

Green Impact Universities and Colleges Team Newsletter

Issue 7 – June/July 2012

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Welcome!

Welcome to the June-July Green Impact team newsletter. In the last few months, awards ceremonies and world summits galore have given us the opportunity to showcase your impacts and actions to national and international audiences. This edition is packed with stories from all of these events, so congratulations and happy reading!



Awards ceremonies make a mark!

This month sees Green Impact Universities and Colleges nearing the end of the programme year. It has been an incredible term in which we have trained over 800 student auditors, presented 600 awards and taken part in over 40 ceremonies across our participating UK institutions.

The University of East London had a great year of Green Impact, trialling our new Green Impact Project Assistant programme to engage students with staff across their campus and getting four teams to scoop the top gold awards. Their ceremony was a great reflection of this, with 70 attendees celebrating the 5117 actions taken throughout the year. You can see their full [awards newsletter here](#) to read all about the achievements their teams have made this year.

Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, have also been celebrating the end of their Green Impact year, by launching an innovative new campaign to spread their reach further across the whole organisation. [Read CCC's article](#) on using the Hard Rain project to inspire staff and students.

National Special Award winners

This year we received a record number of applicants for the national special awards, covering the whole of the UK. It demonstrates just how much goes on at our FHEI's that is deserving of national recognition.



We awarded 3 overall winners and 4 highly commended awards last month at the Green Impact Round Table, at which 80 attendees from across our programmes came together to celebrate their achievements.

You can read their winning entries [here](#). Maybe it will inspire you to get applying for next year!

Green Impact actions totalizer!

So, how many actions did the country of Green Impact Participants complete this year? How have you all been making a real green impact?

Well, with 46 institutions, 978 teams, and 4,807 people signed up to the Universities and Colleges workbook, collectively you have completed.....

...35,675 actions! Congratulations for taking actions that have really made a difference: all your effort has paid off!



The infamous Blue Peter totalizer!!

Katherine Husch from Jewel and Esk College, Edinburgh has been profiled on The Ecologist website for winning the national Environmental Hero special award! [Read the full article here!](#)



national union of students

Get planning for Green Impact 2012-13!

The Green Impact coordinator at your institution will be spending the summer re-evaluating the workbook and timelines. We will also be working with them to deliver even more effective support for you.

This is a great opportunity for you to get in on the act: your experiences and input are vital to making sure the programme reflects your needs and pushes the boundaries of what you can achieve at your institution...and beyond!

So, how can you get involved?

1. Ask for a summary or feedback workshop if they haven't already set one up. This is a great opportunity to meet the other winners again and share ideas for moving the programme forward. Ideas that come out of mini-round table sessions are always considered in the development of the following year's workbook.
2. Get together with your team and look at the current workbook: what can you be doing to implement some of the changes before the next year begins? Where did you struggle and need to focus your attention?
3. Offer to mentor another team: if you have been achieving high level results for the past few years, is there anything you can do to share your expertise with others? Speak with your GI coordinator to offer your services!
4. Plan how you will put your SMART plan into action: if you can get your head round how to do that, achieving the rest of the criteria should fall into place!

In June the College became accredited to the International Environmental Standard ISO 14001. The standard is designed to address the delicate balance between maintaining profitability and reducing environmental impact; this was not possible without the commitment of the College. So it would not have been possible without the dedication of you and a number of other staff, which really goes to how much we can achieve when we work together.

This standard may be used on promotional materials which are used to advertise academic courses, facilities or conferences. If you are interested in utilising this please do not hesitate to contact me (email: anna.kosteletos@rhul.ac.uk Tel: 01784 414926).

The College has completed their CRC emissions submission to the Environment Agency this month. We have reduced our emissions from gas and electricity over the last year by 1580 tonnes of carbon. This is an amazing achievement and demonstrates what a difference we can all make!

Additionally, two energy displays are being installed in the Queens and Bourne buildings foyers! These will allow students and staff to see how switching off equipment effects their energy consumption!

Do not forget about the Cycle Champion Training Sessions that we have running on the 7th and 14th August, if you are interested it's not too late to register!

We have signed up for Green Impact next year, so if you missed out on some vital points this year or if you need any help preparing for next year now is the time to think about what you can achieve! Please do contact the Sustainability Team if you need anything.

Green Impact Universities and Colleges is an environmental accreditation scheme with an awards element for departments. It is currently run within universities and colleges in conjunction with the NUS. To send us any comments or suggestions, please email jo.kemp@nus.org.uk

