



# Green Gown Awards *International*



## INTERNATIONAL WINNERS' BROCHURE

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# INTERNATIONAL GREEN GOWN AWARDS

## AWARDING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE

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The Green Gown Awards, recognising the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges, are delivered on a regional basis in Australasia, UK and French-speaking regions in Europe and Canada. The winners of each region then go head-to-head for the coveted International Green Gown Awards. The international judging criteria is based on a comparison of the projects as a whole, with the ultimate deciding factor being which project has the biggest scale of impact. The Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are respected by national Governments, funding councils, senior management, academics and students.

### The Awards are going global

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With the inclusion of the French speaking Awards launched in Canada in 2015 and the partnership with United Nations Environment Partnership (UNEP), this is expanding the Green Gown Awards further across the globe with an emphasis on profiling and learning from the Southern Hemisphere. If you are working with a country or region interested in running the Awards, please do contact us.

Winners of each of the UK, Australasia and French speaking regions in Europe and Canada in the International categories: Community Innovation, Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change and Student Engagement, went head-to-head for the coveted International Green Gown Awards and were announced on 26 November 2015 at the Green Gown Awards Ceremony in Bristol, UK.

In the following pages, we are delighted to announce the winners and the equally to be applauded finalists. We congratulate each and every one of you for your outstanding sustainability initiatives.



### Green Gown Awards UK

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Now in their 11<sup>th</sup> year the Awards are delivered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC). The Awards are open to all post-16 educational institutions (further or higher education institutions, work-based or adult and community learning providers).

### Green Gown Awards Australasia

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The Awards were brought to Australasia in 2010 and are delivered by our partners, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS). The Awards are open to all tertiary education institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

### Green Gown Awards French speaking regions in Europe and Canada

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The Awards (Les trophées des campus responsables) were brought to French speaking Europe in 2014 and have been extended to include French speaking regions in Canada and are open in all French speaking universities and colleges, schools and specialised institutes in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and French-speaking Canada. They are being delivered by our partners, Campus Responsables.



We are delighted to present the 2015 International Winners and Finalists and share their inspiring examples of sustainability best practice, together with some words of advice and encouragement on lessons learnt along the way when implementing their projects. We hope many readers will be inspired and motivated by these sustainability projects. There are 9 Finalists split over the 3 international categories.

International Green Gown Award Judges	3
Community Innovation	4
Recognising initiatives by tertiary education institutions which create significant benefits for local communities, disadvantaged groups and/or society as a whole in either the host country or developing countries.	
Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change	5
Recognising sustained and successful activities to improve the performance of tertiary education institutions, faculties and buildings over a number of years and offers a whole institution approach.	
Student Engagement	6
Recognising that students and staff must work together to achieve goals using the "top-down method" and "grass roots method" to achieve maximum understanding and engagement across an institution.	
Finalists	7
Green Gown Awards Australasia	10
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2015 INTERNATIONAL GREEN GOWN AWARD JUDGES

The judging panel are representatives of sector organisations and/or specialists in a particular area and represent all three international regions. It is their substantial experience in the sector that truly makes the International Green Gown Awards sector owned. We thank the judges for their time, commitment and valuable contributions.

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Founded by HEEPI, the Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC. For more information please visit [www.greengownawards.org.uk](http://www.greengownawards.org.uk).  
Disclaimer: The information provided within this publication has been provided solely by the applicant as defined by the Awards through the two stage process.  
No member of the Green Gown Awards team or steering group will be liable for any misrepresentation.

# INTERNATIONAL WINNER

## COMMUNITY INNOVATION

### De Montfort University, United Kingdom



#### OASYS South Asia - solar energy providing opportunities to off-grid rural communities

The project undertook demonstrations of off-grid options using solar PV-based mini/micro grid systems at four locations in India.

It provided access to basic lighting and mobile phone charging facilities as well as supporting use of electricity for productive, educational, and social purposes (street lighting, community halls etc.).

These pilot projects have directly impacted about 5000 households and reduced their dependence on kerosene and hence reduced the environmental impacts and accident risks; offered opportunities to study at night; created a better sense of protection at night where street lights have been placed; and empowered the communities through better information flow and newer opportunities for income generation.

#### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Awareness generation about the electricity access issue in the developing world
2. Feeding into the public good agenda of De Montfort University
3. Providing further teaching and research opportunities - student projects, doctoral research and other research projects.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT...

The judges thought this flagship initiative was an excellent example of appropriate and proven technology working in location. This innovative project contributes to research and illustrates how the university impacts on society and micro communities. This is a good example of working with partners on an international level with often challenging communities engaged. This project illustrates the whole picture of benefits, impacts and value by covering a wide spectrum of areas such as health, social, economic and environmental. This multi aspect project can be easily replicated globally. What greater initiative for a university to be leading on!

#### SCALE OF IMPACT

The project has international relevance and international impact particularly for areas where electricity access is limited. The International Energy Agency state that 'modern energy services are crucial to human well-being and to a country's economic development; and yet globally over 1.3 billion people are without access to electricity and 2.6 billion people are without clean cooking facilities. The collaborative approach taken by the project has the potential to be expanded and applied to other commodities such as food and water.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE Université Laval, Canada



### At Université Laval, I'm for SD!

Université Laval takes a structured, community-wide approach to sustainable development (SD) to get tangible, scalable results that are incorporated into its organisational strategies and processes. The Sustainable Development Policy adopted in 2008 ensures integration of the institution's values into its SD activities as well as consistent action. Key achievements in SD/CSR since 2010: Unique approach to recognition of courses and programs promoting development of SD-related skills and comprehensive SD training available to all students; Integration of SD into research and innovation guidelines; Energy efficiency and SD building design and management programme; Integrated climate change plan and voluntary greenhouse gas compensation; programme; Responsible procurement policy (criteria into calls for tender and innovative surplus asset management tools); Mon Équilibre UL program on developing healthy lifestyle habits among students and employees; Promotion of social involvement and entrepreneurship; Innovative infrastructure cost-sharing partnerships (City of Québec: sports centre).



UNIVERSITÉ  
LAVAL

### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. A fund was set up to encourage a wide range of SD initiatives
2. A very qualitative approach of life within the campus, with the programme "Mon Équilibre UL" to strengthen healthy lifestyle habits among students and employees
3. Over 1,000 students and employees compensate for their car travel to the campus annually, which represented \$10,900 collected in 2014 - 2015 to offset 726 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

### WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT...

The judges commended Laval's excellent global integration. Their approach is very financially efficient and is going beyond what they need to do from a business sense. Laval is to be commended for pushing the sustainability agenda regardless of limited political drivers. The application provides very solid statistics and illustrates an interesting diffused governance structure with input from all areas. Curriculum is very well integrated. Well done Université Laval!

### SCALE OF IMPACT

Université Laval implemented its SD initiative for the purposes of becoming an SD testing ground for technological and social innovations. When its innovative approaches generate tangible results, it transfers and shares its innovations and expertise with its milieu and partners in all sectors as well as communities here and elsewhere. Students who have been introduced to and trained in SD issues will be agents of change in organisations and their communities in Québec, the rest of Canada, and other countries.



# INTERNATIONAL WINNER

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### Edinburgh College, United Kingdom



#### Edinburgh Community Gardens and Orchards

Edinburgh College has built up two thriving community gardens at opposite ends of the city of Edinburgh, and is also in the process of developing four community orchards.

Starting in 2012 as part of a student-led project, the community gardens have developed into an important college and community resource. We have more than 250 participants from a diverse range of groups, including students, staff and local community members and groups.

The gardens are an important part of our curricular delivery and are used by a wide range of student groups. For many of these users the gardens represent much more than a space to grow food.

They are a space to learn about healthy living, gain new skills and build self-confidence and self-esteem as well as increasing employability, promoting sustainable behaviours and helping make new friends.

#### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Our Community Garden project enables a holistic approach to a number of topics, such as sustainability, environment and well-being
2. Outdoor projects working toward increasing biodiversity enable a better understanding of the environment and encourage inclusiveness and acceptance of ourselves and others
3. Our Community Gardens and Orchards are open to the wider community.

#### WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT...

Judges thought this was an excellent example of a student led initiative that has been embraced by the College and with strong commitment from the community. This makes it sustainable with a clear vision for the future. There are a variety of students and other stakeholders involved with great curriculum links which gives this project a very big impact and outreach. This is a replicable approach and provides a valuable message to institutions on how to involve institutions and communities to provide a learning resource in an urban setting which adds huge value.

#### SCALE OF IMPACT...

The impacts of community gardening are far reaching and long term and not restricted to any sector. Perhaps the greatest impact relates less to the growing and more to the personal development of those in the garden – building self-confidence and self-esteem, understanding team work and collaboration are all life-long skills that will provide societal benefits.

## Institut Polytechnique LaSalle-Beauvais, France

### GROWTH : Gardening and Rediscovering Our Worth Through Healthy cooking

In a context of crisis, while the European Help Programme for the poorest is declining, we can register more food insecurity and find the regional nutritional assessment unsatisfactory in Picardy.

To combat this issue, the DRAAF Picardie (regional direction of agriculture, agribusiness, and forestry), LaSalle Beauvais, and the town of Beauvais in France have been working together to build a programme to teach gardening and cooking lessons to the food insecure people of Beauvais...but this project goes further: reconnecting them with society, rediscovering the taste for work, sharing knowledge...

Beneficiaries are taught how to garden in an ecological way (with organic pesticides and fertilisers) and how to cook. The cooking workshops focus on how to cook leftovers, how to cook vegetables in different ways (i.e. vegetables in desserts), and how to preserve fresh vegetables.



### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. The social benefits have been really high by increasing self-esteem and breaking social isolation of the unemployed individuals
2. This programme shows deep interactions between students, campus (as an institution providing materials, funds, and management), local actors (communities, local authorities, charities, etc.) and local populations
3. It also fosters active learning for students and it is closely linked to the DNA's campus activities: training agricultural engineers.

## La Trobe University, Australia

### Easy as Pi! Using La Trobe e-waste to support learning opportunities for school students

The disposal of electronic-waste (e-waste) is recognised as a growing environmental problem and La Trobe generates a significant amount annually.

This waste is recycled, but what if reuse became the norm instead?

Supporting a local council to deliver an innovative programme by donating e-waste to help children to build cost effective Raspberry Pi computers has proved a win-win for all of the project partners - Whittlesea City Council, Lalor Primary School, Mill Park Library, and La Trobe University.

Teaching children to build low-cost computers reusing e-waste could be an important part of the e-waste solution and this project has achieved just that!



### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. There are interesting reuse opportunities all around us if we look for them
2. A small helping hand can pay dividends for many people and organisations
3. Connecting to others in our local communities means achieving better outcomes for everyone.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

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### Durham University, United Kingdom

**Greenspace – branding the message ‘Every small step leads to big change’**

In order to bring all of Durham University’s environmental initiatives and activities together, the name and concept of ‘Greenspace’ was devised in 2010. Greenspace is the face for environmental sustainability at Durham University.

The idea behind the brand is to make all environmental messages strong, focussed and instantly recognisable. Greenspace, however, is more than just a brand – it is a vehicle for change in all areas of the University’s Environmental Sustainability Policy.

It is used as a driver to enhance and embed environmental sustainability and to promote positive environmental behaviour at all levels within the University - individual, group and institutional. It continues to show behavioural change improvements across the University since its inception in 2010.

The Greenspace motto is ‘Every small step leads to big change’.



#### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Consistency – our brand makes all environmental messages strong, focussed and instantly recognisable
2. Engagement – the most powerful tool at your disposal is staff and student support. Engage at all levels in a consistent and structured way
3. Keep trying – if at first you don’t achieve your aim, try and try again.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

fondation 

### University of Melbourne, Australia

**Integrating Sustainability at Melbourne – A whole of University approach**

The sustainability program has grown since 2006 to include initiatives across leadership and governance, facilities and operations, learning teaching and research, and partnerships and engagement.

The programme has significantly reduced the impact of the University on the environment and across the institution and continues to grow.

Some of the outcomes of the program include: Carbon savings has increased from 9,713 in 2008 to 31,754 tonnes in 2014 inclusive of all campuses; 872 Megalitres - of water saved from 2006 to 2014; 1311 tonnes (40%) – waste diverted from landfill into recycling in 2014, compared to 95 tonnes (16%) in 2009 (NB only applies to Parkville, Southbank, Burnley and Werribee campuses).



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

#### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Staff and students really do want to make a positive impact. By facilitating them we really can make a difference
2. We should not underestimate that the work we do has an impact on the broader community and the world
3. Change in sustainability is a continual improvement process and needs to be embedded in everything we do.



## James Cook University, Australia

### The JCU Green Bike Fleet - new love for unwanted bikes

James Cook University's (JCU) innovative Green Bike Fleet programme gives new love to abandoned or unwanted bikes. The programme has restored over 260 bikes since August 2013, which are then sold to students at low cost.

The programme was designed around the four pillars of sustainability, with clear environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits. The project uses a cost neutral business model, allowing the project to continue indefinitely without additional funding, which can often be a weak point with sustainability projects. The popularity of the programme has been outstanding, with initial targets exceeded by 260% and supply of bikes unable to keep up with demand.

Support from both within and outside JCU has been exceptional, with staff, the general public and local businesses donating bikes to the program regularly. The programme's success has been in large part due to the collaborations across key areas of the University and the careful development of the programme.



### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Ensure you put plenty of time into planning and due diligence before starting the project
2. Ensure key stakeholders are involved in the process from the outset and along the journey
3. Talk to the students about what they want and let them take ownership wherever possible.

## ENVT (Ecole Nationale Veterinaire de Toulouse), France

### A GREEN campus in the PINK city

The sustainable development student club of Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (ENVT), "Vert Vet", have contributed for several years to the carrying out of projects about biodiversity in the 56-hectare campus of ENVT, with the aim of setting up a natural diversity of ecosystems.

Veterinary students are really sensitive to the sustainable development and motivated. Since the creation of the club "Vert Vet" in 2009, they are involved in the carrying out of biodiversity actions in order to help the campus to be exemplary in matters of biodiversity.

Thanks to their availability and their willpower, many undertakings have been set up, some with the help of the sustainable development project manager: seasonal fruits and vegetables sales, coming from local and ecologically responsible agriculture, wastage programs, apiculture, nesting boxes, gardens, ponds, etc.



### TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. ENVT and the Vert Vet Club have done lots of actions with very little means
2. The involvement of teachers and staff into actions related to sustainable development as well as the massive membership of students were the most encouraging and unexpected consequences here
3. The biodiversity on the ENVT campus allowed them to preserve and reinforce the ecosystems located there. The different actions in the school have changed students', teachers' and staff's behaviours.

The Green Gown Awards Australasia is the first and only Award Scheme dedicated to recognising excellence in sustainability within the tertiary education sector in Australasia. Now in their sixth year, the Awards have quickly become established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice.

The Australasian Awards are managed by Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and are governed by a cross sector steering group. Following the huge success in the UK the Awards were brought to Australasia in 2010 by a partnership between ACTS and the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) UK. In 2012 a formal international Awards scheme was born with UK and Australasian winners competing for the international title in three categories. Since their launch, the Awards have continued to grow in size, reputation and prestige both nationally and internationally.



## The numbers

Our independent judging panel recognised the highest ever numbers of finalists, selecting 43, representing 22 institutions over 11 categories. All now competing for the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice in the sector. Our winners were announced at the Australasia Green Gown Awards Ceremony on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 during the ACTS Annual Conference, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia

## Sharing best practice

Part of the ethos of the Green Gown Awards, globally, is to ensure the lessons and examples of good practice are shared across the tertiary education sector. Winners have worked hard to provide inspiring case studies and videos to ensure the sustainability message and best practice examples are disseminate as far and wide as possible. We are delighted to share the case studies from 2011 to 2016. These can be viewed at

<http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/sharing-awards-success/>

## 2016 applications

The 2016 Green Gown Awards Australasia will open for applications in May 2016. Keep an eye on our website for up-coming details.

## Links

<http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/2015-ggaa/>

<http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/sharing-awards-success/>

Information on our governance/Steering Group: [www.acts.asn.au/2012-ggaa-application/governance/](http://www.acts.asn.au/2012-ggaa-application/governance/)

## Contact

Sue Hopkins, Partnerships & Events Manager, ACTS Inc, Australia  
[ggaa@acts.asn.au](mailto:ggaa@acts.asn.au); [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

After being invited to the British judging for several years, Campus Responsables and the EAUC thought about having a French speaking edition of the Green Gown Awards, to disseminate good practices and inspiring actions led in French-speaking campuses. In 2014, Les Trophées des campus responsables (the French version of "Green Gown Awards") was launched! Les Trophées des campus responsables have been extended and are now available to all French speaking universities and colleges, schools and specialised institutes in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and French-Speaking Canada.



### The numbers

For its second edition, Les Trophées des campus responsables got 15 applications from 14 campuses applying from France, Switzerland and French-speaking Canada. There were 8 categories for the 2015 French-speaking edition :

- Responsabilité sociale et sociétale (Community Innovation)
- Implication des étudiants (Student Engagement)
- Engagement durable (Continuous Improvement)
- Innovation technique pour le développement durable (Technical Innovation for Sustainability)
- Handicap et Compétences, engagement responsable (an exclusive French-speaking category about Handicap and accessibility for disabled people)
- Synergies territoriales (Supporting dissemination)
- Qualité de vie étudiante (Facilities and services)
- Entreprise et Entrepreneuriat (Entreprise and Employability)

### Sharing best practice

Coming soon! After the successful first French-speaking edition, Campus Responsables is developing a French-speaking platform to enhance sharable sustainability campus initiatives.

### 2016 applications

Les Trophées des campus responsables will open in spring 2016.

### Links

<http://campusresponsables.com/page-7824/presentation-campus-responsables.html>

<http://campusresponsables.com/projet-14041/les-trophees-des-campus-responsables.html>

Coming soon : [www.tropheesdescampusresponsables.com](http://www.tropheesdescampusresponsables.com)

### Contact

Pauline Pingusson, Programme Manager for Les Trophées des campus responsables, France.

[Pauline@grainesdechangement.com](mailto:Pauline@grainesdechangement.com); [campusresponsables.com](http://campusresponsables.com)

Now in their 11th year, the Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK. With sustainability moving up the agenda, the Awards have become truly established as the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the further and higher education sector in the UK.

The Green Gown Awards are administered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and are governed by a cross agency steering group.



### The numbers

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This year the UK Awards received 157 submissions, with our independent judging panel of over 90 judges, selecting 85 finalists representing 51 institutions, across 14 categories. All vying for the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice in the sector. Our winners were announced on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Brunel's Old Station, Bristol, UK.

### Sharing best practice

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As the ethos of the Awards is to ensure the lessons and examples of good practice are shared within the sector and beyond, we are working with our 2015 winners and finalists to produce case studies and short videos around their projects. Our current showcase of 360+ case studies and short videos can be accessed via the Sustainability Exchange, with 2015 materials soon to come. We thank the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for supporting the dissemination of the Awards.

### 2016 applications

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The 2016 Green Gown Awards UK will open for applications on 1 May 2016. This is a two-stage process with shortlisted finalists invited to submit a stage 2 submission. Winners will be announced October/November 2016. Keep an eye on our website for up-coming details.

### Links

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View the showcase of 360+ case studies and videos hosted on the Sustainability Exchange <http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/2015x>

Information on our governance/Steering Group [http://www.eauc.org.uk/green\\_gown\\_supporters](http://www.eauc.org.uk/green_gown_supporters)

### Contact

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Fiona Goodwin, Green Gown Awards Manager, EAUC, UK  
[greengown@eauc.org.uk](mailto:greengown@eauc.org.uk); [www.eauc.org.uk/green\\_gown\\_awards](http://www.eauc.org.uk/green_gown_awards)





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