

## London Metropolitan University Best Newcomer

### EnviroMet - Starting the Sustainability Journey at London Metropolitan University

#### Section 1 About the project

##### Summary

Over the space of 1 year, London Met has reduced its carbon footprint by 1,485 tonnes, the equivalent of over 3 million tube journeys between our Holloway Road and Aldgate campuses through encouraging carbon conscious behaviour amongst our staff, students and contractors.

We are proud to have successfully lobbied the Mayor of London to improve cycle safety in London. As a result of our campaign, Transport for London has launched a pilot programme to increase cycling safety at City University, UCL and London Met.

##### Project partners

London Metropolitan University: Carbon Management Board, Carbon Management Team, Estates Department

#### Section 2 The results

##### The problem

London Metropolitan University had been addressing environmental performance in an ad-hoc manner but the development of an Environmental Sustainability Policy targeted specific areas for improvement. The University set itself challenging targets of reducing carbon emissions by 4,455 tonnes per annum by 2014. The University was also subject to an 18% rise in electricity and a 44% rise in gas costs so energy reduction was a key priority. As electricity accounts for 70% of London Met's carbon footprint, the focus was on improving staff and student awareness and implementing energy projects.

In addition, there had been several bike accidents which involved staff and students. The University wanted to encourage cycling but needed to improve safety.

##### The approach

In March 2011, the first Environmental Sustainability Policy and Carbon Management Plan were developed and approved. This was the first time that environmental goals had been set and initially covered 3 years. The list of projects outlined in the Carbon Management Plan included a timescale to assist with meeting the 33% carbon reduction initially set to be achieved by 2014. In June 2011, the first Energy Manager was recruited to drive improvement in conjunction with a Carbon Management Team made up of enthusiastic staff and student volunteers from Estates, ISS, SU, Academics, Procurement, HR, H&S and Finance.



##### Profile

- HEI
- 18,701 (includes full and part time students)
- 1,562 staff
- Urban

### Our goals

- Reduce cost/carbon emissions
- Improve recycling rates/reduce resources used
- Improve relationships and communication within the University
- Improve relationships with contractors
- Increase environmental awareness
- Increase staff/student safety

### Obstacles and solutions

Lack of capital funding	Successfully applied for Salix funding
Small team of dedicated individuals (1.5 FTE)	A Carbon Management Team was established to help implement the actions of the Carbon Management Plan. This consists of representatives from across the University

### Performance and results

- Reduced carbon emissions from electricity and gas by 1,870 from 2010-2012
- Saved £310,000 on energy bills
- Increased recycling by 12%
- Reduced water use by 5,863 litres, equivalent to 95 showers worth through considering water usage during toilet refurbishments
- Improving cycling safety to reduce accidents
- Increased awareness throughout the University through holding a series of events such as Climate Week
- Improved relationships with contractors – encouraged contractors to sign up to the “Halve waste to landfill” scheme, trained energy engineers within our M & E contract
- Increased performance in People & Planet Green League from a 3rd Class degree to a 2:2 degree
- Exchanged good practice with other Universities on initiatives through LUEG and the Islington Climate Change Partnership
- Printer centralisation programme reduced paper use by 20% (The University previously used enough paper to reach the top of our tallest building 100 times over). Reduced printer power wastage by 80% (the ‘trickle power consumption’ of the printers was the equivalent CO2 of the Vice Chancellor travelling around the equator on a jumbo jet over 3 months a year).

## Section 3 The future

### Lessons learned

The University has learnt to use awareness to try and overcome barriers people have to behaviour change. For example, it was discovered that staff didn't sort their waste using our recycling bins as they felt it all went to landfill – to overcome this we took a group of staff to the waste recovery facility so that they could see how the waste was sorted and re-used.

London Met has achieved a great deal in 1 year with a limited budget and human resource so feel this can be implemented at other organisations who do not have large number of staff dedicated to sustainability.

The University has achieved this by developing good working relationships with other departments, raising awareness, learning from others experience, utilising knowledge and experience within London Met and engaging with our contractors. The University discovered that by working closely with other departments decisions can be influenced at the outset of projects which result in a reduction of resources used to help minimise our environmental impact.

### Sharing your project

Progress towards our environmental sustainability goals are published as part of the annual financial statement. This has helped raise the profile of the work which is being undertaken as tangible benefits have been shown. London Met has developed a dedicated environmental website to collate information on projects and how staff and students can get involved. A twitter and facebook feed have been developed to communicate with a wider audience.

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

London Metropolitan University were proud to have been a finalist in the Green Gown Awards as it is recognition of the hard work that every staff and student has put in to reduce the environmental impact of the University, many who have volunteered their own time to do so.

### Further information

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