

4 August 2014

Joint statement on behalf of EAUC and AUDE Memberships

Dear People and Planet,

The EAUC and AUDE are committed to promoting sustainability within the education sector, and seek to consistently raise the standards adhered to by universities in order to build on the excellent work to date. We believe the sector has a unique and powerful contribution to make to society, and we value the Green League's role in helping us account for and improve performance.

While we do not want to see or do anything that will damage the progress made through the Green League, both the EAUC and AUDE have serious concerns over the 2014 survey; particularly on the grounds of the timings given to universities, and changes to the survey which are perceived as time-consuming and detrimental to the credibility of the results. Additionally, we do not believe that the three-week extension communicated on July 31st will address these concerns. We are disappointed that our comments have not been incorporated, to the detriment of this process.

We are concerned that the Green League 2014 will not drive the innovative and positive change it used to, and risks reducing sustainability to a narrowly and prescriptively defined tick box agenda.

Therefore, we are asking People and Planet to defer this year's Green League and to work openly and collaboratively with AUDE and the EAUC to improve the process for next year. We do support the decision of those universities who have already chosen, or will choose to defer from participating in this year's Green League. This is a decision for each institution to make individually.

For the 2015 survey, we request in particular that the timings of the survey are more considerate of the numerous demands on university staff, particularly around busy building periods and students returning to university.

We believe there is a significant amount of work to do in returning the Green League to being a fair, representative and useful measure of sustainability in our universities, and look forward to beginning an open and honest dialogue to achieve this.

EAUC and AUDE request that you respond to us by close of the working day on Friday 8th August. This will help our respective Members decide how they will proceed this year.

Yours sincerely,



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and Colleges (EAUC)



Andrew Burgess
Chair (and Deputy Chief Operating Officer at
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Association of University Directors of Estates
(AUDE)

