

- UK higher education currently spends over £200 million pa on energy
- Electricity and gas prices rose by 40-70% on many contracts in 2004
- Universities and colleges will face new regulations such as the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Highly Commended:

University of Bradford

- Carbon Management Highlights Risks

The Carbon Trust and Yorkshire Forward have established a Carbon Management Club to help regional organisations reduce their CO2 emissions. The University became a founding member in 2003 and mapped its carbon 'footprint' from energy consumption, travel, refrigeration leakages and waste - which is around 23,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum. In response the University has set a target of reducing these emissions by 10% by 2009. The mapping and subsequent analysis - which included student projects - also identified cost-effective reduction opportunities. The exercise helped make the case for £156,000 of expenditure on boiler controls, swimming pool refurbishment and refrigeration servicing and maintenance. These will reduce energy consumption by £30-35,000 a year, and contributed to a 3% reduction in CO2 emissions during 2003-4. Further cost-effective savings will come from a new comfort heating policy, CHP and space rationalisation.

The Carbon Management initiative also involved calculation of the business risks from rising energy prices, and current and projected carbon regulation. It found that by 2009 the university could expect a best case scenario of a £50,000 per annum increase in costs, and a worst case of over £480,000. Jamie Sullivan, the University's Environmental Manager, believes that the initiative "has demonstrated to senior management that carbon emissions cost money. For example, uncontrolled car use has led to more car users, a greater number of car park spaces and ultimately a higher car park maintenance budget."

Bournemouth University

- The 'Green Frog' Raises Awareness

In 2001, a University working group launched an awareness campaign about energy and water efficiency. The group wanted to give the campaign 'personality' and devised the 'Green Frog' - a computer-generated character that would appear on posters, emails, and stickers reminding staff to 'Switch Me Off Before You Go'.

The Frog generated great - and mainly positive - debate amongst staff and students, and contributed to a 4% reduction in the University's expected energy consumption during 2002-03, with further reductions in 2003-4. It also launched a new web site to communicate about all environmental issues (www.bournemouth.ac.uk/save_earth). This includes waste, where a co-ordinated campaign doubled paper recycling during 2004. 'Spike', a student frog, was also spawned to front a campaign amongst students in University-managed residences.



Charles Elder, the University's PR Manager, comments that environmental campaigns don't have to be serious to be effective - humour is a vital part of marketing."

Judges' Comments on Energy Efficiency

"Energy costs are rising and universities and colleges must plan for more of the same. The University of Glasgow has done this through an admirably planned and executed lighting control scheme in the Wolfson Medical School, which will also improve energy efficiency in subsequent buildings. The scheme shows that energy efficiency can be 'win-win', because users benefit from greater use of natural lighting."

"There will also be greater regulatory and stakeholder pressures to minimise carbon dioxide emissions in future. The University of Bradford's comprehensive Carbon Management programme demonstrates that systematic mapping of emissions can reveal many cost-effective opportunities for reduction."

"Minimising energy costs and carbon emissions can only be achieved if people are aware of its importance, and help to achieve it in practice. The University of Bournemouth has stimulated this admirably through its simple and humorous 'Green Frog' campaign, which was devised by staff and students."