

# Greenlines

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The University's  
*sustainability* newsletter

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## An exemplar of sustainable living

The North West Cambridge Development is the largest single capital project that the University has undertaken in its 800-year history and the team behind it has put sustainability right at the heart.

The project is a great opportunity to showcase exemplary credentials for sustainable development as the University continues to address its role in the global challenges which shape our future.

Responding to the growth needs of the University over the next 15-20 years, the project includes 3000 homes, accommodation for 2000 post-graduate students, 100,000 square metres of academic and commercial research buildings, and a range of community facilities including a supermarket and retail units, community centre and primary school.

The first phase is underway, and includes implementation of the site-wide sustainability strategy, which has been championed by consultants Aecom.

This article will talk you through the steps being taken to ensure important foundations are being laid for this sustainable development.



Computer-generated imagery of North West Cambridge Western Edge

### Built environment

To design one of the most sustainable developments of its size in the UK, the University has been working with a masterplanner and 11 architectural teams who have all committed to the principles of sustainability.

All homes on the North West Cambridge Development will be built to the national Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 and non-residential buildings will meet the BREEAM Excellent standard.

The buildings will be orientated sensitively to maximise daylight and natural ventilation, and will also have rooftop photovoltaic panels and an integrated Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) to reach these levels of sustainability.

Investing in high efficiency homes will mean that less energy will be required in the future, and these homes will be served by an energy centre that will have combined heat and power (a more efficient method of generating both



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electricity and heat).

### Green space and water reuse

The sensitively designed built environment will be complemented by substantial amounts of open space - over a third of the development site (60 hectares) will be available for formal and informal recreation and public amenity including areas for allotments, sports pitches and parkland; all of which aims to create a desirable place where people want to live and work.

In phase one alone, over 2000 trees will be planted across 24 hectares of open space. A large area of land on the western edge of the development site includes a series of lagoons and swales which is the heart of what will be the UK's largest rain-water recycling system. In a region that is water sensitive, with flood and drought risk, the system enables rainwater to be collected, stored and treated, before it is pumped back into the homes on the site for non-potable water uses such as irrigation and toilet flushing.

### Transport

Half of the homes on the North West Cambridge Development will be for qualifying University and College staff on subsidised rents. As these staff members will be travelling to other University related sites, the development plans include transport and travel plans that optimise these

commutes and encourage sustainable methods of travel.

Bus routes will service the site and go to Addenbrookes and to the train station. A dedicated cycle and pedestrian path runs through the spine of the development encouraging bike usage off the main vehicular routes into the city and beyond.

In order to encourage sustainable travel, University residents will receive free car club membership, and car parking will be discouraged.

Roger Taylor, Project Director of the North West Cambridge Development and Director of Estate Strategy, said: "The scale of the sustainability ambitions

for the development site should not be underestimated.

Creating this number of homes at such high levels of energy efficiency is a major challenge, but the long-term approach reflects the vision of the project and the University - and it is a challenge that we hope will mean that people can lead more sustainable lives in the future."

Phase one of the development has begun with a £50 million investment in infrastructure. Phased completions of the market and University housing will take place from 2016. For more information visit [www.nwcambridge.co.uk](http://www.nwcambridge.co.uk) or follow the North West Cambridge Development on twitter @nwcambridge.



Computer-generated imagery of Phase one of North West Cambridge

## Energy saving tips for offices

- ❖ Switch off the lights in your work area whenever you are the last to leave.
- ❖ Switch off lights whenever daylight is adequate.
- ❖ Switch off main lights whenever task lighting is adequate.
- ❖ Turn PCs and other equipment off when not in use. Really off, not onto standby.
- ❖ Turn off your monitor whenever you take a short break from your PC, remember to lock it first.
- ❖ Turn off photocopiers, printers and other office equipment every night, ensuring sleep modes is on.
- ❖ Dress appropriately for the season! Then look at the settings on any local control units, ideally only cool to 25°C and heat to 19°C.
- ❖ Check seals on refrigerators and make sure that freezers are defrosted regularly.
- ❖ Only boil as much water as you need for hot drinks.



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## Staff and students go Green

**This month the Environment and Energy Section, in collaboration with the NUS, trained 40 Cambridge University students to conduct audits of the 40 departments and colleges taking part in Green Impact.**

Travelling all over the city, from Addenbrooke's to Madingley Hall, the students inspected, verified and scrutinised the teams' submissions finding them favourable.

Now the teams sit and wait to see how their efforts to make their workplace greener will be rewarded at the Green Impact Award ceremony on 18 June.

Green Impact is the University's environmental accreditation scheme. Launched by the Environment and Energy Section in November 2012, teams across the University have been working through an online workbook towards recognised awards, making the small but important steps to make their workplaces greener.

Currently in its second year, this scheme has seen a whole range of operational and academic staff taking part. From swapping disposable cups with reusable ones, to making sure the environment is a regular item on their meeting agenda, teams have been pushing forward the sustainability movement at a grass roots level.

From September to April, teams have been working through their workbook

and this month saw them plumping their proverbial cushions and putting the metaphorical dough in the oven, awaiting the arrival of the student auditors to verify that submissions are correct.

Auditors were recruited from the large pool of students who are interested in the sustainability of the University. They received auditing training which is accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and gained professional experience conducting environmental audits on participating departments and colleges.

The process gives participants a great opportunity to look behind the scenes of the University and see what

actions are being taken to improve its sustainability.

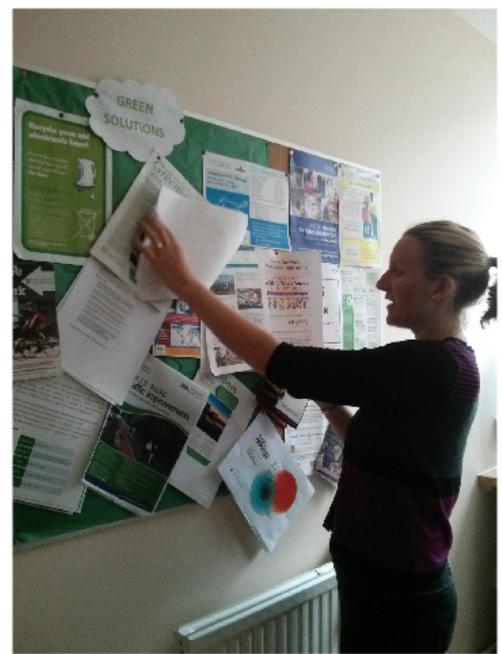
So, we here at the Environment and Energy Section want to say a massive thank you to all those teams who took part and we look forward to celebrating with you at the party.

The official award ceremony, presented by Jamie Agombar, Ethical and Environmental Manager at the NUS, and winner of this year's Guardian University Award for Inspiring Leader will be held on 18th June 2014.

Green Impact works on an annual cycle and teams will be able to sign up each year in Michaelmas Term. For more information on Green Impact at Cambridge visit: <http://bit.ly/Rcc6p7>.

Staff and students working together to green their institution

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Compilation of auditors photo. Photo credit: Sahar Masoor winner of auditor's photo competition.



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## EAUC 18th Annual Conference

Earlier this month members from the Environment and Energy Section attended the 18th Annual EAUC (Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges) Conference at Nottingham Trent University to meet with sustainability teams from universities all across the UK.

The EAUC is a not-for-profit member based charity which aims to embed the principles of sustainability into tertiary education. It acts as a one stop shop for sustainability in universities covering all areas from procurement, travel and energy, to student and community engagement and the curriculum.

Held in the Newton Building - which has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment, delivering large improvements in sustainability including a green roof, which plays host to a returning pair of peregrine falcons - the event attracted over 330 attendees.

The delegates represented a broad range of the sector from directors of finance and resources, through estates and procurement staff and students, to sustainable development professionals and sector suppliers.

This year's conference which showcases best practice from around the sector



EAUC 18th Annual Conference Plenary Session

featured Cambridge's own Living Lab. Presented by Claire Hopkins, Living Lab for Sustainability Coordinator and Bryn Pickering, Living Lab student, the session highlighted the successes at Cambridge and provided guidance on how other universities can set up their Living Lab to combine research and operations around sustainability.

The range of sessions and networking activities provided opportunities for networking with like-minded delegates from inside and outside the sector, enhancing collaboration and shared learning and helping to advance sustainability across the Higher Education sector.

### Get the most out of the EAUC

The University has an institutional EAUC membership which allows all its staff

and students to register individually for free, thus accessing online training, discounted events, and a bank of best practice case studies.

To register as members please follow this link <http://bit.ly/1gmxDY4>, choosing Educational Institution membership and selecting University of Cambridge from the drop down menu (as Cambridge is already a member you will not be charged).

After registration see the EAUC Member Benefits page, <http://bit.ly/1IFSaDf> for more information on what is on offer to you.

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