemployed graduates up to 12 weeks work experience to complete an environmental business challenge. The scheme seeks to address unemployment in the West Midlands by providing practical work experience and vocational training, working towards narrowing the skills gap in the environmental and sustainable business sector.

To date 114 graduates have been placed with 92 businesses. Reported benefits have spanned across all partners and include direct impact on skills, finances, and the environment. The University has seen the benefits of heightened profile, recruitment and module development. Companies have seen CO₂ savings, improved resource efficiency, new business development, and access to graduate level talent.

Graduates have benefitted from new skills, related industry work experience and academic credits towards a future career in the low carbon economy. 36 graduates have been offered further work opportunities as a result of Project Green.

What it means to win

Project Green demonstrates Keele's environmental policy in action; touching all areas of University life from research, curriculum, community and business, and ultimately working towards our plan to become a hub for sustainability and a carbon neutral campus. Winning the Green Gown Award would confirm and recognise our long standing environmental commitment.

What the judges say *The judges felt this entry showed very impressive engagement from a high number of employers and observed a good rate of conversion of placements to ongoing work. This application had a positive influence on Keele University's business.*

Keele University's
Sustainable Business Programme

**PROJECT
GREEN**



Social Responsibility

Winner

University of Strathclyde

Highly Commended

Hull College

Sponsored by



Winner

University of Strathclyde

Social Responsibility
Engineering Excellence in Renewable Energy



Project snapshot

Staff from the University of Strathclyde's Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering (EEE) are working with local communities, education institutes and national ministries in The Gambia and Malawi to establish models for sustainable renewable energy development through the installation of solar panels in rural communities.

The projects focus on strong community involvement in the supply of electricity, from scoping and design to installation and in-life maintenance. University staff work with the communities and their respective governments' Energy Departments to establish resources, training and support for rural communities to own and benefit from their own solar-powered electricity supply. The solar power systems bring energy and the potential for income-generating enterprises to pay for the installation, while also allowing better on-site health care (drug refrigeration, lighting for emergency operations), and education (extending school usage hours through provision of lighting).

What it means to win

This award would provide an endorsement of the project's mission from our esteemed peers; building capacity required to empower the people of developing countries to engage in their own personal development, and the sustainable development of their nation, through the provision of clean and sustainable energy to those in greatest need.

The University of Strathclyde demonstrated a unique initiative that addresses social, economic and environmental factors to benefit students, the university and the international community. The judges commented how this exciting initiative is easily replicable throughout the sector.



Highly Commended

Hull College

Social Responsibility

Supporting Learner Wellbeing: Alcohol Awareness



Project snapshot

HCUK Colleges (Hull, Goole and Harrogate College) actively promote 4 values which are Excellence, Respect, Innovation and Celebration, and proactively seek to deliver a range of underpinning Citizenship and social awareness programmes to positively influence learner behaviour.

Since September 2008, over 4000 learners have undertaken the Level 1 Certificate in Alcohol Awareness as part of their induction. This qualification supports these values. It also provides an early qualification for young people to demonstrate their understanding of the social and physical effects of alcohol, and supports the Colleges' in their moral obligation to learners raising their awareness of social issues.

This initiative equips the young learners with a social awareness of issues that surround alcohol and to develop responsible attitudes to the drinking culture. The size of HCUK allows the initiative to influence the behaviours of a significant number of young people, with sites within Hull, Goole and Harrogate.

What it means to win

Winning a Green Gown Award would give external recognition of the achievements of both the learners, staff and college approach to its Corporate Social Responsibility. We would be proud to win such a prestigious and well recognised award which would endorse our commitment and dedication to sustainability and sustainable communities.



Hull College has created an initiative that addresses a pressing social issue demonstrating wide benefits in the social community with a reduction in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour. This initiative is easily replicable throughout the sector and provides invaluable skills to the local area.

What the judges say



Student Initiatives and Campaigns

Winner

Cardiff University

Highly Commended

Aberdeen University Students' Association

&

Lancaster University Students Union

Sponsored by



Cardiff University

Student Initiatives and Campaigns
Your Uni Fruit and Veg Co-op



Project snapshot

At the University of Cardiff 'Your Uni Fruit and Veg Co-op' offers more seasonal and local fruit, vegetables, salad and stir-fry ingredients in low cost, reusable cloth bags to Cardiff University students and staff.

In addition to environmental savings in the supply chain, it is qualitatively agreed by customers that less packaging means less impact than food from supermarkets. While independent analysis shows economic benefits to members (£2.50 saving on the equivalent purchase compared to supermarkets), customers view the Co-op to have motivated them to eat more healthily, be more aware of environmental issues and drive less!

Finally, the Co-op also generates a Social Premium to ensure sustainability and invest in other community nutrition projects – such as a sister project in a deprived area of Cardiff.

The Co-op has been featured as best practice in university and regional literature, features in a documentary film and has already been reproduced at UWIC University as a highly impact and replicable model.

What it means to win

While being a wonderful recognition of all the time and effort invested by our group, a Green Gown Award would be highly prized as a 'call to action' – proudly demonstrating the potential of enterprising student initiatives in reducing environmental impact and promoting social justice both now, and in the future.



This is a strong student led initiative that encompasses a wide range of environmental and social responsibilities and has the ability to involve a large number of students. The judges highlighted how this is a financially sustainable project with innovative elements which could be replicated elsewhere.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

Aberdeen University Students' Association

Student Initiatives and Campaigns
Copenhagen Seal the Deal Awareness Week



Project snapshot

In Aberdeen, the university's location in the oil capital of Europe gave fuel to the importance of raising awareness about climate change. Copenhagen: Seal the Deal Awareness week engaged the students of the University of Aberdeen, local residents and students of the neighbouring University, Robert Gordon.

The Copenhagen: Seal the Deal Awareness Week was held in the months of November and December (30th Nov- 6th December). A number of 'Create Change' societies in the university as well as the Aberdeen University Student Association and the Environment Office collaborated to raise awareness about climate change and the importance of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. A drop-in information point, competitions, presentations, talks, music events and films were held in a bid to provoke discussion and debate about the topic of climate change and sustainability.

What it means to win

Winning would be a recognition of the achievements of our student run societies and the University in raising environmental awareness. The Aberdeen University Students Association understands the need for raising awareness about the issues of climate change and sustainable development. Winning a Green Gown Award would support the environmental community in Aberdeen.

The judges commended this campaign's topicality and emphasised the excellent organisational skills of the students involved. The application demonstrated effective collaborations within the community and neighbouring universities and the range of activities demonstrated how they sought to engage wide audiences.



What is at Stake in Copenhagen?

**Monday 30th November 5-6pm,
Aberdeen University New Kings 6**

A Question Time Event

The Panel: Aberdeen University Academics

The Audience: Anyone interested in Climate change and what all the fuss about Copenhagen is about!

The Questions: Real issues that affect all of us, posed by members of the audience

Highly Commended

Lancaster University Student Union



Student initiatives and Campaigns *Green Lancaster's Carbon Competition*

Project snapshot

GreenLancaster supports Lancaster University students to translate their concern for environmental issues into action. In October 2009 the *GreenLancaster* hub was created at the heart of campus. Since opening its doors in October 2009, 252 students have led initiatives that include creating woodland walks on campus and selling recycled bikes.

The Carbon Competition is the flagship initiative; a cost-effective energy monitoring system that is used by students and has significant potential to reduce energy consumption in student residences in Lancaster and the UK. It is the unique combination of students being incentivised and their motivation and buy-in that gives this system the potential to make significant energy reductions.

Based upon the evidence of the data collected from October 2009 – March 2010, University Facilities have agreed to roll the project out to other colleges on campus over the summer.

What it means to win

To win a Green Gown Award would be a fantastic endorsement for the students who have put all of their energy and enthusiasm into making this project a success.



This project had a strong focus on changing behaviours through raising awareness. The application demonstrated effective trialling and testing new angles and technology along with working effectively with stakeholders to find bespoke solutions.

What the judges say



**Sustainable Construction
and Refurbishment**

Winner

University of Derby

Highly Commended

Harper Adams University College

&

Leeds Metropolitan University

Sponsored by



University of Derby

Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment
Iconic towers - "Climate poacher turns gamekeeper"



Project snapshot

At over 50 years old the three tower blocks at the university's main campus have finally been transformed into an iconic 'climate gamekeeper'.

Transformed from a climate poacher as a result of its original timber/metal single glazed windows, the towers have been dramatically transformed by the introduction of a complete new external cladding or 'thermal coat' as well as the use of architectural integrated wind turbines. This project has improved the towers' energy efficiency, significantly contributed to the university's record of reducing its overall carbon footprint and created a contemporary design that now matches a modern visual identity.

The project also included the installation of over 150 PV cells and 9 architectural integrated wind turbines, producing around 30,000kWh of renewable power year on year – reducing the university's carbon emissions still further.

What it means to win

National and sector recognition of what we feel has been a comprehensive and strategic approach to making environmental improvements on our estate; an endorsement of Derby as a University that champions environmentally friendly policies.



This application demonstrated an excellent example of what can be achieved on existing 1960's buildings and is highly replicable. It showed good avoidance of demolition and waste generation supported by strong data demonstrating the sustainability benefits of refurbishment.

What the judges say

Highly Commended



Harper Adams University College

Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment

Construction of a small scale, cost effective building with big environmental and educational benefits

Project snapshot

Harper Adams has constructed a low-carbon, timber-framed teaching and equipment storage building for its Countryside, Environment, Leisure and Tourism students; designed to showcase construction methods that have environmental, time, cost and practical benefits.

Making extensive use of locally-sourced materials, the building allows students to directly connect learning with their teaching environment. Through a research collaboration with WRAP and Vital Earth, Harper Adams are integrating novel methods of providing green roofs and increasing biodiversity.

The building has many other sustainable features, such as lime-rendered straw bale walls with the straw sourced from the University College Farm. The straw content can be seen through a specially-designed viewing window in the teaching room. The building has south westerly orientation for maximum solar gain and natural light, and uses recycled materials in the roof for additional insulation.

This building demonstrates that environmental design can be incorporated into lower cost projects and is readily adaptable.

What it means to win

As a land-based institution we are committed to the environment. Winning an award for research and innovation would acknowledge how sustainable construction can be achieved in small-scale developments. It would also demonstrate how sustainability has become culturally embedded in our building designs and become common practice.

What the judges say

The judges were particularly impressed by the unique FE/HE building and the innovative design of space. The good use of local materials was commended on as was the low cost of the construction.



Leeds Metropolitan University



Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment

Implementing Leeds Metropolitan University's sustainable construction policy

Project snapshot

Leeds Metropolitan University has implemented its sustainable construction policy across two major developments valued at £70 million pounds. This has achieved:

- BREEAM excellent ratings (the highest available at the time)
- Conducted WRAP assessments on recycled content
- Used Whole Life Costing to develop investment appraisals

Also installed was a combined heat and power (CHP) plant, rainwater harvesting, Passivhaus design and certification for two townhouse halls of residences and increased cycle facilities including secure cycle cages, showers, lockers and changing rooms. £500,000 in total.

LMU also demonstrates in detail the revenue savings made as a result of this investment and how its sustainability policies are developing into a mature model between environment factors, social factors, cost and space.

What it means to win

The award would give fantastic recognition to everyone involved in implementing our sustainability policies, the teamwork involved internally, with design teams, partners and construction companies and demonstrate what can be achieved with the right senior management support from all parties.

The judges felt this application addressed a wide range of sustainability issues. They commended the excellent provision of data and the willingness of Leeds Metropolitan University to share their data with the FE and HE sector.

What the judges say





Sustainable Procurement

Winner

Durham University

Highly Commended

University of Leeds

Sponsored by



Durham University



Sustainable Procurement

How supplier engagement addresses the Corporate Social Agenda at Durham University

Project snapshot

Through structured engagement with current and prospective suppliers Durham University's aim is to open up competition for university business and introduce a more level playing field. As part of the engagement process suppliers are educated on its corporate social responsibility mandate and how the university is looking for suppliers to act in a socially responsible way and match university policy.

Whilst Durham University encourages small medium enterprises and local suppliers it does not actively discourage other suppliers from taking part in competitive quotation or tender exercises and the universities final decision will always be based on which supplier can deliver the best value for money solution. The university recognises that social issues should be a first thought, not an afterthought and are educating suppliers to think in the same manner.

Durham University has also worked with other organisations/institutions to share best practice and would like to continue to develop this work.

What it means to win

This prestigious award will take us one (big) step closer to our goals of helping to create further engagement with other organisations and institutions whilst widening the scope and impact on the sustainable agenda. The award does not mean we have succeeded but recognises we are on the right path.



Durham University provided an excellent application that showed a good model of engagement with small and medium enterprises (SME's) and local businesses. The strategy is embedded into their practices and robust communication channels are present with suppliers and internal staff making it highly successful.

What the judges say

Highly Commended

University of Leeds



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Sustainable Procurement *Furniture Re-use Project*

Project snapshot

The University of Leeds has spent considerably on new furniture since 2004, largely as a result of its capital build programme. Typically, nearly half the annual total spending on furniture was for capital projects and refurbishments, the remainder being spent on individual departmental purchases. Consequently, a considerable amount of furniture was also disposed, creating negative environmental and financial impacts through increased landfill, new purchase, labour and skip costs.

In March 2009, a secondment post was created to review current practices and provide recommendations for change. Following an initial report, the secondment was extended and an online reuse network was launched. Essentially an email distribution list, this network removed the need for storage areas, connected departments, reduced our waste and made savings of over £200k in the first year of operation.

This project was initiated by Estate Services. However, the success has been largely due to the enthusiasm and goodwill of the network membership across the university campus.

What it means to win

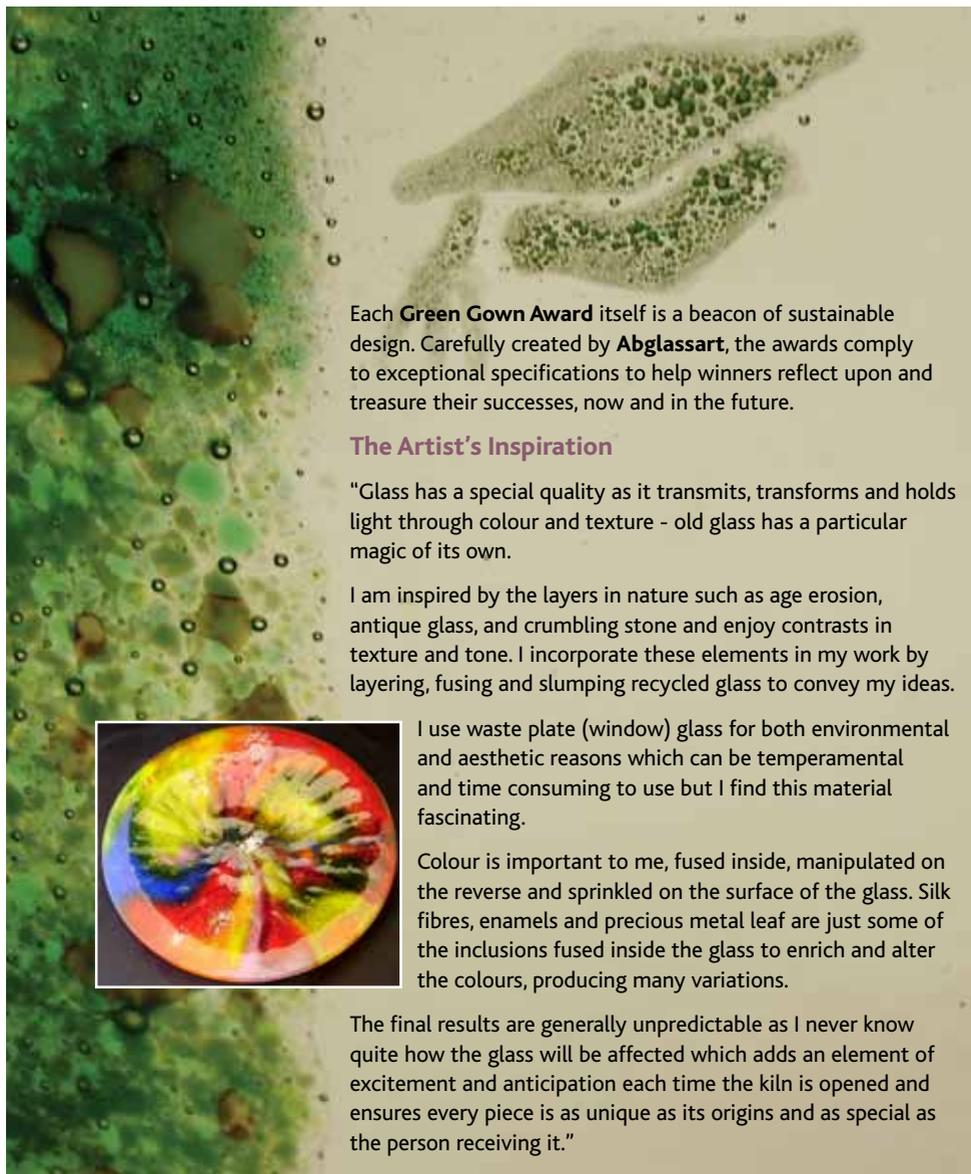
Winning this Green Gown Award within the first 12 months of development would provide motivation for our staff and students who have worked voluntarily to ensure success. As this project has relied on a non-committal involvement, this award would be a big driver for future projects in this area.

What the judges say

The judges commended this very simple and highly effective initiative stating that it addresses the basics of sustainable procurement. This project provided a good case in saving resources.



The Trophy - Treasured from Inspiration to Acceptance



Each **Green Gown Award** itself is a beacon of sustainable design. Carefully created by **Abglassart**, the awards comply to exceptional specifications to help winners reflect upon and treasure their successes, now and in the future.

The Artist's Inspiration

"Glass has a special quality as it transmits, transforms and holds light through colour and texture - old glass has a particular magic of its own.

I am inspired by the layers in nature such as age erosion, antique glass, and crumbling stone and enjoy contrasts in texture and tone. I incorporate these elements in my work by layering, fusing and slumping recycled glass to convey my ideas.

I use waste plate (window) glass for both environmental and aesthetic reasons which can be temperamental and time consuming to use but I find this material fascinating.

Colour is important to me, fused inside, manipulated on the reverse and sprinkled on the surface of the glass. Silk fibres, enamels and precious metal leaf are just some of the inclusions fused inside the glass to enrich and alter the colours, producing many variations.

The final results are generally unpredictable as I never know quite how the glass will be affected which adds an element of excitement and anticipation each time the kiln is opened and ensures every piece is as unique as its origins and as special as the person receiving it."

For more information about the trophy and the designer, please contact Adele Billingham at info@abglassart.co.uk



Sustainable Events

The Green Gown Awards Night is run in accordance with the EAUC's high expectations of sustainable standards. In order to compliment and represent the interest of its guests the evening has been planned and delivered with sustainability at the fore.

The Swan at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is an apt venue for this year's ceremony. Set against the principals of theatrical design - with all props, costumes and sets being recycled and reused as a matter of course, inspiration for this year's event was found. In addition, The Globe's central London location is ideal for train travel and public transportation which should help lead to a low carbon event.

From the ethically sourced and seasonally produced menu to the organic candles, sustainably printed brochures and the use of local artists to produce our music and videos the event has been meticulously designed in order to ensure guests can enjoy an elegant yet sustainable evening.

All glass bottles and paper, including the Green Gown Awards Menu, will be recycled after the ceremony closes and all branded materials remaining will be used for other events.

The EAUC would like to thank all guests for attending the Green Gown Awards 2010 and hopes that they had a pleasant and memorable evening.



2010 Green Gown Award Judges

Action Sustainability

AoC - Association of Colleges

AUDE - Association of Directors of Estates

AUE - Association of University Engineers

AUPO - Association of University Procurement Officers

Becta

BRE - Building Research Establishment

Carbon Trust

CUBO - College and University Business Officers

EAUC - Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

Forum for the Future

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

HOLEX

IEMA - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

JISC - Joint Information Systems Committee

LSC - Former Learning and Skills Council

LSIS - Learning and Skills Improvement Service

NEUPC - North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium

NUS - National Union of Students

OFSTED Office for Standards in Education

People and Planet

Salix Finance

SFA - Skills Funding Agency

Sodexo

SPCE - Sustainable Procurement Centre of Excellence

SUPC - Southern Universities Procuring Consortium

UCISA - Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association UUK- University of Bradford

UtC - Universities that Count

Universities UK

Green Gown Awards 2011



Want to get your name in next year's brochure?

Is your institution a leader in sustainability? Are you making positive changes through exciting initiatives?

Then get yourself recognised in the leading sustainability awards scheme for universities and colleges across the UK in next year's Green Gown Awards. The 2010 Awards scheme will open in January 2010, so watch out for further details and how to apply via the Green Gown Awards' website www.eauc.org.uk or email greengown@eauc.org.uk

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



**The former
Learning and Skills Council**



Founded by HEEPI, the Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC.
For more information, please visit www.eauc.org.uk

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 Gown Awards team or steering group will be liable for any misrepresentation.



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