

SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

ISSUE 20 | SUMMER 2016

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As we approach the end of another academic year here at the University, we are provided with a good opportunity to look back and celebrate our collective environmental achievements.

This edition of Sustainability Matters does exactly that, highlighting the work not only of the Sustainability Team but more importantly, colleagues across the University. These staff are going above and beyond to help deliver projects to make the University a more sustainable place to work and study.

HEATING IMPROVEMENTS

HVAC isn't the most exciting acronym but our heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems make a big difference to the places we work and study in.

They use a lot of energy and make a big contribution to our carbon footprint. This year we've been working to reduce this impact and make buildings more comfortable by installing additional sensors and optimising the times when heating systems operate. This gives us a greater understanding of temperatures in buildings which means we can react better to provide heat where it's needed, when it's needed.

We've been out and about visiting buildings, chatting to people so we can understand where the problem areas are. While we can't promise to solve all problems, we hope that from October people will find the heating system more responsive.



STAFF MAKE A BIG GREEN IMPACT

It's everyone's responsibility to make the workplace as good as it can be environmentally and this is what Green Impact is all about. It brings together staff and students from across the University and UPP to make those small changes that when combined, make a big difference.

We had a great year again at the University with more teams than ever achieving the highest levels of Green Impact. In total, 14 teams achieved Gold, working towards Excellence or Excellence, demonstrating the hard work undertaken by staff on a daily basis to improve the environmental performance of the University.

Some of the Excellence projects delivered by staff included developing a map of green facilities on campus, a cigarette butt campaign as well as a trial of a new type of bin.

A big thankyou to everyone across the University that is involved with Green Impact, together we are reducing our collective environmental impact.



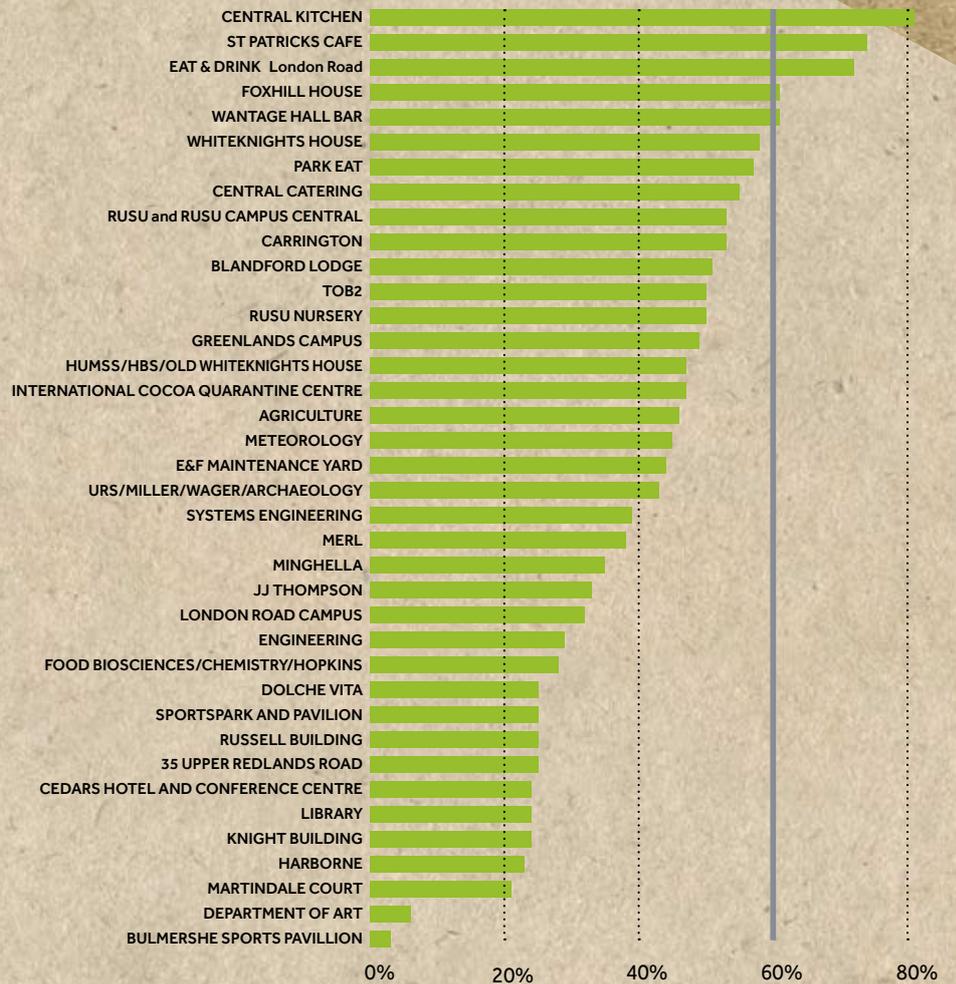
UoREDUCE UoREUSE UoRECYCLE

Well done to Catering for taking the top three spots in the Recycling League Table for May 2016!

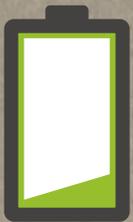
The University is currently on course for achieving an overall 50% recycling rate by the end of July 2016, with a current average recycling rate of 49%. To date, 14 areas have already met or exceeded the average – please keep it up!

If you have any waste enquiries or would like more information, visit the Clean and Green website or email waste@reading.ac.uk.

Building and Departmental RECYCLING LEAGUE RESULTS



DID YOU KNOW



that small batteries used by your department can be recycled by sending them to the Whiteknights House Postroom? Batteries from home can be taken to your nearest shop with a battery collection point.

EXTRACTING CARBON SAVINGS FROM THE FUME CUPBOARDS

Did you know a fume cupboard costs £3000 a year to operate?

The University has over 250 fume cupboards so as you can imagine, this is a significant cost not to mention the carbon emissions associated with them.

Following a successful pilot scheme in 2014 upgrading the ventilation of 44 fume cupboards, there is currently a programme of works being undertaken to upgrade the rest. This has included installing new controllers, replacement of extract fans and optimisation of the speeds at which they run.

THE PILOT SCHEME SAVED

CO₂ (t) saved

0 0 0 0 3 4 3

Total savings (£)

0 0 9 0 0 0 0

so we are excited to monitor the impact of this expanded programme.