



Green Gown  
Awards 2016



Dissemination  
supported by:



# Finalist's case study

## University of Liverpool Learning and Skills ESD Campus Greening Project



### About the project

#### Summary

Bringing together academics across all University of Liverpool faculties as well as representatives from the Liverpool Guild of Students, the University Estates team and the Centre for Lifelong Learning, this truly collaborative project gave students the opportunity to share and apply their knowledge of sustainable development in a real world scenario.

Using their own campus as a living laboratory, undergraduate students studying Environmental Science, Biological Science, Engineering and Management, using a cross-disciplinary approach, were tasked with proposing recommendations as to how their University can incorporate sustainable principles and design into its campus developments.

#### Project partners

A network of partnerships was formed through this project. Inside the University staff from various academic departments collaborated, these groups were then able to collectively and individually engage with various professional services. This included our Facilities Management department (Design Team, Capital Projects, Gardening and Facilities Services) as well as internal partners such as Ness Botanical Gardens and this was facilitated through both the University and Liverpool Guild of Student sustainability teams.

Outside the University partnerships were formed between local networks and organisations such as the Royal Liverpool university Hospital, Knowledge Quarter Sustainability Network as well as local transport operators and the Liverpool Council.

### The results

#### The problem

How does a University campus implement principles of sustainable design into its campus environment?

#### The approach

With representation from across all University of Liverpool (UoL) faculties including Environmental Science, Biological Sciences, Engineering and Management, as well as the Liverpool Guild of Students, UoL Estates team and the Centre for Lifelong Learning, in August 2015 the Green Space Task Group was formed with the following aims:

- To develop a student-led report for the creation of a greener campus
- To provide expertise and recommendations concerning the principles of green and soft space design for future campus developments
- To develop a process through which University students, staff and the local

#### Profile

- Russell Group University
- 30,000 students
- 5,600 staff
- 192,000 alumni in



Green Gown  
Awards 2016



Dissemination  
supported by:



# Finalist's case study

## Our goals

- Improve the University of Liverpool's environmental sustainability on main campus
- Provide an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and expertise in a real world scenario by encouraging them to critically analyse their own University and campus
- Develop a project that supports a partnership approach across the University of Liverpool's professional and academic departments
- Provide a best practice case study with replicability across the University and higher education sector

## Obstacles and solutions

OBSTACLE	SOLUTION
Timetabling between courses	To overcome this the project group met on a regular basis and minuted meetings so that everyone could plan appropriately
Balancing competing needs and idea	As this was a very ambitious project the differing stakeholders had specific needs and desires for the project. By finding a shared vision of a more sustainable campus environment we were able to overcome this obstacle.
Finance and funding	Initially the project struggled with funding. However by extending our partners and network we were able to pool resources which meant that everyone received a larger benefit for minimal cost

## Performance and results

A complete range of proposals were recommended by students from small scale, short term and easy to implement such as growing allotments on campus and bicycle stand plant pots, right through to our Engineering students realising a vision of what Liverpool could look like in the year 2100 with a network of super-efficient connected highways allowing for sustainable transport and linking key districts of the city to enhance social cohesion.

The niche of this project is the involvement of the Management School to 'filter' proposals through the application of cost and benefit analysis using relevant methodologies e.g. triple bottom line. This refined student proposals meaning that the recommendations received by the 'client' (i.e. the University) were of a high standard.

The following projects were chosen to be implemented:

Green roof/ green walls/ green corridors/ green graffiti – This project was chosen for the following reasons: replicable across our campus, relatively easy to implement in the short term, can be installed retrospectively, publicly demonstrates the University of Liverpool's commitment to creating a greener campus literally and figuratively, provides an environmental benefit (particularly if wildflowers and food growing methods are chosen), provides a social benefit as it creates a more beautiful campus for staff, students and visitors with an element of creativity and finally, it allows the University of Liverpool work to its strengths – we have a number of professional staff who are experts in flora and fauna thanks to our 64 acre, University owned botanical gardens called Ness Gardens.



Green Gown  
Awards 2016



Dissemination  
supported by:



# Finalist's case study

Pedestrianisation of campus/integration of cycle lanes/ rationalisation of car parking provision – This project was chosen for the following reasons: Clear health and social benefits to encouraging and facilitating staff and students to walk and cycle, less cars and pollution on city campus, allows for a more beautiful campus environment, lower risk of serious accident through managing flow of people walking and cycling, more efficient use of space in a city centre campus location, links to the transport and sustainable vision of our neighbouring Royal Liverpool university Hospital £335m redevelopment project.

## The future

### Lessons learned

- Building meaningful relationships builds projects resilience
- Connect your project to local and regional partners and knowledge share to allow your project to grow and flourish
- Do not underestimate the intelligence, imagination, passion and drive of any student

### Sharing your project

We have shared this project through a number of methods including University announcement and news story, case study to be distributed to departments, communicated to our institutional and local networks as well as keeping our audience updated on developments through social media.

This approach has also been replicated by the various project partners to engage as wide an audience as possible.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

As the Green Gown Awards are the sector leading award for sustainability in the higher education sector, to be a finalist means that we can celebrate the success of our project further. This formal recognition allows us to promote and share our project with a wider audience which will only lead to more positive outcomes and benefits for all involved.

### Further information

Nick Doran  
Sustainability Engagement and Initiatives Officer

Email: [ndoran@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:ndoran@liverpool.ac.uk)  
Tel: 0151 794 1375  
Web: [www.liverpool.ac.uk/sustainability/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/sustainability/)  
Twitter: @livunisustain