



Switch Off Week is coming

A University-wide 'Switch Off Week' will take place between 18-24 February to promote energy conservation by staff and students. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, has encouraged all in collegiate Cambridge to get involved in the various activities.

The University has committed to a 34% reduction in energy-related carbon emissions by 2020 against a 2005 baseline. This reduction is tackled by the University's Energy and Carbon Reduction Project and Switch Off Week is one of the ways the Project is gathering wider interest and help.

What is Switch Off Week?

Switch Off Week is a week in which the University encourages its staff and students to think about energy consumption and how that use can be reduced by taking personal responsibility and action. Personal action is vital to the roll out of energy efficient technologies and building improvements across the collegiate University. It has been shown that energy savings from building

improvements can be lost if occupants are wasteful of energy.

Evidence from work already sponsored by the Energy and Carbon Reduction Project shows that identifying items which consume energy and switching them off when not in use can dramatically reduce consumption. One laboratory was able to reduce its electricity consumption by 50%. In the same week last year, the University used 2.3 million kWh at a cost of £200,000. We hope that by encouraging people to think about what they can switch off, energy use and cost will be reduced not only in this week but in the longer term too. Throughout the week, we will be monitoring use and publishing the progress being made.

Events and competitions

Several events are already planned and more will be announced in the coming weeks. The Environment Office and Energy Team will be touring the University all week with an Energy Bike to demonstrate how much effort is needed to power everyday gadgets. Come along to quiz the teams on what is being done and to pick up Switch Off Week resources.

Those feeling inspired, and the keen photographers among you, can enter into two competitions and have the chance of winning prizes. We'll be asking staff and students to enter their energy-saving ideas. The best ideas will win an overall prize and all good ideas will be considered for implementation. There will also be a photo competition and the best photos taken of Switch Off Week events, for instance of energy waste or reduction, will be shared on our @CambridgeSust Twitter feed – with more prizes available. The energy saved by the switching off of lights

{ Did you know? }

Last year, the University:

- spent £14.5m on energy and water
- used 114 million kWh of electricity
- emitted 77,810 tonnes of CO₂

and equipment during the week will send Pro-Vice-Chancellor Jeremy Sanders on a virtual online cycle ride around the world. Let's see how far we can send him!

Get involved

On each day of the week there is a different event for staff and students to get involved in. On Monday you can put up energy-reduction posters and stickers; on Tuesday departments can create a 'pledge tree', where energy-saving pledges are tied to an office plant or tree; Wednesday sees a lunchtime Switch Off of all PCs, lights and unrequired equipment over two hours; Thursday is 'wear a jumper to work' day - the woollier and more vivid the better; and Friday marks the start of the Big Weekend Switch Off.

Staff and students are of course encouraged to create their own events and initiatives within their College or Department. These might include a low-carbon cake sale, a fridge and freezer clean-out day, a climate- or energy-related film night, climate quiz, a coffee morning brainstorming session, a star gazing evening, competitions and pledges and energy audits.

Is your Department switched on to switching off?

Inside this issue:

Switch Off Week is coming	1
Green Impact teams	2
Creating an Impact	2
Living Laboratory	2-3
Murray Edwards Community Garden	3
From inside a Department	4
Upcoming events	4

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Follow the University's
Environmental Team:
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GREEN IMPACT TEAMS

- Architecture
- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Estate Management
- Faculty of Education
- Gurdon Institute
- Health and Safety Office
- Land Economy
- Philosophy
- Physiology, Development & Neuroscience
- School of Clinical Medicine
- Security Office
- Institute of Metabolic Science
- University Counselling Service

Creating an Impact

Green Impact is well under way at the University of Cambridge.

With a variety of departments across the University having signed up, Green Impact University of Cambridge is set to make an impact on its staff and students.

Teams across the University have made a commitment to 'green-up' their departments and take on the challenge of Green Impact. Some teams are driven by their desire to improve their Department, and seize the chance to correct those daily annoyances they see so often (lights left on, paper not recycled, windows open and heating on); some teams are driven by their competitive spirit; others relish the team work. All teams, however, have been taking positive actions.

The premise is simple. Staff and

students form teams and sign up to an online workbook. The team progresses through a set of simple and clear actions to be implemented in their Department. At the end of the year, teams win awards for their progress.

So far, environmental committees have been formed or revived, light switches have been labelled, environmental factors have been incorporated into staff and student induction packs, recycling systems have been refined and the environment has been championed in the teams' departments. It has been surprising and pleasing for Green Impact team leaders to find so many green minded allies coming out of the woodwork to fight the cause.

It is not too late to join in the fun. To join Green Impact or to see whether your Department has an team in place already, email

greenimpact@admin.cam.ac.uk.

The Living Laboratory is underway

The Living Laboratory for Sustainability is a new programme out of the Environmental Office in Estate Management.

It has the goal of improving the sustainability of the University by using the Estate to test and research real world environmental problems while enhancing the educational experience of students attending the University. The 'Living Lab' seeks to involve academic and Estate staff as well as students in generating solutions to the Estate's environmental challenges.

The Living Lab will achieve its aims through integrating and funding project ideas from students, academics and Estate Management staff. This

collaboration will lead to innovative research and practical projects that will enhance the sustainability of the University as well as enhance the communication and connection between students, academics, and Estate Management staff.

The Living Lab has many opportunities for students and staff to get involved with sustainability at Cambridge. The Estate includes all University buildings and grounds. The Living Lab supports students completing fourth-year, MPhil, and PhD research and in gaining relevant experience for their future careers. This support may include access to data specific to the Estate or funding for specific tools to complete research. Academic staff can get involved by becoming an academic supervisor for these

Living Laboratory cont.

students as well as recommending that current students use the Living Lab as a resource for their research into sustainability. Estate staff can be involved by helping integrate results from the Living Lab into University policy and procedure.

The Living Lab also has volunteer opportunities for students and staff to engage the greater University community in sustainability.

Students can execute their own

volunteer projects with the support of the Living Lab or they can join and volunteer on an ongoing project. Staff can get involved by providing guidance and support to these projects if they fall into their specialty or remit. Staff are also more than welcome to volunteer themselves. One example of a project that is already underway is the community garden being created with support of the Living Lab and

the Cambridge Hub at Murray Edwards College.

Students should be on the lookout for paid summer internship positions that the Living Lab supporting from 2013. Positions should be available for application by the end of February.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Living Lab please contact the Living Lab Coordinator, Claire Hopkins, with your area of interest at

Living.Laboratory@admin.cam.ac.uk

For more information about the Living Lab and opportunities please visit: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/carbon/research/livinglab/index.html>



THE CAMBRIDGE *green* CHALLENGE

• LIVING LABORATORY •

Murray Edwards Community Garden

Murray Edwards College plans to create a Community Garden, with the help of Cambridge Hub, Growing Spaces (part of Transition Cambridge), and the Environmental Office's Living Laboratory.

The Community Garden will be in part of the car park next to the College herb garden which is already used by staff, students and neighbours alike. Being in full sun and on a south facing slope, it is an ideal spot to grow fruit and vegetables. It is about the size of a traditional allotment, i.e. 10 rods.

The main aims of the project are to bring students, University staff, and the local community together to grow food and share skills. There will be opportunities to hold events like music, film and of course eating the food grown. It is hoped that the project will raise awareness of sustainable lifestyles, green stewardship and provide practical experience for students and others wanting to go into non-traditional careers. It is also meant to be fun and

relaxing.

In the Garden Strategy 2012 - 2017, we identified three important strands to our work, namely horticulture, community and environment. This project embraces all three. So when Catrin Darsley, Environmental Coordinator from the University's Estate Management Division, and Emily Dunning, Manager of Cambridge Hub, proposed the Community Garden at Murray Edwards, we wanted to try it

out. Cambridge Hub coordinated a useful brainstorming session for a first meeting of a Working Group, and we are now looking for volunteers from the local community, University staff, and students to take part with further development and implementation. If you're interested in taking part, please contact me on gardens@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk or facebook Murray Edwards Garden.

Jo Cobb, Head Gardener



Girl picking chard, Peter Kirkham

From inside a Department – University Messaging Service

Covering 3 to 4 miles each day, taking post from College to College and Department to Department, four smart Pashley courier bicycles and two new electric vans make up the fleet of Estate Management's University Messenger Service (UMS).

Greenlines met up with Alan Baldock, Senior Messenger to find out how the UMS is leading the way in delivering its urgent post – and its carbon reduction commitments.

The two Renault ZE vans were chosen because they were the most cost effective and were available in the UK. The cost benefits compared with a new diesel van of comparable size and use are very similar due to the batteries being leased from Renault. If the mileage was higher they would make a saving of 50-60% on fuel costs. There are added savings on servicing, road tax and environmental impact.

On a ride in one of the new, disarmingly quiet, electric vans, Alan describes the good reception the vehicles had received from the public. They were introduced six months ago to replace the old diesel



Alan Baldock, UMS

powered ones, and recharge daily in Mill Lane. The ride was unnaturally quiet, making a stealthy approach to the pedestrians on Silver Street, cycles whizzing past on all sides. "At first people had reservations about using them, but now I don't think there is any difference than if the pedestrians were wearing headphones".

However, Alan prefers to use the bicycles, painted in Cambridge Blue, having used them through his previous career as a Royal Mail postman. "I guess it's in my blood...The bikes are twice as quick as the vans in Cambridge traffic". However I suspect it to be three times as fast in his case.

Alan's bicycle basket is fitted with the image of Mr Bump, given to him after his third departure from the saddle on his daily rounds. He remains, though, a keen proponent of Cambridge's two-wheeled tradition, stressing the benefit of the leisurely exercise, and claiming the city's cycle lanes as the best thing the City Council does.

Five messengers work from 7.30 to 3.30 and make about two rounds a day. On the icy roads the team have been slowed to walking parts of the rounds, though they still deliver within 24 hours of picking up the post.

The bicycles carry up to 12 kilograms each; only the very heaviest deliveries are made by the vans. Alan would much rather carry large, heavy loads by using two bicycles than by using a van, especially in Cambridge's heavy traffic. The messengers know the city's roads and short cuts so intimately that it is in the end often quicker than using a van.

The UMS also support the University's sustainability ethos by transporting dead batteries and printer cartridges to the Maintenance Unit at Laundry Farm, on Barton

Road, where they are collected for recycling.

The UMS has plans to support bicycle use amongst the University population. Alan, a keen cyclist, initiated and is coordinating a bicycle maintenance course for staff. The Environmental Office will be promoting this when details are confirmed, and are looking to take this course forward as a regular feature on the University calendar. For more information please contact environment@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Upcoming events

Green Impact Project Assistant training 12th February

Student volunteers taking part in Green Impact as Green Impact Project Assistants have the opportunity to train with the NUS. If you think this is of interest to your students please contact greenimpact@admin.cam.ac.uk

GreenBRIDGE Seminar

Community Based Social Marketing and Environmentalism: Engagement with a new generation of green policies

Thursday 14 February 2013, 13:30-15:30 at CRASSH, 7 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DP (Seminar Room 2)

Green Impact Surgery

A chance for Green Impact teams to bring along their questions and concerns about Green Impact. TBC.

Switch-Off Week

18-24th February 2013

GreenBRIDGE Seminar

Energy Retrofits Thursday 28 February 2013, 13:30-15:30 at CRASSH, 7 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DP (Seminar Room 2)

E-recycling

Anything with a plug or batteries can be recycled for free at Sidgwick Site 14-15 March 2013. Start rummaging!