What is Green Impact?



Green Impact is an environmental accreditation and awards scheme, bringing staff and students together with their wider communities to enable and showcase positive changes in environmental practice. It is a positive scheme that celebrates achievements, recognises the efforts of individuals and encourages sharing of good practice through strong communication. See Folder 2 for our Green Impact 2010/11 Best Practice Portfolio

Staff members form teams to work through our specifically designed online workbook. Using this as a framework for continual improvement, they work through criteria covering every aspect of sustainability: from biodiversity to fair-trade, energy to waste. Accruing points and collecting evidence, teams compete against each other to gain a Working towards, Bronze, Silver or Gold award over each academic year . The workbook is designed to be accessible to anyone – regardless of how interested one has been in environmental issues in the past and regardless of position within the institution. Special awards allow staff to nominate people for awards such as Best Environment Hero and Best Energy Saving Idea.

Once the workbooks have been submitted, departments are audited by trained student and staff volunteers. An awards ceremony at the end of the year recognises the efforts of everyone involved in the scheme.



Staffordshire University Awards Ceremony 2011

Timescales

Below is a guide line of how the process follows an academic year, though it is a flexible process so exact dates vary.

Workbook Development

August-October

Green Impact Project Officer (GIPO) and Lead Environmental Contact (LEC) liaise to amend past criteria and to conduct some initial audits of a sample of departments for new institutions to make them as institution specific as possible. Specific timelines and submission deadlines are set.

Evaluation

June-August

NUS GI team analyse results, provide feedback reports for LEC and their teams. LEC and their teams complete short evaluation for GI to ensure evaluation and recommendations are utilised in the programme for future years.

Workbook launch and team recruitment

September-October

Once online, LEC can launch their Green Impact workbook to their current teams, and work to recruit new teams through champion networks and launch events, with their GIPO and the NUS GI Team on hand to support where needed.

Celebration

April-May

LEC with support from their GIPO and teams, arranges awards ceremony to celebrate all award winners. GIPO can attend to support the programme, and invites to Higher Management, SU's and auditors are strongly recommended.

Teams implement changes

October-February

LEC, with support from GIPO, communicates regularly with teams to maintain momentum and support them through the workbook. Workshops, newsletters and online forums assist with this, and these will come from the NUS GI team too.

Workbook Submission and Audits

March

In line with initial timelines, all team workbooks are submitted. GI team collate the results. Lead Contact and GIPO recruit volunteer student auditors, train them, and audit department's evidence and progress.