

## North Warwickshire and Hinckley College

### Sustainability Professional Award

Serena Bacuzzi  
Group Sustainability Officer

An all-round approach to sustainability

#### About the project

##### Summary

Over the past six years I concentrated my work in looking out for opportunities to help the College to reduce its impact on the environment, educate the community to sustainable living principles and bring changes to the day-to-day unsustainable practices. The College responded very positively and quickly to the changes and that encouraged me to pursue in my mission, to constantly improve and aim for ever more ambitious goals. I have been working passionately with the intention to make the College stand out for its sustainability achievements. So much so that in 2012 Ofsted during the last inspection commented "Sustainability has a high priority and clear and challenging targets are in place to reduce the college's carbon footprint". Thanks to the work I have initiated the College has attained significant financial savings and my input has contributed to the improvement of services and facilities for staff and students. Recently my position has been promoted to a group role and I am now responsible to deliver similar successes to our new partner College South Leicestershire College.

##### Project partners

NWHC is committed to embedding the principles of sustainability across all its activities by minimising the impact on the environment, supporting a fair and equal society and providing opportunities for all staff and students to increase their awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

#### The results

##### The challenge

When I started working at the College in 2009, sustainability was not a core priority. Initially I created a Sustainability Policy and a Sustainable Development Action Plan, to bring this new topic to the attention of the



North Warwickshire  
& Hinckley College

##### Profile

- FE
- 13,000 students (including full and part time students)
- 746 staff
- Urban

Category supported by



Executive team, and then I started looking at opportunities to finance and deliver sustainability projects. During the past 6 years I have initiated and coordinated various projects in different areas, including:

**Area 1: Sustainability Awareness for staff, students and the local community**

**Area 2: Sustainability Policies and Procedures**

**Area 3: Education for Sustainable Development**

**Area 4: Reduction in resource consumption**

**Area 5: Waste minimization, reuse and recycling**

**Area 6: Promotion of sustainable transport**

## The approach

Most of the sustainability initiatives have been developed and created in-house, using internal resources where possible. In most cases, we were able to realize some of the most expensive projects thank to funding or non-capital investment opportunities.

## Our goals

Most of the projects listed above have been completed over the period 2009/10 -2014/15 and the College is still enjoying the benefits received from them. All of the initiatives described are still ongoing.

## Performance and results

Since the sustainability initiatives were implemented, the College has achieved significant savings and benefits for the College community. The College received recognition for these achievements in 2010 when winning the Sustainable Mainstreaming Leader Award and more recently the Coventry Telegraph Business Award 2014 for the Environmental and Green Sustainability category. North Warwickshire and Hinckley College has been also recently shortlisted for the Ashden School Award for its commitment to sustainability and carbon reduction.

## The future

### Lessons learned

The initiatives and projects implemented have brought significant financial savings and improved the existing facilities. From the financial point of view the savings achieved alone has justified the cost of appointing a dedicated Sustainability professional figure as part of the Estates and Facilities team. The work done in the past years has also been recognized by different bodies from which we have received awards in 2 instances, and by Ofsted that during their last inspection has given positive comments on the carbon reduction targets and sustainability priorities.

### Top 3 learnings

1. Sustainability needs to be part of the day-to-day routine in an organisation. Encourage changes in habits and behaviour is one of the most difficult challenges for sustainability professionals. Make sustainability enjoyable, simple, and shout out loud when achievements are met to encourage more positive actions.

2. Involve students and encourage them to share their views and ideas for improvement. They normally come out with really good suggestions and have the power to make things happen in the College.

3. It takes time to introduce changes and even more to see results. Patience, determination and devotion are key.

## Sharing your project

I communicated and engaged with various stakeholders, including staff, students, the local community, suppliers, contractors, etc. on a regular basis as part of my job. Most of the activities organized with staff and students, including attendance number and pictures have been recorded. Green Week is normally the busiest sustainability event during the year. In the academic year 2014/15 a total of 563 students sign up to various activities throughout the week.

## What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

“Winning a Green Gown Award would be a fantastic achievement for North Warwickshire College. It will be an excellent way to acknowledge the hard work and commitment we put into the implementation of sustainability projects and the positive impact on our students and wider community”. *Marion Plant, OBE – Principal and Chief Executive*

## Further information

Serena Bacuzzi, Email: [serebac@gmail.com](mailto:serebac@gmail.com)

Andrew Crowter, Email: [Andrew.crowter@nwhc.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.crowter@nwhc.ac.uk) Tel: 02476243102

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/nwhcnews](http://www.twitter.com/nwhcnews)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/official.nwhc](http://www.facebook.com/official.nwhc)