

Meeting
07/11/14

Agenda Item
22

Reference No
HEFCW/14/94

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper sets out the background and final report of The Living Greener project which aimed to improve the environmental engagement and awareness of students and participating universities.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The Welsh Government has a statutory obligation to prepare, implement, and report on a sustainability development programme within Wales currently One Wales One Planet¹. Part of this programme includes objectives to raise and develop awareness of environmental issues. Students are recognised as a key group who are well placed to influence the actions of their university, as well as developing good practice in their own lives and reinforcing their academic learning in this area.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. note the contents of the final report.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 No decisions are required at this meeting .

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

contact Chris Cowburn (Tel 029 2068 2247; E-mail:chris.cowburn@hefcw.ac.uk)

¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

7 Background

- 7.1 In 2012 the Welsh Government agreed to provide HEFCW with funding of £50,000 to procure and manage a programme aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability through developing student and institutional awareness of environmental issues. A specification was developed that reflected on previous successful programmes run in English and Scottish universities as well as introducing a new theme around recognition of volunteering. The National Union of Students and TYF were awarded the contract in January 2013 and the project commenced in September 2013 and ran until June 2014. Participation in the programme was voluntary however all universities in Wales with the exception of the University of South Wales, and Glyndŵr participated.

8 The Programme

- 8.1 The programme comprises five main elements:-

Green Impact

- 8.2 This is an accreditation scheme which requires teams or departments within the university to identify and implement actions they can undertake to address environmental performance. The programme is intended to run over several years to achieve permanent benefits. The scheme runs as a competition with awards being made based on the number and significance of environmental improvements made. Students from other universities are trained to act as assessors.

Student Switch off

- 8.3 This is a competition which challenges students to save energy within their students halls. An award is made to the hall demonstrating the biggest pro rata reduction against energy use recorded in the previous year.

Black Out

- 8.4 This programme was originally developed by Southampton University in 2012 and involves students undertaking an audit of university office space on a Friday evening to turn off all unnecessary electrical equipment including lights, computers and monitors. The university then compare the electricity use against the previous weekend to demonstrate the savings that could be achieved.

Snap it Off

- 8.5 This encourages students to take photographs of energy being wasted typically through lights being left on and to upload this to a website where it is brought to the attention of the university energy manager to rectify. Arriva Trains also participated in this project with students gaining additional points for identifying energy wastage at railway stations. Prizes were awarded to those students recording the highest number of verified photographs of energy wastage.

Time Banking

- 8.6 This enabled students to record time spent in volunteering for the Living Greener to record this and for prizes to be offered to those students recording the most hours.

9 The Results

- 9.1 A brief summary of the results achieved in the Living Greener programme is shown at Annex A. The full report is available on the Extranet.

10 Financial implications

- 10.1 This report has no financial implications for HEFCW as the project was funded via additional funding from the Welsh Government and contributions from participating universities.

11 Communications implications

- 11.1 The final report on this project will be made available to all participating universities, and will be displayed on the HEFCW website. It is also being used by the Welsh Government in considering how this project can be adapted for use within the further education sector.

12 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 12.1 This paper has no implications for age, disability, marital/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, any other protected characteristic or Welsh Language.

13 Risk Assessment

Risk	Action to address risk
There are no risks arising from this paper.	