



Cranfield University Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change Cranfield Green - *Practicing what we teach*

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY

Profile

- HEI
- 2647 students (includes full and part time students)
- 1557 staff
- Rural

Section 1 About the project

Summary

Cranfield Green is more than a single project; it is a University-wide commitment to improving our environment and at the same time our financial sustainability. Over the past 5 years Cranfield has implemented a comprehensive campaign to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts. By July 2012 we achieved a 24% reduction in emissions from their peak in 2007/08. By October 2013 we implemented an environmental management system across the campus certified to ISO 14001:2004.

Project partners

Funding partners for the project included HEFCE and Salix. External organisations which have provided expertise and support to the University, or benefitted from University initiatives over the past 5 years include: Environ; ZapCarbon; Carbon Trust; elcomponent; Elster Metering; Integral; Alpheus; Anglian Water; Environment Agency; Central Bedfordshire Council; Cawleys; John O'Connors; Forest of Marston Vale; Kempston Centre, Bedford; Emmaus Carlton Village; Oxfam; LiftShare and UNO Bus Services.

Section 2 The results

The problem

As a research intensive, wholly post-graduate University, with its own sewage works and airport, Cranfield has a diverse range of challenges to address when it comes to carbon reduction and environmental improvement. As a University with a broad international student and staff body Cranfield also understands the need to address carbon emissions associated with travel.

Our goals

In 2008/09 a detailed carbon management plan was developed to proactively reduce carbon emissions. A 50% reduction target in emissions was set to be achieved by 2020. In 2012 the University formalised its wider environmental improvement goals. These go beyond carbon to incorporate construction; procurement; travel; waste; water and community involvement. Underpinning the achievement of all goals is the implementation of ISO14001:2004 across the campus, certification of which was achieved in October 2013. The University is also proud to have been awarded FairTrade University status in 2013, a year earlier than planned.



Obstacles and solutions

Lack of focus	Dedicated team developed in Estates department for Energy & Environment.
Funding	Support from Senior management to establish revolving Salix and Estates funds.
Staff & student buy-in	Initial engagement campaign supported by ZapCarbon with focus on energy savings. More recently environmental awareness briefings have been delivered for all staff and students. Also part of formal induction process (staff & students).

Performance and results

- Our carbon management plan provided 10% carbon savings in 2010 (24% between 2008-2012) as well as significant cost savings. Big investments in CHP and District Heating have supported efficiencies in lighting, IT and building upgrades along with space utilisation improvements. Our annual student intake is proactively involved in switch-off campaigns and recycling initiatives in on-site accommodation.
- Reuse events, such as the 'Green MoveOut' initiative introduced in 2012/13, diverted 1.7 tonnes waste from landfill and supported 6 different charities. Over 20 waste streams are now segregated on campus and general waste is further sorted at an MRF resulting in 65% overall waste reused or recycled.
- Our comprehensive five year Travel Plan was updated in 2012 and key actions to reduce emissions associated with day-to-day commuting are underway. Over 217 individuals have signed up to Cranfield liftshare group and 86 carshare groups have been established. In the past 2 years 324 cycle hoops have been installed and a cycle path will soon connect Cranfield village and the University campus.
- Incorporating biodiversity planning within grounds maintenance is improving our local environment and establishment of 460m² of wildflower meadow trial plots on campus as part of a national research project (BESS) has further helped raise awareness.
- All these initiatives are tied together by our certified ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and have involved extensive support from our staff and students; providing opportunities for them to volunteer, network and also apply their academic skills.

Section 3 The future

Lessons learned

It is very important to have clear targets, measure performance and feedback to stakeholders. The use of an annual target of 6% reduction in carbon emissions has helped to stay on track towards our overall 50% goal.

Sharing your project

Key initiatives and achievements are always disseminated externally via press releases through the University website. This includes a section on our environmental performance to provide details of actions implemented and progress made towards our top level objectives.

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

We are delighted that Cranfield has been recognised for the very real progress we have made over the past 5 years. Being highly commended for a Green Gown Award underlines the achievements we have already made and encourages us to do more. It will help to underpin the fantastic support we have from senior management and reward the many staff and students involved in the on-going projects and initiatives.

Further information

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