

Green Impact Universities and Colleges Team Newsletter

Issue 4 – January 2012

Page 1



Welcome!

Welcome to the January Green Impact team newsletter. After a great Christmas break we can now welcome you back to the final few months of Green Impact 2011-12!



This month, we can showcase some amazing progress from across the country and take you through some easy steps to gaining more points in the coming weeks. Welcome back and happy greening!

Our GLA's showcase their teams!

Manchester Metropolitan University have been running Green Impact for 3 years now, and have been achieving some incredible impacts across the board.



- They are this year's top team-ranking institution (so far!), with 67 teams on board!
- 2127 members of staff reached by GI 2012 so far
- Provided over 100 student volunteering opportunities

Jewel and Esk College teams have been declaring their dedication to Fair trade through creating their own posters, whilst others have stickers for light switches saying "Not in use, turn off the juice"

- The team 'Green Ninja's' has started up a Veggie Bag scheme with a local organic farm. This has been incorporated into the curriculum by using the scheme to help with students' core skills



Canterbury Christ Church University has set up a Sustainability Champions Network film club, with lots of GI teams taking the lead at hosting their own topical film and debate nights.



- And their sustainability GI team has just invested in their first pot plants to check off those all important criteria. Penelope and Archibold now sit proudly, sucking up CO2 and delivering Oxygen to the team!

Find out more about team's efforts from across the country [here](#) and on our GI forum. Sign up at www.nus.org.uk/greenimpact

Green Impact team sign-ups!

With many of our 46 institutions' workbooks in the final months of completion, our 105 Unions submitting theirs before Christmas, and our pilots underway, we can continue the monthly tally of teams participating!

We have over **1000** teams across all of our programmes currently signed up!



The infamous Blue Peter totaliser!!

Special Awards: gain National recognition!

Last month we showcased the winners of our national Special Awards. It is now your chance to gain extra points for your team by submitting or receiving a nomination.

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.

Your GI coordinator and our GI team will decide upon the rightful winner of your institutional awards, and the cream of the crop will then go forward to our national panel. So for your chance to gain points and national accreditation, get nominating!



national union of students

Gaining easy points in the weeks ahead!

The coming months give you a great opportunity to gain some crucial points at a key time in the GI calendar. There are several criteria within the workbook that relate directly to annually run national events, and they just so happen to be coming up in February and March!



23rd-27th Jan

Its Go Green Week which is as an opportunity to try something new and raise awareness of all thing green. Thanks to all of you that helped with this and that have been involved in promoting this!



27th Feb-11th March

Fair Trade Fortnight is another key opportunity to pledge your allegiance. All workbooks contain criteria to buy FT products so make a push next month to gain those points, and more if your workbook also has points available for taking part in FT fortnight itself.

These are great excuses to have some fun with your GI team. Ask your GI Lead if there are institution wide activities to can take part in, or set up your own to make a real impact. And don't forget, there will also be points available in your workbook for getting students involved in your activities so don't miss the chance to reel them into events that will be right up their street!

As always we are keen to hear your ideas and have space in our news pages on the website to tell the world all about them, so do let us know.

Happy point scoring!

We have been working hard to complete the installation of our new energy management system. This should now be complete by the end of this month! So if you are itching to know how much gas, water and electricity your buildings consume, please do get in contact with me and I will arrange for you to have access to this information!

We have had a number of new teams sign up to green impact over the last few months, which has been great. Additionally we are now ready to recruit students for auditing so if you know anyone who may be interested in this please do ask them to get in contact with me, we currently have a few students signed up to this which is a great start.

The sustainability of healthcare

We have been approached by a new academic journal which is looking to publish papers researching or discussing the sustainability of healthcare provision. If you or any of your colleagues would be suitable candidates. please let us know.

This month we have signed up to take part in a funded project under the European Pathway to Zero Waste (EPOW). This will help us to embed sustainable procurement practices within the College.

We also will be undertaking our first audit to achieve the International Environmental Standard of ISO 14001. *A brief guide to this is available from the Sustainability website* (<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/sustainability/docs/pdf/guideforenvironmentalmanagementsystem.pdf>).

A brief guide to Sustainability at the College has also been published on the website you can find this here (<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/sustainability/docs/pdf/guideforrhul.pdf>).

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

Auditing of these will take place on the 26th April.

The awards ceremony is on the 29th May.

In the meantime please do get in contact 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

