Green RAU News

Happy New Year! This edition of the Green RAU Newsletter showcases some of our achievements as well as staff and student initiatives over the past few months.

Edition 4
January 16

Latest Achievements

RAU achieved international environmental accreditation

Everyone's a winner in the 2015 Zero Waste Challenge

Library Green Impact team make festive environmental actions

RAU student attends national Student Sustainability Summit

New staff Ride2Work scheme

Estates investigate and trial new energy saving technologies

Green RAU News

RAU Achieves International Environmental Accreditation

We are thrilled to announce we've been awarded ISO14001 certification for our Environmental Management System (EMS), showing our dedication to sustainability across all operations.

ISO14001 is the highest ranking for an EMS and is recognised throughout the world. It provides organisations with a structured framework for protecting the environment, to ensure what we say is happening is actually being done in practice.

Everyone's a winner in the Zero Waste Challenge 2015

Staff teams across the University took part in the 2015 Zero Waste Challenge to be in with a chance of winning a Fairtrade Hamper. They had two weeks to prevent, reuse and recycle waste as much as possible, with the team with the least amount of landfill winning!

Put together the 3 teams produced less than one small bag of rubbish so shared the prizes to celebrate everyone's success!

The challenge was a fantastic way of showing how little landfill we can produce if we put our minds to it. Here are some of the top tips from the contestants:

Deaglan McArdle from Marketing said "In all honesty, simply checking what can actually be recycled. It's amazing just how much I normally just threw away without realising it could be recycled."

Angela Worthington from HR said: "In HR we put any food waste onto the carousel, put tea bags into the tea bag bin in the kitchen and avoided using paper cups. The challenge was good to do and has definitely raised awareness."

Laura Maddison from Registry said: "The Zero waste challenge made all of us in the Blue Room think more about the packaging we use for our packed lunches and the amount of packaging on purchased food stuffs and 'stuff' in general. We use our own mugs rather than paper cups and now take food waste to the carousel (we previously didn't know that we could do this)."

Green RAU News

Inspiration from the NUS Student Sustainability Summit

We were excited to sponsor one of our students to attend the NUS Student Sustainability Summit in Bristol in November. Katy Moseley, who is studying an MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, which aimed to show students their capability to make a difference within their university.

By Katy Moseley:

Being provided the opportunity to attend the NUS Student Sustainability Summit in Bristol, this year's green capital, was very exciting and helped deepen my understanding of how, as students and faculty, sustainability can be integrated into the every day running of university life. With impassioned speakers and equally passionate students, it was great to be surrounded by like minded people, sharing their experiences of working towards a more sustainable future.

The day comprised of keynote speakers and smaller group workshops based upon areas of sustainability, with a delicious lunch which had been entirely recycled from the 'waste' food of supermarkets!

I attended one workshop about social enterprise and food, which related nicely to my masters degree and highlighted areas in which students can grow and source their food locally and on campus - this provided some great ideas which could hopefully be integrated into the RAU such as veggie bag schemes, less waste in uni canteens and veggie gardens within the university grounds. The other workshop I attended was focused on fossil fuel divestment and how, as a university, we can take a stand and reduce our environmental impact by intelligent investments away from fossil fuel related corporations.

The whole day was enlightening and empowering, highlighting how, as a student body, we can make a change for the better.

Green RAU News

The Library Green Impact Team's Green Christmas

The Library have gone all out with their Green Christmas actions including this fabulous Christmas tree made of library books! Rather than purchasing a tree to be disposed of after, they've reused books which can go back on the shelves. It also looks amazing!

They have also set up the Unwanted Books Campaign. You can donate any unwanted books in good condition to the library who will send them on to Better World Books to raise money for charities.

The benefits of this include:

- no books are ever sent to landfill under this scheme
-their re-use is promoted and revenue for literacy charities and libraries is raised
-any carbon emissions caused by transporting books is offset by tree-planting schemes

You can keep up with the Library's activities on their blog at https://raulibrary.wordpress.com/

Green Impact is still running until the end of February - to take part and show off your own activities please contact sustainability@rau.ac.uk.

New Staff Perk - Tax-Free Bikes with Ride to Work

As part of our Green Travel Plan, we are delighted to announce the launch of the Ride to Work scheme for staff in conjunction with Evans Cycles. The scheme allows you to save up to 42% on the cost of a bike and /or cycling accessories!

Full details can be found on the Wellbeing pages or the HR intranet or you can contact the Evans Cycles Helpdesk on 01293 572325 or ride-to-work@evanscycles.com.

Green RAU News

Estates Energy Improvement Programme Launched

Lee Hawley, the RAU's Building Services Manager, has been working hard to upgrade the energy efficiency of buildings across campus with some very successful results so far!

LED lighting has been installed in various locations such as the Main Lecture Block and the Boutflour Hall. The upgrades in Room 9 have provided a much better quality of light with a 45% energy saving. In early January we will also be adding sensor controls to Woodlands to ensure communal lights are not on 24/7.

Another project is a trial of an automatic heating control in Garden House, which saves energy by quickly adjusting the radiator valves to maintain a comfortable temperature and avoid overheating. If successful, this could be rolled out to other areas of the campus.

Other upgrades completed or planned include:

- Secondary glazing installed in Blue Room in Main Building
- Cedar Lodge boiler rebuilt to improve efficiency
- Biomass district pipe network improvements planned to reduce heat loss
- Further lighting upgrades and sensor control
- Installation of more waterless urinals

If you, your flat or your department are making any improvements you'd like to share, please get in touch with Pearl Costello. No matter how small or large they are we'd love to celebrate them!