



PRESS RELEASE
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Sustainability Steams Ahead!

With the City of Bristol the 2015 European Green Capital and the Awards being hosted at Brunel's Old Station, one of the oldest train stations in the world, there was no better place to celebrate these remarkable initiatives.

The 11th Green Gown Awards saw over 320 sustainability leaders join in the celebration of awarding sustainability excellence within tertiary education announcing 16 Winners and 22 Highly Commended, culminating with live video streaming of the International Green Gown Awards crowning a 3 further International Winners.

The evening was hosted by Dr Andrew Garrad, Chairman of Bristol 2015 European Green Capital. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and is an Honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford. *"I am delighted that, towards the end of our year as European Green Capital, Bristol hosted the Green Gown Awards. These Awards recognise the important role that academic institutions play in ensuring that young people have a proper understanding of both the challenges and the opportunities presented by sustainability."*

Each year the Awards bring together the most inspirational projects from across the sector and this year was no exception. The Student Engagement Award – supported by the Scottish Funding Council - saw **Edinburgh College** pick up a win not only in the UK Awards but also in the International Awards. Their project *"Edinburgh Community Gardens and Orchards"* has built up two thriving community gardens at opposite ends of the city of Edinburgh, and is also in the process of developing four community orchards. On their achievement, Annette Bruton, Principal and Chief Executive says *"When the Community Gardens project began we didn't necessarily understand how strong an effect it would have on engaging students, in giving them new skills, confidence and an education in sustainability. We are very proud to win this Green Gown Award as it demonstrates how sustainable practices can provide powerful learning experiences."*

The worthy winner of the Leadership Award - which is exclusive to senior strategic leadership at a tertiary education institution and recognises individuals at the most senior level – went to **Dr Jane Davidson, University of Wales Trinity St David** for establishing the INSPIRE project which delivers educational pathways promoting learning, environmental and social responsibility and meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. *"This win is such a prestigious accolade and it acknowledges our commitment to*

sustainability as one of our core values and most importantly it celebrates the excellent and inspiring work of colleagues and students across the University's campuses." Says their Vice-Chancellor, Professor Medwin Hughes DL.

Guests at the prestigious black tie ceremony 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), Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE), Association of Colleges (AoC), Higher Education Academy (HEA) and The Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA) to commend visionary projects which are pushing the sustainable good practice boundaries.

Organised and delivered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Chief Executive Iain Patton describes the importance of the Green Gown Awards, *"Every year the Green Gown Awards rewrite what business as usual looks like for UK universities and colleges. Sustainability makes business sense and this year's inspiring initiatives prove that sustainability benefits staff, students, the wider community and of course the bottom line. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists for their hard work. It was wonderful to celebrate their successes in Bristol."*

The evening finale saw the UK Winners from the three international categories: Community Innovation; Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change, and Student Engagement going head-to-head with the winners from Australasia and the French speaking regions including Canada, for the coveted **International Green Gown Awards**. Winners were announced via live video streaming by two of the Awards' delivery partners; Pauline Pingusson from Campus Responsables and Iain Patton from the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges. **De Montfort University (UK)** won the Community Innovation Award with "OASYS South Asia" and their inspiring project providing solar energy opportunities to off-grid rural communities; **Université Laval (Canada)** was awarded the Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change Award for their community-wide approach and vision of sustainable development and **Edinburgh College (UK)** won the Student Engagement Award with their thriving community gardens project showing strong commitment, great curriculum links and offering a big impact and outreach.

A snapshot of some of the winning entries include:

The Carbon Reduction Award – supported by SALIX Finance – awarded to **Dundee and Angus College** for their project *"Reducing Carbon CO2 - it's in our D&A"*, saving the planet, saving cash, shrinking the College's carbon footprint whilst, at the same time, stimulating staff and learners' imagination in terms of sustainability.

The Community Innovation Award which also scooped the International Award too – supported by InnuScience – awarded to **De Montfort University** for their project *"OASYS South Asia - solar energy providing opportunities to off-grid rural communities"*. The inspiring project undertook demonstrations of off-grid options using solar PV-based mini/micro grid systems at four locations in India, providing

access to basic lighting and mobile phone charging facilities as well as supporting use of electricity for productive, educational, and social purposes.

Enterprise and Employability – supported by the Higher Education Academy – awarded to **The University of Nottingham** for their initiative “*Enactus Nottingham*” where students are given a platform to create social enterprises focused around solving large economic, environmental and social problems.

And the Sustainability Champion Student Award – supported by The Energy Consortium - went to **Charlotte Rebekah Instone, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London**. With judges commenting “*Charlotte shows incredible drive and passion for sustainability setting up the sustainability society, an ethical fashion brand and running an amazing number of events all while undertaking her degree! We need to replicate Charlotte!*”

The Green Gown Awards 2015 Winners’ Brochure and International Winners’ Brochure incorporating all this year’s Winning, Highly Commended and Finalists’ entries can be found on the Green Gown Awards website www.greengownawards.org.uk.

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Notes to the Editor

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Media pack: http://www.eauc.org.uk/gga_media_pack

About the Green Gown Awards

As is customary, applications went through a rigorous two-stage screening process and were reviewed and judged by a panel of 90+ sector representatives and experts. It is their substantial experience in the sector that truly makes the Green Gown Awards sector owned.

As the ethos of the Green Gown Awards is to ensure the lessons and examples of best practice are shared within the sector and beyond, we are working hard with the partners of the Awards to ensure this information is disseminated far and wide. All the 2015 stage 2 Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists across all regions have created case studies and videos which are freely available on the sector owned Sustainability Exchange website

<http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/2015x>. With a current showcase of 360+ resources, these inspiring sustainability projects act as an encouragement to others to replicate in their own institutions. The dissemination of these best practice case studies is supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The Green Gown Awards 2015 are kindly supported by the following organisations:

Category supporters:



Dissemination supporter:



Media partner:



Ceremony supporters:



History of the Green Gown Awards

Now in their 11th year, and founded by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI), the Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities, colleges and the learning and skills sectors across the UK. With sustainable development moving up the global agenda, the Awards are now established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence within the tertiary education sector, as well as the environmental sector.

Further information about the regional delivery partners can be found here:

- Green Gown Awards Australasia <http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/2015-ggaa/>
- Green Gown Awards French speaking regions Les Trophées des campus responsables' webpage : <http://www.campusresponsables.com/projet-14041/les-trophees-des-campus-responsables.html>

To learn more about the Green Gown Awards and the Awards Ceremony, contact Helen Exton at greengown@eauc.org.uk

A list of the organisations represented on the Green Gown Awards 2015 judging panel can be found here: <http://www.eauc.org.uk/judges>

Green Gown Awards 2015 steering group members are:

Association of Colleges (AoC)
Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA)
Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE)
British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG)
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)
The Education and Training Foundation
Guild HE
Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI)
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
JISC
Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE)
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)
National Union of Students (NUS)
Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

The Higher Education Academy (HEA)
University and College Union (UCU)
Universities UK (UUK)

About the EAUC:

With a membership of over 230 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 further and higher 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 2015 – Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists are:

Best Newcomer

South West College – *Winner College*
University of Wales Trinity Saint David – *Winner University*
Fife College – *Highly Commended*
Southend Adult Community College – *Highly Commended*
Finalist
Coleg Sir Gâr

Built Environment

University of East Anglia – *Winner*
University of Bradford – *Highly Commended*
University of Brighton – *Highly Commended*
Finalist
Nottingham Trent University

Carbon Reduction - Supported by Salix Finance

Dundee and Angus College – *Winner*
London Metropolitan University – *Highly Commended*
The University of Nottingham – *Highly Commended*
Finalists
Coventry University
Edinburgh College
Heriot-Watt University
Oxford Brookes University
University of Warwick

Community Innovation - Supported by InnuScience

De Montfort University – *Winner*
University of the Arts London – *Highly Commended*
Finalists
Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Manchester
Plymouth University
University of Leeds

Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change

Durham University – Winner

University of Reading – Highly Commended

Finalists

North Warwickshire and Hinckley College

University of Brighton

University of the Arts, London

Enterprise and Employability - Supported by Higher Education Academy

The University of Nottingham – Winner

University of Brighton – Highly Commended

Finalists

Coventry University

King's College London

London South Bank University

Facilities and Services - Supported by Sodexo

University of Edinburgh – Winner

Edinburgh College – Highly Commended

The University of Nottingham – Highly Commended

Finalists

Emory University (USA)

The University of Liverpool

University College London

University of Dundee

University of Reading

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Food and Drink - Supported by The University Caterers Organisation

Lancaster University and Lancaster University Students Union – Winner

University of Brighton – Highly Commended

University of the Arts London – Highly Commended

Finalists

Aberystwyth University

University of Reading

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Learning and Skills

University of Leeds – Winner

South Devon College – Highly Commended

Finalists

Canterbury Christ Church University

University of the West of England, Bristol

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Research and Development

Lancaster University – Winner

University of Cambridge – Highly Commended

Finalists

The University of Nottingham

University of Salford

University of the Arts London

Student Engagement - Supported by the Scottish Funding Council

Edinburgh College – Winner

Liverpool Guild of Students – Highly Commended

University of St Andrews – Highly Commended

Finalists

Bristol SU

The Students Union of the University of Central Lancashire

University of Bradford Union of Students

University of Bristol and University of the West of England, Bristol

University of Edinburgh
University of Stirling & University of Stirling Students' Union

Sustainability Champion Award – Staff - Supported by The Energy Consortium

Luci Attala, University of Wales Trinity Saint David – *Winner*

Gwenllian Beynon, University of Wales Trinity Saint David – *Highly Commended*

Finalists

Vincent Montag, Goldsmiths, University of London

Sustainability Champion Award – Student - Supported by The Energy Consortium

Charlotte Rebekah Instone, University of the Arts London – *Winner*

Anja Fischenich, London South Bank University – *Highly Commended*

Margaret Jennings, Goldsmiths, University of London – *Highly Commended*

Sustainability Professional Award - Supported by Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

Martin Farley, King's College London – *Winner*

Dr Aled Jones, Anglia Ruskin University – *Highly Commended*

Serena Bacuzzi, North Warwickshire and Hinckley College – *Highly Commended*

Finalists

Katy Boom, University of Worcester

David Chapman, University of Warwick

Nicola Hogan, Goldsmiths, University of London

Alex Metcalfe, Canterbury Christ Church University

Peter Rands, Canterbury Christ Church University

Dr Rosemary Willatt, University of the Arts London

Leadership Award

Dr Jane Davidson, University of Wales Trinity Saint David – *Winner*

Finalists

Professor Frances Corner OBE, University of the Arts London

Professor Jeremy Sanders CBE FRSC FRS, University of Cambridge

International Green Gown Awards 2015

Community Innovation

De Montfort University, United Kingdom – *Winner*

Finalists

Institut Polytechnique LaSalle-Beauvais, France

La Trobe University, Australia

Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change

Université Laval, Canada – *Winner*

Finalists

Durham University, United Kingdom

University of Melbourne, Australia

Student Engagement

Edinburgh College (UK) – *Winner*

Finalists

James Cook University, Australia

ENVT (Ecole Nationale Veterinaire de Toulouse), France

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