

The University's *sustainability* newsletter

Life is more fun when you share

The University has launched a new car-sharing website where staff can register their journey and find those travelling in the same direction.

The Cambridge University car-share scheme enables organised car-sharing by connecting people travelling in the same direction so they can arrange to travel together and share the costs.

It can make a huge difference. During rush hour in the UK there are around 38 million empty car seats; the equivalent of nearly half a million empty buses. If half of UK motorists received a lift one day a week, congestion and pollution would be reduced by 10% and traffic jams by 20%.

You don't even need a car to car-share as many people are happy to offer lifts in exchange for sharing the fuel costs. Simply register your journey as "seeking a lift".

Registration is easy and free. Visit www.camuni.liftshare.com, click 'Join now' and follow the steps.

The benefits of using the service include:

- Reducing the costs of travelling
- Cutting congestion and pollution
- Reducing parking problems
- Is a way to network, meet colleagues and make friends.

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Come find out more

If you have any questions or would like help with registration, Liftshare – the company running the scheme – will be at the following sites:

• **West Café, Hauser Forum, West Cambridge - Tuesday 2 June, from 10.30 to 15.00**

• **Alison Richard Building, Sidgwick Site – Wednesday 3 June, from 10.30 to 15.00. Also test your eco driving skills on our eco driving simulator at the Alison Richard Building event.**

Register a regular journey between now and 5 June to be entered into a prize draw to win wine and chocolates.



The Gurdon saves two million kilowatt hours of electricity!

Article and photo submitted by Kathy Hilton, Building Facilities Manager at the Gurdon Institute.

In the three years since becoming an Energy and Carbon Reduction Project (ECRP) pilot department, the Gurdon Institute has saved two million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, the equivalent weight of 200 male African Elephants in carbon emissions.

This milestone comes less than a year since the Institute celebrated saving one million, showing the accelerated progress.

In 2010 the Gurdon were using approximately 5million kWh of electricity and 4million kWh of gas per year making it, at the time, the third most energy intensive building within the University. With speculation that utility bills would double over the next decade, it was predicted the Institute alone could begin to cost the University over £1m a year for electricity.

The journey began with the installation of sub-meters and a web based 'dashboard' which allowed the Institute to view where the electricity was being used in real-time and identified areas to concentrate efforts.

Armed with this information the Gurdon Institute launched a very successful behaviour change campaign which targeted wasted electricity. They were clear they did not want to affect the science, but that by switching off lights and equipment when they are not needed there was a large potential to save cash and carbon.

The scientists rallied to the challenge and started to switch off lights and equipment when not in use, fit timers



on equipment, and consider purchasing more energy efficient equipment for example freezers and light sources.

As energy saving became more embedded into the culture at the Institute, the project began making some technical out of sight improvements to the building including lighting upgrades, and projects to make ventilation, air compressors, and humidifiers work more efficiently.

The department has seen the installation of lighting sensors and replacement of fluorescent lights with LED skylites, which not only use less energy per light fitting but are also so bright that the actual number of fittings needed has been reduced by half.

Further savings were made by decentralising the building's compressed air plant which supplies 'medical grade' air to the building, to ensure that it only services sensitive pieces of equipment which require it.

Another project looked at ventilation in the building and reduced the air change rate to the recommended minimum which has resulted in a saving of over 3000 kWh per month.

However the most successful "out of sight" project was replacing electric humidifiers on the air handling unit with gas fueled humidifiers. Once again this project has a two-fold benefit because gas produces lower carbon emissions than electricity as well as the cost being lower. This was a significant project for the Gurdon to undertake due to the critical nature of humidification in their research, however with the equivalent of £35,000 saved in the first six months the project was definitely worth it.

With the out of sight projects as well as continued behaviour change, the Gurdon has now saved its two millionth kWh and their family of knitted critters grow with the addition of Little Ted in his new jumper!

For information on how to receive advice and apply for ECRP funding for your department, visit: <http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-are-we-doing/carbon/ecrp/ecrp-funding-applications>.



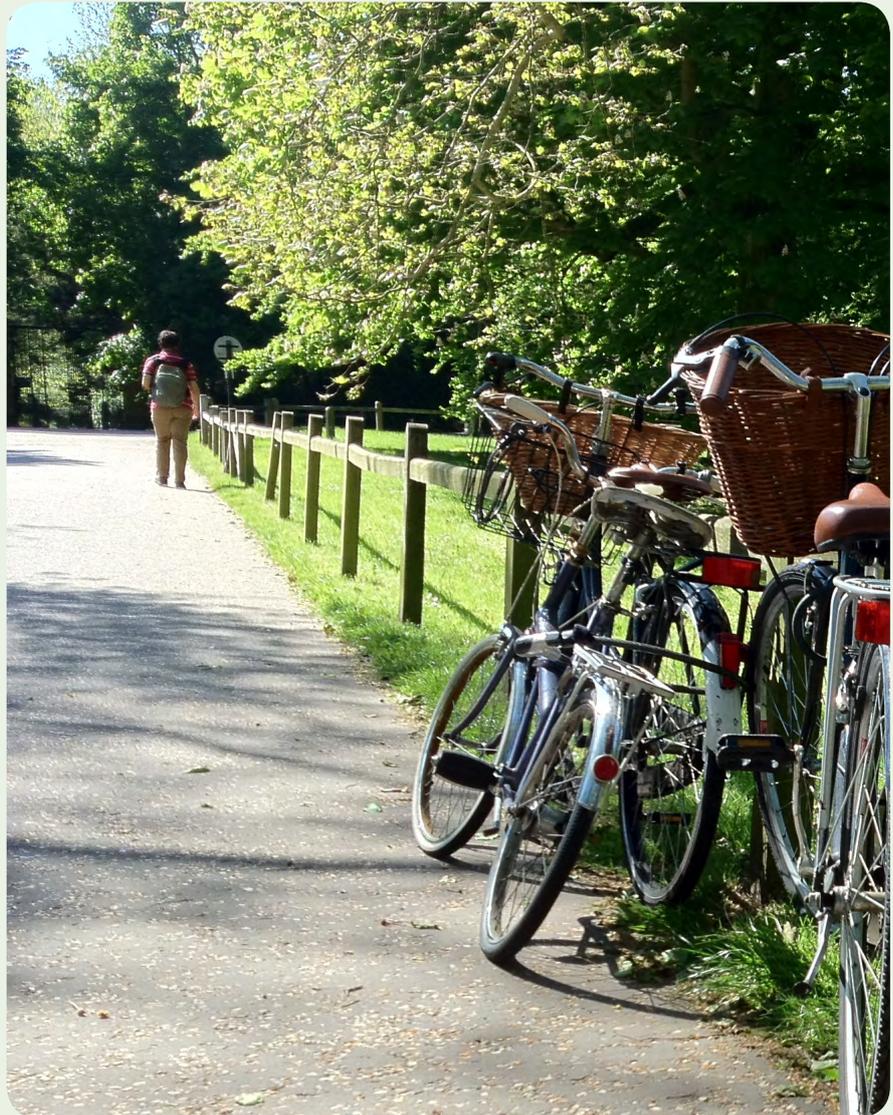
Have your say on travel issues and win £150!

The University is undertaking travel surveys and focus groups with staff directly employed by the University and students to understand more about travel to and between University sites, and why you choose to travel the way you do.

You can complete the survey online here: <http://bit.ly/1FkeYD8>. The survey will be open until 8 June (inclusive).

A paper version of the form is available to staff without access to a computer by emailing the Travel Plan Manager on travel@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please do take a few minutes to take part in this important survey - two lucky people will be chosen from the respondents to win £150 each!



Supporting world class science in Cambridge

S-Labs is holding a one day event in Cambridge on 8 June to share good practice and strengthen networks with regard to laboratory improvement in the Cambridge region.

The event has a wide range of content, which will appeal to all stakeholders connected with labs, and includes presentations and discussion on:

- Career and skills development amongst laboratory technical staff

- Effective and efficient use of lab equipment and consumables, including freezers.

- Good laboratory practice with regard to biosecurity, costing, resource efficiency and other parameters.

The keynote speech, 'World Class Science at Cambridge: Current Plans and Future Trends', will be delivered by Professor Jeremy Sanders CBE FRS, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Institutional

Affairs who has a responsibility for environmental sustainability at the University.

This event is free to all University of Cambridge staff. To book, please visit <http://www.effectivelab.org.uk/s-labcambridge.html>.



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✉: environment@admin.cam.ac.uk

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Equipment Sharing Project in 2015

With the generous support of University academics and researchers, the Equipment Sharing Project Database currently provides access to 64 facilities and over 2350 individual items of equipment within Cambridge, and access to 237 facilities across the partnership institutions of Oxford, UCL, Imperial and Southampton.

The project began in 2012 in response to changes in the way that equipment on research grants is funded with expectations of improved efficiencies in the use of equipment. A key driver was the fact that universities must check if there is an opportunity to share equipment with internal departments and other institutions prior to submission of a grant application.

Since January 2014 a two-page business case has been required in applications for all items of equipment above the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) threshold (£134,011 inc VAT), and information and guidance on how to reference shared usage at a University, Departmental, and individual Primary Investigator level can be supplied. Similarly information on how to dispose of and recycle used equipment is also available.

Why is the database and equipment sharing important to the University?

- Ensures transparency in terms of publicly funded resources.
- Provides evidence of Cambridge's commitment to equipment and facility sharing.
- Ensures the University is best placed to secure funding in a climate of ever-tightening research budgets.
- Allows students and researchers to

determine equipment available within the University whilst planning research projects.

- Provides a resource to locate alternative equipment within the University or further afield should key equipment fail or become unavailable.

How does the database and equipment sharing benefit Researchers?

- Helps researchers find equipment and facilities available for sharing.
- Encourages internal, national, and international collaboration.
- Supports efficient use of equipment and facilities through sharing.
- Increases the exposure of facilities used to recover equipment costs within Small Research Facilities (SRF's).
- Highlights a commitment to share equipment that may be beneficial when grant applications are considered by research grant funders.
- Helps toward waste reduction, reduced consumption, recycling, carbon profiling and legal compliance.

What's on the Database?

The searchable database is divided into two sections: individual items of equipment and Small Research Facilities. Users can search across all five institutions to look at the 237 facilities that are listed, or search within Cambridge to look at the 2350 individual items of equipment. Each record contains a detailed description of the item or facility, a photograph for reference, a contact name, email address, and telephone number, with details about the items availability and location.

Who can access the Cambridge Database?

Current members of staff, PhD, MRes, or MPhil research students can access the Equipment Sharing Database via



their Raven log-in. This can be useful if searching for particular or specific equipment to work with, or to locate replacement equipment in a hurry: <http://www.equipment.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

Students should contact their supervisor in the first instance to liaise directly with equipment owners to discuss and arrange access. Agreements are not coordinated through the Equipment Sharing Project itself, but between equipment owners and interested parties individually.

Is the Equipment Sharing Database linked to the National Equipment Portal?

Yes! Specific records from the Cambridge database are also uploaded to the National Equipment Sharing Portal: <http://equipment.data.ac.uk/>

The National Equipment Portal holds records of over 10,500 items of equipment across the UK and is supported by over 40 institutions.

To access the Cambridge site please visit: <http://www.equipment.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

To access the National Equipment Portal site please visit: <http://equipment.data.ac.uk/>

If you would like to hear more or would like a personal or departmental demonstration, please contact the Equipment Sharing Project Manager, Dr Christopher Wilkinson: Christopher.R.Wilkinson@admin.cam.ac.uk.

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



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