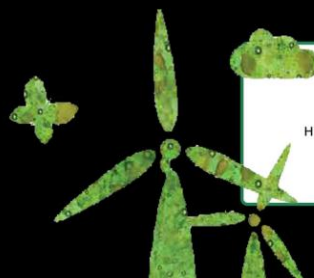




Green Gown Awards 2012

Highly commended case study

Dissemination supported by:



Redbridge Institute of Adult Education

Best Newcomer Greener Future

Section 1 About the project

Summary

The project developed a whole-organisation approach to achieving a greener future getting part time adult learners, staff and the local community involved in sustainable development and carbon reduction through a recycling scheme, community engagement and switch off project.

Project partners

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) provided £5,000 of project funding through our competitive bid to the LSIS Stepping up to Sustainability Fund and an LSIS Associate acted as critical friend for our project. Winchester University has shared their expertise in energy and environment management.

Section 2 The results

The problem

Making use of the LSIS *Sustainability Reaching Forward Index* tool <http://rfi.excellencegateway.org.uk/index.php> we identified that our strongest areas were organisational capacity and leadership and our weakest learning and learners. The project intended to focus on learning and getting learners engaged as well as build on what had already been achieved in carbon reduction with the changeover to virtual servers and installation of efficient light fittings in teaching rooms by our facilities team.

The approach

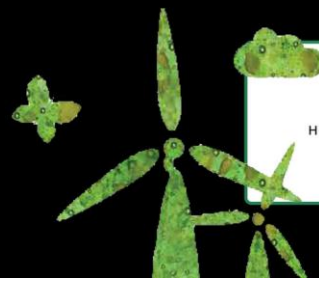
A range of initiatives and actions were taken to raise awareness of the Greener Future project and to achieve its aims. The project was planned by a Sustainable Development Task Group of interested staff with a range of roles and responsibilities, led by the Principal. A project coordinator was appointed for the duration of the project and supported by the Task Group.

- A poster campaign was launched to recruit learners as envirochampions and promote a sustainability class competition and a programme of course visits arranged by the project coordinator
- Resources for staff were set up on the shared drive and VLE
- Every issue of the fortnightly newsletter promoted sustainable development activities
- Training was provided for envirochampions and tutors including a L2 Environmental Principles qualification.



Profile

- Adult Education
- 5,406 part time students (655 FTE)
- 179 staff (98FTE)
- Urban



- Promotions were held in a public area allowing learners and tutors to find out more about the Greener Futures project
- The student competition challenged whole classes to ‘green’ their curriculum area. Students were invited to submit a list of ways to make their courses more environmentally friendly. There were some excellent entries. A tip sheet on how to be more environmentally friendly within the Institute has been produced from student recommendations
- Recycling bins were bought and installed in all classrooms and the lobby areas. New signage was bought for the recycling bins in the car park to highlight their position and utility
- Climate Week activities included a celebration event for the winners of the class competition and presentation of certificates to Envirochampions. Family learning sessions on how to grow your own food and art classes using recycled materials were held. Stalls disseminated information about how to be green at college and at home, the local Council recycling officer was present and a very successful book swop raised money for charity. The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with a tree planting by envirochampions and a Big Lunch to support local charity the Redbridge Foodbank
- A range of information sheets on reducing waste, saving energy, water conservation, better travel and more responsible purchasing have also been developed and are available for staff and learners on the VLE. Detailed material is available as well as summary documents that are more accessible to our ESOL and Learning Difficulties students www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/greenerfuture

Our goals

- All paper to be disposed of through recycling bins
- Reduction in number of printers, computers, interactive boards left switched on each day when classrooms are empty between sessions
- Deployment of student envirochampions in each curriculum department to champion and campaign on energy reduction and recycling
- Reduction of our direct carbon emissions

Obstacles and solutions

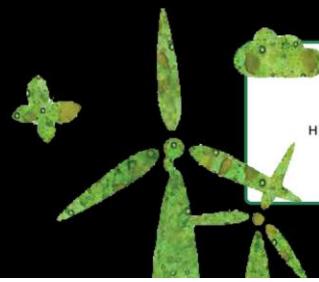
Obstacles	Solutions
Engagement of teaching staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop in sessions with one to one mentoring for staff from project lead • Recruiting more teaching staff to the Sustainable Development Task group
Engagement of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting student envirochampions through competitions & providing a free accredited training course in Environmental Principles & Practice (CIEH) • Working directly with learners, talking to classes and holding sessions in a public area where the project coordinator was more accessible.
Sustaining improvements with PT students on short courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding the student generated green tips in student induction material • Learners included in membership of the Sustainable Development Task group



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Performance and results

- A 75% reduction in number of printers, computers, interactive boards left switched on each day when classrooms are empty has been achieved
- Direct carbon emissions have been reduced by 11,500 kg of CO₂ a year making a saving of just over £1,500 annually
- Over a 12 month period we have reduced our paper consumption by 465 reams

Section 3 The future

Lessons learned

The project identified that many tutors are embedding environmental themes and practices into their teaching and curricula. Introducing a peer coaching programme for sustainable development will transfer this good practice across the Institute reinforced by a 'green star' award scheme for tutors.

Sharing your project

We have provided a workshop *ILT and Sustainable development* for the JISC London ACL provider Forum; the presentation has been disseminated through the JISC network and we have continued to provide informal support and advice to other ACL providers. <http://moodle.rsc-london.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=100>

What has it meant to your institution to be highly commended at the Green Gown Awards?

The Award has recognised what students and staff have achieved so far, inspiring others to get involved and enhancing our reputation in the local community and confirming the Institute is a great place to learn.

Further information

Joni Cunningham, Principal, Redbridge Institute
Tel. 020 8550 2398 email: joni.cunningham@redbridge-iae.ac.uk