

## Coleg Gwent Sustainability Champion Ian Rowe – Coleg Gwent

### Section 1 About Ian

#### Summary

Ian is a key member of the college management team and through his inspiration, determination and pragmatic approach he has mobilised a community both inside and outside the college to deliver new learning opportunities to students, to reduce waste, to save money and to create a platform for a sustainable business. His achievement of OHSAS 18001, ISO 14001 and Green Dragon Level 5 for the college is testament to his self-motivation and now means the college considers sustainability as a core principal at all levels.

### Section 2 The results

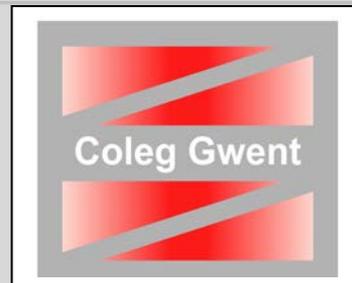
#### The approach

Ian is a focused individual who understands the high level principles and values of sustainable development but also the practical realities of translating them into action. He can articulate the values and principles and persuade others of the value and importance of adopting a sustainable development position. He understands the importance of accurate and relevant data as the basis for long term decision making.

Ian's contribution in the College has been very significant. He has been the manager who has performed as the 'sustainability champion'. He has done this with commitment and drive and an infectious enthusiasm. He has supported the senior managers in the organisation in their discussions and debates and it is no exaggeration to say that it is largely due to Ian's passion that Coleg Gwent has committed to the Sustainable Development Charter. However, that Institutional commitment was not seen as 'job done' by Ian – he continues to encourage and inspire colleagues to consider sustainability issues in all aspects of their work. Staff and learners have all been influenced by Ian's determination to ensure that sustainability remains a key item on the College's agenda.

#### Performance and results

Ian successfully developed and implemented a fully integrated management system throughout the college. We believe we are the only Further Education College to achieving ISO 9001, ISO 14001, BS OHSAS 18001 and Level 5 of the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standards. This has ensured that environmental management, sustainability, wellbeing and social responsibility drive and support the development of college policies and procedures.



#### Profile

- Further Education College
- 1600 staff
- 32000 students

Category supported by



# Finalist's case study

By working collaboratively with our waste contractor Ian has substantially reduced the waste produced by the college, identified waste streams and effective recycling solutions. Through the consolidation of the waste contract and improved communication an annual recycle rate of '86%' has been achieved for all waste across the college. This substantially exceeds the Welsh Governments target of 70% recycle rate set for the sector to achieve by 2025. Examples of initiatives implemented by Ian include, all food waste is now collected, processed and converted into good quality compost, all paper/cardboard is now collected recycled and converted back into paper for the packaging industry, all metal is now segregated, recycled and processed and sent for use in the automotive industry, all wood is segregated sent for processing and re-sold as bedding in the equine industry, used tyres from the motor vehicle departments are now recycled and converted into government standard (PAS 108) Tyre Bales for use in the construction industry, i.e. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, Sound Barriers/Noise Bunds

Ian successfully developed and implemented a 5 year plan to ensure sustainable development was a core principal of the college. As a result of Ian's innovative initiatives and monitoring programmes, the following substantial savings were achieved

- Electricity consumption = a reduction of some 31%
- Gas consumption = a reduction of some 25%
- Oil consumption = a reduction of some 56%
- Water consumption = a reduction of some 59%

Ian has also established a number of student projects and developed links with local communities of the college. As a result of Ian's commitment the college has improved its student engagement, improved ESGC and established a number of collaborative partnerships within the local communities, groups and its stakeholders. These include Cynnal Cymru, Keep Wales Tidy, SEWTA, Carbon Trust, Plan-it Eco, Woodland Trust and local councils. Through the partnerships the college has been involved in a number of sustainable development and environmental projects.

## Section 3 The future

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

To receive a Green Gown Award for sustainability would be immensely important to our institution. It would be external validation of the importance that we place on running our business as sustainably as we possibly can. We are a learning organisation and place great value on feedback and praise. Winning this award would be an honour and would rightly celebrate the commitment and high quality of the work of our staff.'

### Further information

[www.colegwent.ac.uk](http://www.colegwent.ac.uk)

[www.facebook.com/ColegGwent](https://www.facebook.com/ColegGwent)