

# Issue number 57 October 2015

# Greenlines

The University's  
*sustainability* newsletter

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## All the fun of the fair!

E&E report back from Freshers' event



The Environment and Energy (E&E) section had a record 800 students sign up to the Cambridge Green Challenge at our Freshers' Fair stall this year, with loads of enthusiastic students coming to talk to us about sustainability and how they can get involved.

For anyone who has experienced the manic nature of Cambridge Freshers' Fair, serious energy (and a loud voice) was needed to ensure that students got our message! The free pizza stall nearby meant that our sign-up iPad was covered in greasy fingerprints, but it was all worthwhile to adopt our paperless approach...

It was great to speak to so many students enthusiastic about the environment and sustainability. Some had heard about Green Impact and wanted to know how they could get involved with their

department or college this year. Others had interesting and varied ideas for 'Living Lab' projects.

For those students who missed out on joining the throngs at our stall over those two days, there is still a chance to get involved and stay engaged! Throughout the year we'll be letting students at the University know about training, internships, volunteering and a whole host of other research and engagement opportunities. Here's how:

- Sign up to our mailing list; ([www.eepurl.com/bBTljb](http://www.eepurl.com/bBTljb))
- Like us on Facebook; ([www.facebook.com/CUenvironment](http://www.facebook.com/CUenvironment))
- Or follow us on Twitter (@**CambridgeSust**) and on Instagram (**CambridgeSust**) for photos, updates and opportunities on everything sustainability-related happening around the University.

## Great Scott! Green Impact is back for 2015...

On 26 October, Green Impact launched for the 2015/16 academic year, with over 80 interested staff and students attending an event at University Centre to kick off this year's programme.

Attendees heard how the Green Impact scheme has helped more than 50 departments and colleges improve their environmental performance since the scheme began 4 years ago, all thanks to a focus on small, easily achievable actions. Teams from departments and colleges use a simple online workbook to guide them throughout the year and record their progress. New to the workbook this year is 'Excellence Projects' specifically aimed at teams who have taken part for several years running, which allows them to choose one larger environmental sustainability-related issue to act on.

To register a team for this year's Green Impact, visit [www.greenimpact.org/cambridge](http://www.greenimpact.org/cambridge), or email [greenimpact@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:greenimpact@admin.cam.ac.uk) for more details.



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## Meet our new Carbon Management Assistant



### 60 second interview with Christina Larkin

#### What does your position entail?

I am on a 12 month graduate placement supporting the Carbon Reduction Manager in a number of areas. These include carbon management, including data management, analysis and reporting; project design and implementation; and communications and engagement. I assist in reporting the University's carbon emissions and help implement the Energy and Carbon Reduction Project.

#### What is your background and how did you get here?

I studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge, specialising in Geological Sciences and graduated this year with a BA and MSci. I completed a masters project in geochemistry, looking at reconstructing past climate

#### What were you doing before joining the Environment & Energy section?

I did a 6 week carbon management internship with the Environment and Energy section this summer, looking at how to make scientific research facilities more sustainable. It's odd to be back here again so soon but great to work with the E&E team again!

#### What did you want to be when you were growing up?

When I was really young, one of the many things I wanted to be was an airhostess on Concorde

so I could travel at the speed of sound).

**What animal would best suit your personality?** A mouse (small but surprisingly loud!).

**What do you think is the biggest environmental challenge?** There are many, but I think dealing with the huge increases in human population, and the resulting increases in resource usage, is the biggest environmental challenge we have to face.

**Do you have any hobbies?** I am a cox for a Cambridge town rowing club, and coxed for my college (Murray Edwards) when I was a student. I also enjoy photography, writing and reading books amongst other things.

**Where is your favourite place in Cambridge?** The River Cam (either walking alongside or in a boat).

## Network Exploring!

The Environment and Energy (E&E) Section have launched a Good Practice workshop series to support members of the Environment and Energy Coordinator (EEC) network, and to share good practice from across the estate.

The EEC network, launched in 2013, helps to champion environmental issues within departments. Over 100 EECs across the University now act as a point of contact between E&E and departmental staff, students and senior management.

Due to the diverse and extensive nature of Cambridge, there is no one-size-fits-all approach, so a local focus for activity within departments makes the message far more effective and relevant.

EECs play a key role in this, by understanding the culture of the department and by being able

to encourage others to change their attitudes and behaviour to take environmental aspects into consideration.

We provide support and assistance to EECs as part of our mission to reduce carbon emissions, address environmental issues across the University estate, and encourage sustainable behaviour across our academic and administrative activities. The Good Practice workshops series forms part of this, by giving EECs a chance to share their experiences with their peers across the University.

#### Want to become an EEC?

We are looking to have full representation from across all 150 departments, with many larger departments potentially choosing to have two or more representatives.

#### What will I have to do?

An EEC typically offers advice and support to staff and students on environmental issues, and liaises



with the Environment and Energy Section on specific issues. You will also have the opportunity to lead or take part in environmental initiatives that make a real difference to your department's environmental performance. The role takes about 2-4 hours of time a month, but can be achieved with more or less commitment too.

#### What support is there?

EECs are supported by us and will also join an active network sharing ideas, practices and information from across the University.

See the full role description at [www.bit.ly/1jRIowk](http://www.bit.ly/1jRIowk)



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### Did you spot the *Whole Earth?* exhibition on Parkers Piece this month?



Thousands of students and local residents visited the display, which was set up by the Environment & Energy section and Anglia Ruskin University.

### Want to win £150?

The annual Travel to Work survey is open until 30 October. The survey should take 2-3 minutes to complete and all staff who complete the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win £150.

The survey, run by Travel for Cambridgeshire, will complement the University-wide survey run by Environment and Energy Section in the summer.

Amanda Holden, Travel Plan Manager, said: "We received a great response to our survey in June, which was carried out as part of a review of our University-wide travel plan to find out about what can be done to improve the transport options available for staff and students and to encourage them to travel sustainably."

"The Travel for Cambridgeshire survey is a county-wide survey which is used to benchmark our travel patterns against other large employers in Cambridge. The survey has been done for the last ten years so we can compare annual trends to determine any key changes."

The survey focuses on how you travelled to work from Saturday, 10 October to Friday, 16 October and closes at 5pm on Friday, 30 October.

Complete the survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UniTfC2015](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UniTfC2015)

The results of the survey will be published on the Environment and Energy website, where you can currently download last year's results.

### Facts of the month...

This month's facts are all about waste and recycling to tie in with Environment & Energy section's 'Spotlight on Waste month' (see page 4).

- From 2014 to 2015, 2,482 tonnes of waste was collected from bins on University Sites. That's the weight of the London Eye, or to give it some Cambridge perspective...
- If our waste was collected by punts on the Cam, we would need 6,128 punts to collect it all!
- It would be enough waste to fill King's College chapel 37 feet deep!
- Fortunately, 903 tonnes of this was recycled, that's equivalent to the weight of all of the University of Cambridge's 12,000 undergraduate students put together! (although this figure doesn't take into account all the pizza they ate at Fresher's Fair...)

### Cafés complete compostible challenge

Cafés run by the University have switched to entirely compostable packaging and cutlery!

The innovative products, made by 'Vegware', can all be composted, saving on plastic and paper being sent to landfill. Combined with the green waste collections instigated by the University cafés recently, this means that far more waste is now being recycled.

Vegware visited the University in early October to hold a 'recycling challenge' at four of the University cafes, to help staff, students and visitors understand what goes in which bin. Be sure to check the new posters in each café letting you know how the new system works!



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## Take a leaf from our book...

University Library checks out energy savings



Another success story from the Environment & Energy section's Energy and Carbon Reduction Project (ECRP) has emerged this month, with new chillers installed this summer at the University library.

The chillers are now in full operation and, alongside improvements to the library's Building Management System to optimise the performance of the new system, have already resulted in 15-20% reductions in building-level electricity consumption. The £1.4m project will also be critical to keeping conditions optimal for the Library's approximately 8 million items.

Xiang Cheng, Building Energy Manager in the Environment and Energy section said "this is just one of a number of projects we have been working on this year across the estate with the aim of investing in energy improvements to reduce our utility bills in the longer term. An important part of these projects is to monitor the resulting change in energy use, and it's great to see such encouraging results after only a few months."

For more on the ECRP project, visit [www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-are-we-doing/carbon/ecrp](http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-are-we-doing/carbon/ecrp)

## The Living Lab Lowdown

Each month we'll now be bringing you an update from the 'Living Lab', showcasing the various projects associated with the Living Laboratory for Sustainability. This time around it's an overall taster of what's to come while the projects are all taking off.

We currently have investigations across the estate relating to...

- design flexibility and building lifespans
- natural ventilation systems and how they're operating
- building occupants' use of buildings in comparison to how they were designed
- thermal comfort and temperature control
- sustainable diets
- solar panel modelling
- leadership clinics
- waste reduction

...just to whet your appetite! If you're keen to learn more about how you can set up your own project to apply research on sustainability to the University estate, contact [living.laboratory@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:living.laboratory@admin.cam.ac.uk)

### \* NEWSFLASH - THIS MONTH'S STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES \*

Applications are open for this year's **Unilever Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards**. They are seeking young entrepreneurs aged 35 and under who contribute to one or more of the eight Global Goals identified as being the most relevant to Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan. For more information go to: [www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/who-we-work-with/young-entrepreneurs](http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/who-we-work-with/young-entrepreneurs)

**Green Impact Project Assistant training** will be held on 17th November, to coincide with CUSU's Ethical Festival. The training, delivered by the National Union of Students, provides an opportunity for students to get involved in this year's Green Impact, helping a department or college improve their environmental performance. Email [greenimpact.admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:greenimpact.admin.cam.ac.uk) to register.

## Get involved in our first ever Spotlight On Waste Month!

The Environment & Energy section is about to hold its first ever 'Spotlight On...' month, which will see 30 days of focus on one key environmental aspect. November is focusing on increasing recycling and reducing waste. There are lots of ways you can get involved:

• **Any questions about waste and recycling?** Email them in and we will feature them in an FAQ next month.

• **Are you an EEC?** Come along on one of our trips to Amey Cespa's waste and recycling centre to learn how the University's waste is separated, treated and recycled.

• **Keep an eye out for E&E** visiting a number of University departments to talk to staff about waste and recycling.

• **Carry out a waste audit of your department.** Email us to find out how.

• **Sign up for WARPiT**, the University's free online tool for sharing surplus and unwanted resources ([www.warpit.co.uk/cambridgeuni](http://www.warpit.co.uk/cambridgeuni)).

Contact us via email or social media (details below) for more on the above.

**Subscription:** If you'd like to receive *Greenlines* directly please contact us on the details below.



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