



Green Gown
Awards 2016



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Finalist's case study

King's College London Facilities and Services Green Labs at King's College London

About the project

Summary

King's College London have spearheaded a Green Labs programme which has not only led to significant energy savings, it has also improved science. This programme has been two-pronged between awards driven user-engagement, and estates led projects. Benefits include £100,000 annual savings in electricity and water, though extend beyond with reduced wash times and heat loads, improved environment and engagement, and sustainable procurement practices.

Project partners

Guys & St.Thomas's NHS Trust, Bouygues, L.E.A.N. (Laboratory efficiency action network)

The results

The problem

Laboratories consume the majority of energy and produce immense amounts of waste. They are constantly growing, and sustainability and environmental concerns are scarcely integrated.

The approach

King's College London invested in real energy savings projects while complimenting the projects with a positive behavioral change programmes. Not only were there equipment purchases and policy changes, KCL had a massive laboratory awards programme with a final ceremony hosted by the principal.

Our goals

One primary goal was show how sustainability could be integrated into science seamlessly, through positive engagement and energy projects. Ensuring research is conducted with considerations for the environment shouldn't be a burden. Secondly, we wanted to share these experiences, and help others achieve similar results.

Obstacles and solutions

Labs require tailored solutions	Laboratories aren't like normal buildings – change requires more variation often than LED lighting projects for example. While many improvements are
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Profile

- HEI
- 26,000 students
- 7000 staff
- Situated in the heart of London w/ 5 campuses
- Russell Group



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	replicable, they usually require a bit of tailoring to the setting. This is accomplished via close engagement and understanding of the environment.
Engagement on all levels	While there is support in pockets, more is needed from all levels including research councils and lab staff alike. Sharing good-practice, hosting informative events and broadcasting the successes go a long way and we can see the landscape is changing.
Projects must compliment behavior change	Having behavioral change is much reinforced by complimentary projects, and vice versa. The staff must support the projects, and the projects must benefit the staff and students.

Performance and results

User-engagement was conducted predominantly via our 2016 Lab Awards with 15 research groups participating in the programme. This not only formalised good practice but galvanised participants, culminating in a final ceremony led by our principal. Furthermore sustainability is now growing in its integration with future planning of research facilities – hopefully this can serve as an example for similar institutions growing their research facilities. KCL importantly has achieved over £100,000 in *annual* savings now from such programmes. The sources of the savings are varied, coming not just from electricity but from water savings, improved equipment usage, and diversion of clinical waste streams to recycling. The variety of improvements possible from such works can serve as an example to other institutions, of the potential benefits from investing in improved facilities and services of research spaces.

The future

Lessons learned

No project is as easy described as implemented! This may seem obvious, but the unforeseen challenges have pushed all involved to grow.

Sharing your project

KCL just hosted the recent LEAN meeting, in which case studies and good practice was shared. All KCL Green Lab case studies are publicly available, and updates about all the projects are shared via the running blog. KCL has hosted several small events relating to green labs in the past year, and aims to host more.

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

“Winning a 2nd consecutive Green Gown Award would be a true honour and confirms King’s continued commitment to sustainability. We aim to provide ‘world class services for a world class university’ and our research facilities are no different in this regard. This Green Gown award would provide recognition that our services and facilities are not only world class but pioneering, and that such practices should be shared throughout the sector.” Ed Byrne, Principal of King’s College London.

Further information

<http://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/sustainability/>

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/strategy/Sustainability/Sustainable-Labs/Case-Studies.aspx>

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