

## Sustainability special

This special edition of News&Views is in celebration of World Environment Day on Friday 5 June.

Many individuals and departments within the School are already uniting to positively contribute to sustainability at LSE. This publication recognises our achievements so far and highlights some of the activities taking place

around the School, in particular those of the Environmental Management Working Groups.

A revised Environmental Policy will be available in July and a set of plans to map out our way forward will be launched for the start of the Michaelmas term.

More details are available at: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment)



### Carbon Trust Standard

The Carbon Trust Standard was achieved in February 2009 for measuring, managing and reducing the School's carbon footprint, showing that real progress is being made on reducing our direct impact on climate change.

From workshops in 2006 to national recognition, staff across the School have contributed to making this possible.



## Awards and nominations

As the School builds momentum on the environmental front, the results of the time and energy invested are being recognised through the following achievements and nominations:

#### ECOCAMPUS BRONZE AWARD

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is being established to provide a mechanism for continual improvement in managing the School's positive and negative environmental impacts through a sector based scheme called EcoCampus. Our efforts have so far seen the School achieve the EcoCampus Bronze award in November 2008 for completing the first of a four stage process which leads to ISO14001 accreditation. For more information see: [www.ecocampus.co.uk](http://www.ecocampus.co.uk)



#### NATIONAL RECYCLING AWARDS 2008 WINNER

This award brings recognition for LSE's leadership and effectiveness in waste minimisation through the **Moving Towards Zero Waste project**, which was funded by HEFCE's Leadership, Governance and Management Fund. It diverted 85 tonnes of items from landfill into reuse, saving approximately 650 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions.



The School provided leadership to seven partners to form regional reuse networks, training, and volunteer opportunities at Durham, Newcastle, Exeter, Royal Holloway, Worcester, Birmingham and Central Lancashire universities.



At the end of term, departing students dispose of anything they do not want to take home. The normal disposal route for these items used to be landfill. The project challenges this common assumption and enables unwanted goods to be reused on campus or by local reuse organisations. A *Reuse Guide* is now

available on the project's website. This provides best practice to the HE sector and gives step-by-step guidance on how to put a reuse scheme into action in a hall of residence.

See: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment/reuse\\_hefce\\_project.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment/reuse_hefce_project.htm)

#### GREEN GOWN AWARDS NOMINATIONS

These are the coveted national awards administered by the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges. LSE has no less than three shortlisted nominations: one for the New Academic Building and two for residences initiatives including the Moving Towards Zero Waste project (see National Recycling Awards opposite) and the Residences Sustainability Champions.

#### RESIDENCES SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



and initiate their own environmental projects. They can also join the Student Switch-Off Campaign and support the annual reuse scheme.

#### NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING (NAB)

Planning for the NAB refurbishment was started in 2004 with the objective to embody best practice in sustainable refurbishment and act as a benchmark for 'excellence'. From the start, the project board identified a desire for environmental leadership in the sector and set the cutting edge target to contractually require a BREEAM rating of 'very good' with a target of 'excellent'. This was the first time the School had focused on sustainable construction and set specific objectives to ensure that the environmental impacts of the construction process were minimised.

Students living in halls of residence are working together with other student residents and hall management to promote environmental activities

#### TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT AWARDS NOMINATION

##### Estates Reuse and Recycle (Bin the Bin in the NAB)

The LSE Estates Division has experimented with reuse activities in halls of residence and on campus since 2005. The Division has also piloted a 'One Bin' system in its own offices since 2005. This has led to a wider pilot of 'Bin the Bin' in the BREEAM Excellent rated New Academic Building. Individual desk-side bins were not provided as standard and instead a desk caddy and functional communal recycling facilities were provided within 5-10 metres of desks. Communal kitchen areas were provided with food compost caddies. **The average recycling rate is over 70 per cent in the NAB compared to 36 per cent for the rest of campus.**



## Coming up

### Sector benchmarking and leadership

#### UNIVERSITIES THAT COUNT CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

One of the first steps in moving towards sustainability is recognising that environmental initiatives will be ineffective unless the interrelationship with social and economic dimensions are considered. So in March 2009, the School completed a benchmarking exercise called the Universities That Count Corporate Responsibility Index, having piloted the Environment section of this index back in 2006. HEFCE expect to roll this benchmark out across the sector within three years. The results will be published in a national broadsheet this Summer.

#### PEOPLE AND PLANET GREEN LEAGUE 2009

Last year, the School came top in London at 23rd out of the 119 higher education institutions in the table. The high profile results of this student led benchmark will be published in the *Times Higher Education* on 18 June. See <http://peopleandplanet.org/greenleague>

## Sustainability Team

#### ALLAN BLAIR, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Allan oversees the team bringing a down-to-earth approach to sustainability.

#### VICTORIA HANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

This year, Victoria was awarded her doctorate from LSE which focused on sustainable development. She was recognised by her home borough of Southwark as Green Goddess in a ceremony celebrating International Women's Day held at the Tate Modern.

#### DAVID WINTERTON, CARBON REDUCTION MANAGER

A former weight-lifting champion and European

motorbike racer, Dave brings in-house expertise in all things Zero Carbon.

#### CHANTAL BEAUDOIN, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE & SUSTAINABLE WASTE OFFICER

Chantal brings her Canadian tree hugging passion to London and the School to focus on zero waste.

#### FEIMATTA CONTEH, SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS OFFICER

Feimatta and her trusty bicycle will be moving down from Manchester to join us from June.

#### LIANE FREDERICKS, RESIDENCES SUSTAINABILITY CO-ORDINATOR

Liane will be continuing part time from July to share her zeal for organisational sustainability.

## Environmental Management System

An Environment Management System (EMS) is a tool for managing the impacts of an organisation's activities on the environment. It provides the School with a structured approach for continuously planning, implementing, reviewing and improving on environment protection measures.

In support of the EMS is the Environmental Management Review Group (EMRG) consisting of the Director, experts and key senior managers who review the School's environmental agenda. Feeding into the EMRG are eight Environmental Management Working Groups (EMWG):

- Planning and Corporate Policy Division (working with service leaders to integrate the Environmental Policy into Service Development Plans)

- Estates
- Library & ITS
- Residences & Catering
- Students Union
- Cross-cutting support groups:
  - Human Resources
  - Purchasing
  - Sustainable Futures (student consulting)

The working groups formed last year and first compiled an Environmental Initiatives Register to record all their efforts to date. Each group then created an Environmental Action Plan based on their prioritised list of environmental aspects and impacts.

For more details on EMRG see: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment/EMRG.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment/EMRG.htm)



L-r: Liane Fredericks, Allan Blair, Victoria Hands, David Winterton, Chantal Beaudoin

### What is corporate responsibility?

For the higher education sector, it is defined as the management of a university's positive impact on society and the environment through its operations, teaching, research, knowledge transfer and other services provided and through its interaction with key stakeholders such as employees, students, investors, funders and research partners, communities and suppliers.

For further details, see: [www.eauc.org.uk/utc](http://www.eauc.org.uk/utc)

### Did you know?

Energy certificates must be displayed by law in the entrances of all relevant buildings so keep an eye out for them at LSE. There are two types: Display Energy Certificates (DEC) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPC).



# Sustainability stories from around the School

These are just a small sample of what is happening at LSE – more stories and information are available online. Do send in your own articles to the Sustainability Team.

As a member of staff you can make a positive contribution to LSE Corporate Responsibility through the following schemes administered by the Human Resources Division:

- engage with local communities through the Volunteer4All scheme

### CATERING: FAIR TRADE

LSE was the second university in the UK and first in London to be awarded Fair Trade accreditation.

All LSE coffee is Fair Trade and all catering venues provide at least some products that are Fair Trade. Hospitality and Event Catering serve Fair Trade tea, coffee and biscuits. Just ask on the Catering Order Form.

To find out more about the Fair Trade label and how buying Fair Trade products helps to tackle climate change, visit: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

### REPROGRAPHICS: CARRY ON... RECYCLING THOSE CARTRIDGES

Almost three years ago, the Reprographics Department launched a Cartridge Recycling Scheme whereby staff from any department can simply re-box any empty cartridges and return them to Reprographics in room A33, ground floor of the Old Building.

Records show that over 4,854 cartridges or 809 sacks of used cartridges have been returned, which is approximately 6.4 tonnes saved from landfill!



In addition £51,684 has been donated to the Bristol Children's Hospice. Meanwhile, old inkjet cartridges are sent for recycling to the Tommy's Baby Charity.

### LIBRARY AND IT SERVICES: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS EVENT

The Library and IT Services Environmental Management Working Group hosted an event for Library and IT Services staff on 27 March, as a fun way to help raise awareness of environmental issues in the School involving activities such as a 'Freecycle Swapshop' and a very challenging 'Green Quiz'. The first of its awards was announced to recognise exemplary contribution by a member of their staff in the sustainability arena. Judged by the working group according to clear criteria, the winners are:

**Jane Appleton (winner)**

Jane's activities support sustainability and the environment, scoring maximum points on initiative, effort, environmental impact and replicability.

She not only demonstrates a high level of awareness of sustainability in her own behaviours, but has actively introduced change more widely in her team and in the department.



# Future proof buildings

The New Students' Centre Project Vision Statement demonstrates the School's commitment to providing the best (and therefore most sustainable) services for LSE students both now and in the future: 'The LSE Seeks to have the 'best Students' Building in the UK', with a BREEAM Excellent rating and the innovative use of design and technology, the School is looking for a world class Students' Centre – an exemplar.'

# Just stick it!

discover LSE

The original building erected in 1916, was acquired by the School in 1974 and became the Lionel Robbins Building. It was substantially altered and expanded in the late 1990's by the architect Norman Foster who added almost 1km of shelving to house some 4million items

You may have noticed the new noticeboards on Houghton Street. These allow the School to preserve the historic building fabric whilst continuing the tradition of student communications.

The boards are easily cleaned and posters can be attached with blue tac or cello tape.

The noticeboards themselves feature the different campus buildings giving a brief history of each.

- see what the season ticket loans and the Cyclescheme could do for you, your commute and your bank balance
- use the Learn for You scheme to further your personal sustainability
- watch out for the monthly Communique Green Tips
- tear off used postage stamps before reusing or recycling your envelopes as these can then help charities. Send in reused or internal envelopes to the Sustainability Team, room NAB 427.

### Susanne Weber (highly commended)

Susanne demonstrated a high level of awareness of sustainability in her own work area. Not only does she always request environmentally-friendly products and supplies for the office, she also looks at how sustainable each of the options are to ensure that the right choices are being made. So now it's easier for everybody in IT Services to be a little more sustainable.



### Ian Harvey (highly commended)

Ian certainly went out of his way to ensure that redundant IT equipment was reused in a socially responsible manner. When the Information Systems and Innovation Group moved to the NAB, he rebuilt their redundant computers with free open source software in order to donate them to a charity. He also arranged for a supplier to buy back the group's defunct specialist monitor stands for a sum of money which was used by the department to buy more energy efficient IT equipment. The stands were subsequently donated to a local primary school.

### LIBRARY AND IT SERVICES: BAGS FOR LIFE

A new trend swept across campus at the start of the academic year – black jute bags emblazoned with the Emerson quotation, 'Sometimes a scream is better than a thesis'.

The Bag for Life was the result of feedback from students concerned about the environmental impact of the plastic bags used by the Library for carrying books.

Funded by the LSE Annual Fund, a total of 6,300 bags were distributed at the start of the academic year.



### LIBRARY AND IT SERVICES: AUTOPOWEROFF

PCs located in open access areas now automatically power off 15 minutes after log-off or inactivity, with a one-minute-to-go cancel option. PCs in classrooms are automatically turned off at the end of the day. The next step is to roll out a similar service to all remaining areas and user groups across the School.

To find out more about IT Services and the environment, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/Environment](http://www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/Environment) or follow the news blog at: <http://lseitnews.wordpress.com>

The new building will be judged a success if it:

'Enables the highest standards of life cycle maintenance, access, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.'

It also requires an EPC A rating – the highest possible and quite a challenge for the design team.



# On yer bike!

Cycling is increasing in popularity and students and staff are encouraged to use the secure cycle parking facilities provided in the Towers garage. This is accessed by going down the ramp between Towers 2 and 3. A security pass can be collected from Tower 3 reception (manned 24 hours) on production of a valid LSE ID card. Cyclists will then be issued with an access card for them to keep.

Improved communication on cycle parking, shower and change facilities and how to avoid bike theft will be available shortly.

Visit: [www.bikeoff.org](http://www.bikeoff.org) for the latest information on securing your bike. Remember to register your bike at: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)



# Future projects

After 25 years of loyal service the gas boilers in the Old Building are being replaced with new high efficiency boilers supplemented with CHP (Combined Heat and Power) to reduce CO2 emissions.

Rosebery Hall and Connaught House will see the installation of solar collectors for heating water. Connaught House will also see the first LSE green roof intended to increase the roof's life span, absorb heavy rainfall and improve insulation. This is a pilot scheme which, if extended across the capital, would help reduce the heat island effect London experiences. Watch out for updates on progress.



Save today. Save tomorrow. EDF ENERGY

SUPPORT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON 5 JUNE

Switch off unused appliances. It will help the environment and keep our business competitive – the best of both worlds.

# Internally yours

The Post Room staff encourage you to use the reusable internal envelopes for all internal mail. You can even reuse those normal envelopes that come through the mail. Just cross out the previous address and clearly write the new recipient's name.

If you need a supply of reusable internal envelopes contact the Post Room and they will be sent to you.



# Top ten tips

- 1 Bike or walk to work where practical. It's good for you and the environment!
- 2 Take your reusable thermal cup to your local coffee shop and carry a reusable water bottle to fill up from drinking water stations to avoid the purchase of disposable plastic bottles and cups. This will save trees, oil, energy and your money!
- 3 Avoid using disposable cutlery and packaging. Keep reusable cutlery in a desk drawer and bring your own lunch to work.
- 4 Switch off your screen when you go to meetings and turn off all non essential items at the end of the day (PCs, printers, scanners, photocopiers). Colour code your plugs: green: switch off at night; red: must be left switched on.
- 5 Establish Freecycle boards and web pages in your department to give away unwanted items so they can continue life without you.
- 6 Request china crockery and bulk juice, milk and sugar when catering for meetings or events to avoid disposables and packaging. You can make the request on the Catering Order Form and specify organic or Fair Trade.
- 7 Order reusable, recycled content and recyclable stationery where possible. Set up a system to facilitate the reuse of stationery items such as folders or paper trays between nearby departments.
- 8 Recycle wherever reuse is not possible and encourage colleagues to do the same. It makes a big difference – look at the NAB results overleaf!
- 9 Keep yourself informed about sustainability issues and find out more about ways you can contribute. See the environment web pages at: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment) and email in your ideas and comments to: [v.e.hands@lse.ac.uk](mailto:v.e.hands@lse.ac.uk).
- 10 Become an LSE staff sustainability champion and share best environmental practice, news, advice and ideas with your colleagues by going to: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/environment)