

Making a good impression

A Case Study from University of Bath

'Green Transport Plan', sustainability, Carbon footprint

Keywords

Transport plans, carbon trust, energy management, Waste recycling, waste reduction, composting

Summary Detail

The University of Bath has developed sustainable practices across the organisation to reduce their environmental and social impacts. They want to be a good neighbour, a good employer and provide an example to their students. They work hard to make sure the University's impact is as positive as possible. To achieve this aim they have created a Green Transport Policy and implemented numerous waste recycling initiatives. This Investment in environment-friendly initiatives has earned the University the top Sustainable Business Award for Outstanding Achievement presented by **envolve business**.

Making a good impression

A Case Study from University of Bath

'Green Transport Plan'

[Green Transport Strategy](#)

[More Sustainable Steps](#)

[Future Initiatives](#)

[Links to the University's Environmental Practices](#)

Introduction

The university has a major environmental and social impact due to the high number of students and staff. The University works hard to make sure its impact is as positive as possible. To achieve this aim they have created a Green Transport Policy and implemented waste recycling initiatives including the composting of all garden waste on site and the 'A-Z list of waste disposal routes'.

This Investment in environment-friendly initiatives has earned the University of Bath the top Sustainable Business Award for Outstanding Achievement presented by **envolve business**. On receiving the award Peter Adams, the University of Bath's Safety, Health, Environment Officer, said:

"We're delighted to receive this award. It reflects the sustained effort that the University makes to reduce its environmental impact and to be a good neighbour."

This case study looks at some of the steps the University have made towards a more sustainable way of management.

Background

The University of Bath is committed to ensuring its facilities are managed in a sustainable manner and is continuing to improve its performance. This work helps the University foster good relationships with its neighbours, raises awareness of environmental impacts amongst staff and students and makes the University a better place to live and work.

With demand for parking spaces continually outstripping supply the University were faced with identifying methods to reduce the pressure. In consultation with the Students Union, Bath & North East Somerset Council and local residents a Green Transport Policy has been developed.

A Green Transport Strategy

This introduced a number of initiatives designed to reduce the number of car journeys to and from the campus by improving bus services, particularly on strategic routes, restricting car parking facilities for non-essential users and providing some additional car parks to deal with the expansion of University activities. As part of the strategy: -

- Undergraduates are prohibited from bringing cars to campus, staff are encouraged to use alternatives to the private car

- Car parking income is used specifically for improvements to alternative forms of transport, i.e. improvements to cycling facilities including secure parking, and showers.
- Cycle mileage rate agreed
- A 'wish list' of additional measures has been developed including further cycle storage and cycle routes across campus.

More Steps toward sustainability

The University has taken many more innovative steps to improve its environmental performance. These include: -

- Undergoing a Carbon Footprint assessment in conjunction with The Carbon Trust, costing £50,000 to determine future environmental policy
- An increase in the type of materials that are recycled, which now include furniture, CDs, batteries, cardboard and electrical goods. 400-500 CDs have been reused so far with CD cases sold for Children in Need
- Information on the range of materials recycled is available for employees and students on the University's intranet
- A full-time member of staff is employed to monitor and reduce the use of water, electricity and other fuels
- The University has a combined heat and power plant which has yielded significant savings in the last few years
- Composting of agricultural waste where possible rather than burning
- The University also offers the local community a wide range of Community Courses through its Centre for Lifelong Learning

Future Improvements/ Initiatives

The University has achieved a good reputation as a result of the initiatives implemented so far. They now plan to consolidate these initiatives by considering an environmental management system. They are committed to moving the sustainable agenda along and want to continue being considered in high regard. The following provide an illustration of future activities and initiatives: -

- Using the results from the Carbon Footprint assessment they will make improvements to existing practice and develop the proposed new campus at Swindon in a sustainable manner
- An extensive awareness campaign will be implemented to reduce the environmental impact of the Halls of Residences
- Explore the opportunity for water harvesting for use in all toilets to reduce overall water consumption
- Identify opportunities to make lighting more energy efficient across all areas of the University, i.e. accommodation, street lighting

Conclusion

It is evident that the University of Bath is committed to improving its environmental performance and its overall sustainability. It is a large organisation that takes its responsibilities seriously. The number of environmental initiatives stand testament to this and provide a lessons in good practice students can take to their future employers.

By developing the Green Transport Strategy the University has shown that rather than forcing its neighbours to put up with ever increasing traffic levels the trend can be reversed. Staff, students and the local community all gain from better air quality

and reduced noise pollution. It provides an illustration of good practice which can be copied by other large organisations or smaller organisations working together.

The Safety, Health, Environment Officer responsible Peter Adams says: -

“We’ve taken many innovative steps to be a good neighbour and we’re committed to further improving our environmental performance.”

Contact information and other detail

Peter Adams
Safety, Health, Environment Officer
Safety, Health and Environment Unit
University of Bath
Bath
BA2 7AY

Telephone: +44 (0) 1225 386834
Fax: +44 (0) 1225 386559
safety@bath.ac.uk
www.bath.ac.uk

Type of Business: University
No of employees: 2500
No of students: 11,000
Turnover: £100M

Links

Find out more about the University of Bath’s Environmental Practices

What happens to the waste?

<http://internal.bath.ac.uk/waste/whathappens.htm>

Waste Management - Hazardous and 'Difficult' Waste

<http://internal.bath.ac.uk/waste/hazardouswaste.htm>

Waste Management - How YOU can manage waste effectively

<http://internal.bath.ac.uk/waste/youmanage.htm>