

# Green Impact Universities and Colleges Team Newsletter

Issue 5 – February 2012

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the chilly February Green Impact team newsletter!

With so many of you now submitting workbooks and starting to think about what awards you will gain, this month we are giving some last minute tips and showcasing the progress being made across the country.

Good luck and happy greening!



## Preparing for your audits...what's the deal?

With so many institutions nearing their submission dates, we thought giving you some low-down on how to prepare for your audits would help you relax and get the most out of it as possible.

So, the key things to remember are:

1. Your GI lead contact will be letting you know when the audits are taking place in the coming weeks and months.
2. Audits are a two way process: they're not about testing you or catching you out!
3. Make sure that you can have a member of your team available to take the auditor around your department. It should only take an hour or so.
4. Talk with your auditor and let them know what you have achieved and how: this your chance to show off!!
5. It is great if you can prepare your evidence: you don't need to print off reams of emails or purchase requests, but make sure it is all available on file somewhere for your auditor to look at.

6. Auditors can be nervous too! Most auditors are students and are keen to gain experience in sustainability and professional skills. We will have trained them in Green Impact and techniques for auditing but they may well be nervous and keen to impress!!



And finally.....Have fun!!! Enjoy getting your evidence together to prove how much you have achieved. Auditing is vital for your institution to see what has been happening on the ground so it is your chance to show them!

## Green Impact team sign-ups!

With many of our 46 institutions' workbooks in the final months of completion, we can continue the monthly tally of teams participating!

We have over 1000 teams across all of our programmes currently signed up. From your workbooks we can also see that you have taken **19,597** actions with **10,172** as a direct result of GI!



*The infamous Blue Peter totaliser!!*

## Gain extra points and national recognition!

This is your chance to gain extra points for your team by submitting or receiving a nomination for a special award.

There are 20 points at stake, so now is the time to really up the ante and get your nominations in. Simply fill out the comments section in the Special awards tab to leave your reasons for your nomination, and click 'done' to gain the 20 points for your team.

Two of our special awards are sponsored by Office Depot and the Ecologist Magazine, so offer you an amazing opportunity to not only pick up some big points, but also gain recognition from some leading lights in sustainability. Get applying!

## Amazing team engagement strategies!



**Swansea University** have been sticking down footprints in their main buildings. When the code is scanned, a message is sent to your mobile saying- "Together we can reduce our impact". The cleaners are on board to ensure they aren't removed so staff and students can continue to participate in their campaign!! Check out Swansea's Green Impact work at <http://www.swan.ac.uk/sustainability/green-impact/>



This month we have started implementing the 14001 system, which will probably be coming to some of you over the coming months!

We are making some plans for the staff and student fun day on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, we will be there promoting sustainable transport. . . .with Mr Smoothie Maker and if your bike needs a service or if you need some advice the Purple Bike Doctor will be there too. This is for everyone, so come along if you have a spare couple of hours on the Sunday it should be fun! There will also be lots of other things going on . . . .

I would like to hear from you too, and showcase what you have been up to in your departments over the last few months for our next and coming newsletters, so please do get in contact to share what you have been doing!

In the meantime please do get in contact if you need anything!

**Sheffield University** teams have come up with some great ways to show team members what their energy saving mascots have been up to....! (photo right)

And one of their labs has entered as a team, already seeing reductions of £6000 through shutting down their fume cupboards when they are not in use. Amazing!

**Queen's University, Belfast** teams have also been getting stuck in. It is their first year of Green Impact, but they have been running Love Food Hate Waste tasting sessions, increasing their cycling rates and using post-it's to tag computers left on unnecessarily!

Share your team's actions with us to get your ideas promoted across the nation. Ask your GI Lead contact to pass them on to us!

There a number of new policies and procedures available on the website this month. So make sure you are up to date with all of these. Also, our sustainability report from last year has been placed online!

Just a quick reminder of important dates for your diary!

Please do not forget that your workbooks need to be submitted by the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Auditing of these will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The awards ceremony is on the 29<sup>th</sup> May.

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](mailto:jo.kemp@nus.org.uk)