

Issue number 55 Summer 2015

Greenlines

The University's
sustainability newsletter

University launches new green vision

The University launches a new environmental sustainability policy and strategy that will see its world-leading research in this area matched by improved operational performance and impact.

The Environmental Sustainability Vision, Policy and Strategy will help Cambridge make strides in reducing its carbon emissions, conserving natural resources and making positive environmental impacts through its research and teaching.

The policy sets out clear objectives, such as eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2020, reducing water consumption by 20 per cent by 2020, and encouraging 75 per cent of staff to regularly commute to work by sustainable modes of transport by 2016.

"This is a level of ambition that presents a huge challenge that will take time and resources to fulfil. It will mean that the way we deliver some activities will need to be different, many behaviours changed, and projects redefined." - Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice-Chancellor

The Environment and Energy Section – now 12-strong – will look after the day-to-day implementation of the policy and report annually on its progress. Key areas of focus will include carbon management, sustainable procurement, travel, sustainable construction and sustainable food.

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Photo credit: Viridian Solar

An Environmental Sustainability Strategy Committee (ESSC) will be set up to provide strategic oversight of the University's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Download the new Environmental Sustainability Vision, Policy and Strategy from our website:

[www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/
environmental-sustainability-vision-
policy-and-strategy](http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/environmental-sustainability-vision-policy-and-strategy)

Bee-ing resource efficient!

To celebrate National Honeybee Day on 22nd August we are giving away 6 packets of 'Bee Friendly Wildflower Seeds' on WARPit. The University's online 'freecycling' tool WARPit allows staff to advertise and give away items that they don't need but someone else in the University could use! To claim a pack of seeds visit [www.WARPit.co.uk/
cambridgeuni](http://www.WARPit.co.uk/cambridgeuni)



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www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk

✉: environment@admin.cam.ac.uk

🐦: @CambridgeSust | 📘: CUenvironment

Meet the newest members of **Environment & Energy**



Peter Lumb
Environmental Coordinator

What does this position entail?

I support the implementation of the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy, including implementing our Environmental Management System, coordinating and developing waste management and recycling

programmes, dealing with trade effluent consents, and delivering a wide range of environmental communication and engagement initiatives, including Green Impact.

What is your background and how did you get here? I have a BSc in Geography and an MSc in Climate Change. After graduating I spent 5 years working for two local authorities - Peterborough City Council and North Norfolk District Council - on sustainable travel and environmental strategy respectively, and then spent 2 years as a consultant with Mott MacDonald.

What are you most looking forward to getting your teeth into in the coming year? I am excited to get involved in running Green Impact, and meeting all the people who make it a success!

What gets you out of bed (and into work) in the morning? Radio 4, breakfast, and my five mile cycle ride.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? Everything from pilot and footballer, to lawyer and advertising executive!

What animal best suits your personality? Parrotfish – they are a critical part of maintaining the health of their environment, just like I hope to be! (Hopefully I don't look like one though...).

Tell us one little known fact about yourself. I have been hit by lightning!

First impressions of Cambridge? I've been here over a year now but still hope to see much more of the city – including lots of the University estate!

Emily Dunning
Coordinator for the Living Laboratory for Sustainability

What are you most looking forward to getting your teeth into in the coming academic year? Getting lots more projects off the ground with students, academics and the Estate Management team, to improve the University's environmental sustainability further, and be world-leading in that area, like with

our teaching and research.

What is your background and how did you get here? I studied Geography at Cambridge and have worked locally more or less ever since in various environmental roles. I started out at UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, then supporting student engagement and action on social and environmental issues at Cambridge Hub and, most recently, working with Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership to create a more socially and environmentally sustainable economic system. In between all that I travelled overland from the UK to Hong Kong, then Japan and New Zealand, meeting people working on grassroots sustainability initiatives (www.seekthechange.org).

What gets you out of bed (and into work) in the morning? The promise of breakfast.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? A Little Chef waitress.

What do you think is the biggest environmental challenge or potential? Both the biggest challenge and potential is to enable everyone to feel like they have agency to create the kind of world they want to live in, and feel empowered to do something about the things they are not happy with in their own lives and/or society as a whole.

Do you have any hobbies? Walking and hiking, travelling, all things environmental sustainability related, good food and spending time with friends.

First impressions of Cambridge? I remember being struck by the amount of history here, walking the same streets as so many incredible people who have discovered amazing things and changed the way we perceive the world.





Gearing up for another successful Green Impact

Green Impact, the University's environmental accreditation scheme, is due to launch again in the new academic year after a highly successful year which saw thirty-seven departments, colleges and labs across the University gain recognition for their efforts to improve their environmental performance.

The Green Impact scheme supports and encourages teams across the University to reduce their department's environmental

impacts, through an online workbook which guides the teams through simple, clear and easy environmental criteria and provides opportunities for intra-departmental teamwork, creativity and innovation!

Departments can choose to go for a Bronze, Silver or Gold award, while special awards are available for Colleges and Labs, all of which are recognised with an award from the NUS at the end of the year.

Stay tuned for details of the launch of Green Impact 2015-16, and contact greenimpact@admin.cam.ac.uk with any queries about taking part.

Fact of the month...

This year the Earth experienced its hottest June and the hottest first half of a year since records began. The NOAA calculated that the world's average temperature in June was 16.3°C, slightly higher than the record set in 2014.

Too hot in your office? When switched on, the average office PC pumps out 10% of the heat of a typical hand dryer, so remember to switch yours off when not in use to prevent your office overheating!

Green Gown Awards finalists

The University of Cambridge has been recognised by the Green Gown Awards, which celebrates exceptional sustainability leadership, management and best practice initiatives in UK tertiary education.

In the 11th year of the prestigious awards, the University has successfully been shortlisted in two categories:

Leadership Award

Professor Jeremy Sanders Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Affairs has been recognised in the sustainability leadership category. As Pro-VC, Professor Sanders has led the adoption of a new Environmental Sustainability Policy for the University, secured new resources for environmental sustainability measures, most notably for 8 new dedicated posts in the

Environment and Energy Section, and supported the Energy and Carbon Reduction Project with a £2M per year budget for energy reduction measures.

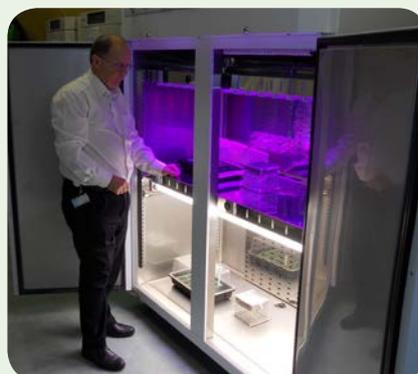
Research and Development

The department of Plant Sciences' work to develop the use of LED lighting for plant growth research could help lower the energy bills of plant growth facilities around the world – including the 44 plant growth rooms in Cambridge's Sainsbury Laboratory – and make plant research

less carbon intensive. With backing from the University's Energy & Carbon Reduction Project, Plant Sciences has been working with industry partners to develop LED lighting that can grow a wide variety of research plants species the same – not better or worse – as plants grown under fluorescent tubes. This will mean that academics can be confident that the results they will get from plants grown under LED lights are comparable to past experiments.

The trial LED lighting arrays in place are already saving the department £6600 per year. Once refits are fully rolled out LED technology will be saving over £100,000, 1 million kWh and 460 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Brunel's Old Station in Bristol this November.



An LED growth chamber in the Plant Growth Facility



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Meet this summer's Environment & Energy interns

This summer we had four opportunities to work with us on a variety of interesting projects in Cambridge, including receiving one student from Yale. Here, each of the interns let us know who they are and what they've been up to!

Laura Briggs

Undergraduate student in Natural Sciences at Cambridge



Project: My internship is focussed

on plug-in equipment in the science labs across the University, and how much energy this equipment uses. The first part of my project is finding how much equipment is out there, and then estimating how much energy it's using.

What do I hope to achieve? Plug-in equipment can account for up to 25% of the total energy consumed in a science lab, so reducing this is an important issue for the University. I hope to address this by investigating strategies to create a more sustainable lab environment, such as investing in equipment with greater efficiency, promoting better management of equipment currently in use or sharing equipment between labs.

Christina Larkin

Recent graduate in Natural Sciences (Geological Sciences, MSci)



Project: I am looking to assessing how to set up a Green Laboratories Programme within the University, including looking at how

labs can improve their environmental performance from a number of angles; from behavioural changes to replacement and management of equipment.

What difference do I hope to make?

Labs are responsible for a significant proportion of the University's carbon emissions through the use of energy intensive equipment, yet account for a minority of the University's Estate. Making small incremental changes to both the infrastructure and behaviour in our labs has the potential to cumulatively make a big difference to both the University's energy use and carbon emissions.

Elsa Durieux

Undergraduate student in Land Economy at Cambridge

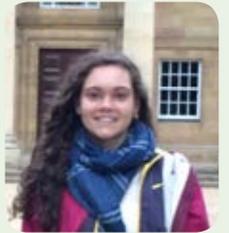


Project: I have been engaging with University departments to review the transport infrastructure and measures which are available to their staff to help move them away from driving to and from work, and identify possible improvements.

Why I wanted to work on this project? I wanted to do work experience relating to my course while contributing to improve the city where I live, and my internship in travel planning in the E&E team has proved to be the perfect way to do that. I am near the end of my internship and have found the whole experience rewarding and instructive, the people I contacted were all very knowledgeable about their staff transport issues, and keen to work with me to make a change. The great working atmosphere in the E&E team also contributed to making my time an enjoyable one!

Martha Longley

Undergraduate at Yale



Project: My project involves creating a handbook for the University's annual environmental engagement programme. This includes designing a calendar of events, creating specific instructions for the events, compiling the necessary resources and writing accompanying communications materials.

What made me interested in this project?

This past year I attended a small lecture given by Alexander Verbeek, an environmental diplomat from the Netherlands. His closing message was: "the science is there, now it comes down to communicating it". I have always known that I wanted to work to protect the natural environment, and I still don't know how exactly I will do that, but I do know that the effectiveness of my future endeavours will all depend on my ability to communicate. This project is the perfect way to do that. So far I have not been disappointed; I have learned a lot from the other interns, my supervisors, and the research I've done. I look forward to applying it!

There are lots of opportunities for students to work with the University's Environment and Energy section, including as part of 'Living Lab'.

Living Laboratory for Sustainability is a programme that provides opportunities for students to propose and carry out projects across the University to improve Cambridge's sustainability. To find out more visit www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/getting-involved/living-laboratory-sustainability

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