

PRESS RELEASE



Sustainability Rocks!

EMBARGO – Tuesday 12 November 2013 – 23.00 hours GMT

Over 325 sustainability leaders were on the edge of their seats at the world's oldest surviving railway turning shed last night as the BBC's Professor Iain Stewart announced the winners of this year's Green Gown Awards. It was a 'rocking' night with 81 Finalist institutions, 14 winners, 21 Highly Commended and 3 International winners!

The action packed evening was hosted by geology's "rock star" Professor Iain Stewart MBE - Iain is best known as the presenter of a number of BBC programmes including the BAFTA nominated Earth: The Power of the Planet. Iain is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of London and President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Professor of Geoscience Communication at Plymouth University and a member of the Scientific Board of UNESCO's International Geoscience Programme.

This was a true celebration of sustainability best practice within the tertiary education sector. The Green Gown Awards Ceremony was a resounding success and a fitting tribute to the pioneering environmental and sustainability initiatives that have been championed in the tertiary education sector this year.

In summarising the significance of the Awards, Professor Iain Stewart states "Sustainability is one of those ideas that means something different to everyone. And yet we all have a clear notion of what is "unsustainable". The Green Gown Awards are about celebrating a shift in thinking within the university and college sector to embrace and support those that are really pushing ahead with meaningful ways of making a future that works for all."

Martin Wiles, Head of Sustainability at **University of Bristol** - the Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change category Winner - for their 'Greening the product not just the machine' project, says "winning this Award rewards all the hard work and progress the sustainability team at Bristol has been quietly getting on with for the past five years and thanks the staff and students for their participation. Winning also says that sustainability is a key issue for research intensive universities."

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), Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) 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 importance of the Green Gown Awards, "With tumultuous change in

colleges and universities right now, anxious Principals and Vice Chancellors would do well to look again at sustainability with its synergies with other strategic drivers such as student recruitment, high quality student experiences, increasing access and enhanced value for money. With a 25% increase in applications this year, the value of sustainability is finally registering for many sector leaders”.

Leanne Denby, President of Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and delivery partner for the Australasian Green Gown Awards and with the EAUC in delivering the International Green Gown Awards says “The success of the first international Awards last year was overwhelming, and sets up the excitement and expectation of this year’s Awards exceptionally well. As a sector, further and higher education is making fantastic moves towards sustainability, and recognising the efforts and initiatives of both the UK and Australasian sectors together provides opportunity to share learning and experience to ensure that as a sector we continue to improve, progress and recognise the great work being done. Tertiary education plays a critical role in delivering sustainability, and the Awards allow us to show the world we are on board and accepting the responsibility we have to educate current and future staff and students in sustainable practice.”

A snapshot of some of the winning entries include:

The University of Manchester (Social Responsibility Winner and Winner of the International Green Gown Awards) for their School Governor Initiative setting a shining example to us all of how a university can have a positive and impactful role in the community;

Lancaster University (Carbon Reduction Winner, category supported by Salix) for their unlikely success of a travel plan on a rural and hilly campus which has reduced their carbon emissions by 2,500 tonnes each year;

Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) (Best Newcomer Winner, category supported by AA Projects) for their project “EcoBOT – A sustainable future” aiming to establish BCoT as a leader in the practice, promotion and training of sustainability, to embed sustainability into curriculum delivery and to make BCoT a sustainable organisation;

The first ever ‘Sustainability Champion’ was awarded to **Maria Gilling, Principal, Walsall Adult and Community College** (category supported by The Energy Consortium) for hugely impressing the judges with establishing Walsall as the mechanism for organisational success across the whole institution be it teaching, management and engaging the wider community. As a strategic approach, led from the top, Maria is an exemplar. A true champion and leader.

The Green Gown Awards are an inspiration, not only to the education sector, but to all organisations, showing documented evidence that by working together, a huge impact can be achieved!

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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 73 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. We are now working with all the 2013 stage 2 Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists and Australasian Winners to create their case studies and videos which will be freely available on the sector owned Sustainability Exchange website – www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk. Together with the 2012 Green Gown Award 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).

Now in their 9th year, and founded in 2004 by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project, 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.

The Green Gown Awards 2013 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.

Green Gown Awards 2013 – Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists are:

Best Newcomer – supported by AA Projects Ltd

Basingstoke College of Technology – Winner

Harrow College – Highly Commended

South Essex College – Highly Commended

Finalists

Falmouth Exeter Plus

Manchester Adult Education Service

Royal Veterinary College

Carbon Reduction – supported by Salix

Lancaster University – Winner

Durham University – Highly Commended

University of Gloucestershire – Highly Commended

Finalists

Blackpool and The Fylde College

University of Essex

University of Surrey

University of Ulster

University of York

Construction and Refurbishment – supported by CUBO

Belfast Metropolitan College – Winner

The Manchester College – Highly Commended

Finalists

Coleg Gwent

Nottingham Trent University

University of Lincoln

Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change

University of Bristol – Winner

Coleg Gwent – Highly Commended

Cranfield University – Highly Commended

Finalist

University of Brighton

Courses

Coventry University – Winner (large institution)

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama – Winner (small institution)

Plymouth University – Highly Commended

University of Bristol – Highly Commended

Finalists

Anglia Ruskin University

Blackpool and The Fylde College

Edge Hill University

University of Leeds

University of Southampton

University of Surrey

Facilities and Services – supported by Sodexo

University of Bradford – Winner

Durham University – Highly Commended

University of Salford – Highly Commended

Finalists

Coventry University

Durham University

Nottingham Trent University

Swansea University

The University of Manchester

University of East Anglia

University of York

Learning and Skills

Nottingham Trent University – Winner

University of Gloucestershire – Highly Commended

Walsall Adult and Community College – Highly Commended

Finalists

Blackpool and The Fylde College

University of Salford

Modernisation - Effectiveness and Efficiency in the Estate – supported by the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE)

University of Aberdeen – Winner

Newcastle University – Highly Commended

Finalist

Durham University

Research and Development

University of York – Winner

Finalists

Anglia Ruskin University
Lancaster University
University of Salford
University of the Arts London

Social Responsibility

The University of Manchester – Winner

The University of Sheffield – Highly Commended

Finalists

Loughborough University
University of Leicester
University of Worcester

Student and Staff Engagement – supported by the Scottish Funding Council

Walsall College Student Union – Winner

Durham University – Highly Commended

University of Brighton – Highly Commended

Finalists

Anglia Ruskin University
City College Plymouth
The University of Nottingham
University of Gloucestershire Student Union
University of Worcester

Sustainability Champion Award – supported by The Energy Consortium

Maria Gilling, Principal, Walsall Adult and Community College – Winner

Ian Brown, Building Services Manager, Bradford College – Highly Commended

Ivan Hopkins, Executive Chef, Nottingham Trent University – Highly Commended

Finalists

Norrie Blackeby, Head of Facilities and Central Services, University of Exeter Students' Guild
Samantha Godden, Manager, Academic Community Development, ifs University College
Naomi Hicks, Public Communications Manager, London School of Economics and Political Science
Dr Zoe Robinson, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, Keele University
Professor Stephen Sterling, Head of Sustainability Education, Plymouth University
Clive Wilson, Director of Estates and Facilities, University of Bradford

Technical Innovation for Sustainability – supported by SCHOMS

University College London – Winner

Nelson & Colne College – Highly Commended

The University of Northampton – Highly Commended

International Green Gown Awards

Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change Sunshine Coast TAFE – Winner

Social Responsibility The University of Manchester – Winner

Student and Staff Engagement/Student Initiatives University of Wollongong – Winner

The Green Gown Awards 2013 are delivered by the EAUC and are kindly supported by the following organisations:



Further information about the Green Gown Awards Australasia can be found at <http://www.acts.asn.au/index.php/programs-and-initiatives/ggaa/ggaa-2013/>

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

Notes to the Editor

Media contact: Helen Exton, Event Manager, greengown@eauc.org.uk, 07531 244208
Images can be found at www.greengownawards.org.uk for use.

About the EAUC:

With a Membership of over 220 universities and colleges, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is the sustainability champion for the UK tertiary education sector. 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 Green Gown Awards are governed by a cross agency steering group made up of:

Association of Colleges (AoC)
Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE)
British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG)
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)
Guild HE
Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI)
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
JISC
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)
National Union of Students Services Limited (NUS)
Scottish Funding Council (SFC)
Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
The Higher Education Academy (HEA)
Universities UK (UUK)

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