

EAUC Press Release
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**Green Gown Awards celebrate initiatives that ensure a better tomorrow for young people**

As the Climate Crisis is increasingly recognised as the most pressing issue our world faces, the Green Gown Awards put a spotlight on the innovative and inspiring sustainability work taking place in universities and colleges to create a brighter future for their students.

This year’s UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards finalists represented over 1 million students and 162,000 staff. They are leading the way with their commitment to the global sustainability agenda and proving the value that universities and colleges bring to the wellbeing of society. Organised by EAUC - the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education, the awards ceremony was held at Glasgow Science Centre on Tuesday 26th November 2019.

Winning initiatives ranged from social projects, like Ayrshire College’s ‘Passing Positivity’ campaign that aims to tackle the high prevalence of suicide in its community, to environmental projects, like University of Gloucestershire’s work in South Africa to develop low cost technology to reduce the poaching of white and black rhinoceros.

Solutions offered to some of the growing sustainability issues included Deposit Return Schemes, zero waste shops and 100% renewable energy powered campuses. Research from finalists covered ground breaking air quality studies, ways to improve sustainable production and consumption of cut flowers, tools to help calculate carbon sequestration in trees and engineering ideas to overcome water shortages.

Iain Patton, CEO at EAUC and co-host of the Green Gown Awards ceremony, said: “*Now in its 15th year, the Green Gown Awards celebrate the very pinnacle of best practice in a sector that is well ahead of the curve on the sustainability agenda. The submissions this year were of an incredibly high calibre, tackling a huge array of sustainable development areas. It was a hard process to pick the winners, and it involved over 90 national and international judges.*

*“Addressing the Climate Emergency has been the focus of EAUC’s work this year and will continue to be a key priority over the months ahead through our work with the newly-formed Climate Commission which will work with UK institutions to ensure they reach the UK government’s target of reducing all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 at the very latest. It is a privilege to collaborate with the institutions recognised tonight, supporting them on pioneering initiatives that will contribute towards these emissions targets. There are a lot of questions at the moment from the general public, concerned about the Climate Crisis, concerned about how we will reach net zero, and these Awards identify and commend those that have some of the answers.”*

For the second year running, the category ‘Outstanding Leadership Team of the Year’ was voted for live on the night. This award recognises the passionate staff driving their institution to be better – the 2019 winner, as voted for by the live audience after presentations from each of the category finalists, was the remarkable sustainability team at Nottingham Trent University.

**Vice Chancellor at Nottingham Trent University, Professor Edward Peck,** said:

*“I am extremely proud of this Sustainability Team Green Gown Award. It is fantastic recognition of the strategic importance Nottingham Trent University places on sustainability. It is highlighted in all of our courses, supported by our research and fundamental to our high-performing estate – sustainability is in our DNA.”*

There was a record number of finalists this year, with 101 brilliant initiatives across 14 categories, and 20 winners. Several of the categories had a large institution winner and a smaller institution winner – to recognise the different levels of capacity and resource of the institutions.

The Award’s co-host, **Elizabeth Passey, Convener (Chairman) of the University of Glasgow,** said: *“It has been an honour to co-host the Green Gown Awards tonight, and it seems very apt that they have been held in Glasgow – which has committed to becoming the first UK net-zero city and is host City to COP 26 in 2020. The institutions recognised here tonight have been truly inspiring and highlight how much positive impact universities and colleges can have on their students, staff and communities.”*

Green Gown Awards 2019 – WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Benefitting Society
SMALL INSTITUTION – Ayrshire College - #PassingPositivity Mental Health United

LARGE INSTITUTION – Northumbria University – Student Law Office – facilitating access to justice in the North East

Campus Health, Food and Drink
SMALL INSTITUTION – Dundee and Angus College – Putting Planet before Profit

LARGE INSTITUTION – The University of Edinburgh – Good food: Promoting healthy, sustainable and affordable food

Campus of the Future
*Category Supporter: JISC*University of the West of Scotland – *UWS Lanarkshire: A sustainable campus for sustainable minds*

Enterprise
*Category Supporter: CUBO*SMALL INSTITUTION – Wiltshire College and University Centre – Apple Project

LARGE INSTITUTION – City, University of London – The GreenSpark Award

Money for Good
SMALL INSTITUTION – The London Institute of Banking and Finance – Reaching further in LiFE: Making personal finance accessible

LARGE INSTITUTION – The University of Edinburgh – Investing for good: Social investment at the University of Edinburgh

Next Generation Learning and Skills
University of Bristol – Unleash your potential: Sustainable Futures Online Course

Research with Impact – Institution
*Category Supporter: Emerald Publishing*University of Gloucestershire – Stopping the poachers: Building partnerships and low cost technological solutions for Rhino conservation

Student Engagement
University of Strathclyde – Strathclyde’s Global Student – using Vertically Integrated Projects to make a difference through useful learning

Sustainability Institution of the Year Award
*Category Supporter: EAUC*University of Worcester – Small but mighty – University of Worcester punches above its weight

Tomorrow's Employees
Manchester Metropolitan University – CL4Ss action for climate change

Total Reporting
The University of Edinburgh

INDIVIDUAL/TEAM AWARDS
Outstanding Leadership Team of the Year

*Category Supporter: Interface UK*

*Live voting*

Nottingham Trent University

Research with Impact – Student
SMALL INSTITUTION – Scott Stephens - Exeter College Technology Centre
LARGE INSTITUTION – James Boyd – University of Leicester

Sustainability Champion Award – Student

*Category Supporter: SALIX*

Tom Bedford – Keele University

Sustainability Champion Award – Staff

*Category Supporter: SALIX*

Zulfi Ali – Canterbury Christ Church University

**ENDS**

***Notes to Editors***

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1. The winners of Benefitting Society, Student Engagement and Sustainability Institution of the Year now go head to head with other global regional winners for the coveted International Green Gown Awards.
2. For the full list of all Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists visit the [Green Gown Awards website.](http://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland) Case studies and videos about each finalist are also freely available on the [Sustainability Exchange.](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/benefitting_society)
3. **About the Green Gown Awards:** Established in 2004, the Green Gown Awards UK and Ireland recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities, colleges and the learning and skills sectors across the UK and Ireland as the education sector leads a path to efficiency, employability and better quality of life for us all. The Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC and are governed by [a cross agency steering group](http://www.greengownawards.org/partners).

The Green Gown Awards UK and Ireland is further enhanced by its international presence. The Awards are also delivered on a regional basis in Australasia, French speaking Europe and Canada as well as the International Green Gown Awards supported by the United Nations Environment. For more information visit <http://www.greengownawards.org> and follow us on Twitter [@greengowns](https://twitter.com/greengowns?lang=en).

1. **Green Gowns UK and Ireland sponsors:**

[CUBO](http://www.greengownawards.org/cubo)

Emerald Publishing

EAUC

[Interface](http://www.greengownawards.org/interface) UK

JISC

[Salix](http://www.greengownawards.org/salix1)

[The Energy Consortium](http://www.greengownawards.org/the-energy-consortium)

**Media Partner:** [University Business](http://universitybusiness.co.uk/)

**Supporting the awards ceremony:** South Lanarkshire College and [University](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/) of Glasgow

**Supporting the awards dinner:** Mulitplex

1. **About the EAUC:** EAUC is the alliance for sustainability leadership in education. EAUC represents over 200 institutions with a combined total of 2 million students and nearly 400,000 staff with a spending budget of over £25 billion. We help leaders, academics and professionals to drive sustainability to the heart of their post-16 education institutions. For more information, visit [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk).