



Green Gown
Awards 2014

Finalist's case study



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University of the Arts London Technical Innovation

London College of Fashion: Not too many irons in the fire

Section 1 About the project

Summary

London College of Fashion has installed an innovative new timer switch that reduces electricity consumption through limiting the time irons are left on. This technological solution is paired with an LCF-designed printed ironing board cover to raise awareness of energy consumption in students and staff using the equipment. The project has encouraged dialogue about energy saving and has prompted some staff to recommend that interventions are made regarding other equipment. Other colleges in the University have shown an interest, not only for reasons of energy saving but also as a safety measure (to prevent irons being left on when unattended).

Project partners

Musselbrook Machine Maintenance Ltd.

Section 2 The results

The starting point

Industrial irons are frequently used by students for garment-making. They take around 15 minutes to reach useable heat and steam pressure so there is a temptation to leave them on. Our electricity consumption measurements indicate that just one iron left switched on but not in use wastes up to 3 kWh per day or 400 kWh per year.

The approach

To raise awareness of wasted energy and reduce health and safety risks associated with irons being left on indefinitely, Embroidery Technician Rachel Clowes and Health and Safety Adviser Brookie Fraser Jenkins developed an innovative solution along with consultants Musselbrook Machinery. A plunger-type switch limits the time the iron is left on and a large red light indicates when the iron is on. A custom printed LCF-designed ironing board cover communicates that the energy wasted over a week is potentially equivalent to making hundreds of cups of tea.

We have successfully developed the design and installed one of these units and are trialling use with Workroom Technicians and the 49 MA Menswear and Womenswear students who have access to the



Profile

- HEI
- 18,799 students
- 2,333 staff
- Urban

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Working together

equipment, monitoring use and gathering user feedback including optimal 'on time' to fine tune the system. We are looking at how we can roll this out to other equipment.

Our goals

Sustainability is one of University of the Arts' strategic aims:

"To create a culture of social and environmental awareness in order to develop and integrate sustainable and ethical practice throughout all aspects of our life and work."

Performance and results

We have received feedback that this is a highly replicable system for all kinds of electrical equipment in workshops. Students receive an induction to understand the system and agree that it is a good way to get students thinking about energy saving. It is a practical example of how sustainability and health and safety issues can be improved.

Section 3 The future

Lessons learned

1. Small innovations are worth the effort. They plant a seed that grows as engagement and opportunities increase.
2. Our students have proved very quick to adapt to the way we've changed this equipment. We should trust students and colleagues to embrace positive change.
3. Preparing for the Green Gown awards is an excellent motivator, promotion tool, and way to push your project forward!

Sharing our project

We have publicised this project through staff members and meetings, student inductions, our website and blogs including a post on selection as a Finalist for the Green Gown awards:

<http://blogs.arts.ac.uk/fashion/2014/08/05/london-college-fashion-centre-sustainable-fashion-nominated-six-green-gown-awards/>

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

"We are delighted that six London College of Fashion projects are Green Gown Award Finalists in 2014. This recognition, of our dedication to sustainability in all that we do and our achievements to date, will help us to celebrate our success and engage even more students, staff and others in using fashion, as a discipline, to drive change, build a sustainable future and improve the way we live."

- Professor Frances Corner OBE, Head of London College of Fashion

Further information

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Better Lives is a term we use here at London College of Fashion to describe the work we do that uses fashion, as a discipline, to drive change, build a sustainable future and improve the way we live:

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/fashion/about/better-lives/>