Winners from each of the UK and Ireland, Australasia and French-speaking regions in Europe and Canada and the 6 UNEP regions in the International categories: Community, Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change and Student Engagement, went head-to-head for the coveted International Green Gown Awards. The International Winners were announced on 16 May 2018 at the ‘Global Responsibility, Now’ Conference, Marseille, France, held in partnership with Global Responsible Leadership Initiative; UN Principles for Responsible Management Education and Kedge Business School.

In the following pages, we are delighted to announce the 2017–2018 International Green Gown Awards Awards Winners and equally to be applauded Finalists. We share with you their initiatives and their inspiring examples of sustainability best practice, together with some words of advice and encouragement on lessons learnt along the way when implementing their projects. We hope many readers will be inspired and motivated by these sustainability projects. There are 3 Winners and 6 Finalists split over the 3 international categories.

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Recognising initiatives by tertiary education institutions which create significant benefits for local communities, disadvantaged groups and/or society as a whole in either the host country or developing countries.
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The Awards are truly global

The Green Gown Awards, recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges. They are delivered on a regional basis in Australasia, UK and Ireland and French-speaking regions in Europe and Canada and in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the GUPES Green Gown Awards cover each of the 6 UNEP regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia).

The winners of each region go head-to-head for the coveted International Green Gown Awards. The international judging criteria is based on a comparison of the projects as a whole, with the ultimate deciding factor being which project has the biggest scale of impact. The Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are respected by national Governments, funding councils, senior management, academics and students.

2017–2018 INTERNATIONAL GREEN GOWN AWARD JUDGES

The judging panel are representatives of sector organisations and/or specialists in a particular area and represent all international regions. It is their substantial experience in the sector that truly makes the International Green Gown Awards sector owned. We thank the judges for their time, commitment and valuable contributions.
On September 25th, 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.

We asked each of our International Winners and Finalists to select up to a maximum of four goals that their application particularly delivered against. These are shown alongside their individual listings, showing the impact education has on a global scale.

To find out more, visit www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk
Education for Sustainability Tasmania: a UN-recognised Regional Centre of Expertise – a new kid on the block

Recognition of Education for Sustainability (EfS) Tasmania: a United Nations recognised Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in 2015, resulted from University of Tasmania leadership within our community to recognise sustainability leaders and establish a state-wide network of Tasmanian sustainability partners delivering initiatives across education and research, community, business and government.

The ongoing activities associated with EfS Tasmania helps deliver on the University commitment as a Talloires Declaration signatory to incorporate sustainability literacy into teaching and learning as well as our broad-based community engagement and partnership activities in sustainability.

TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. A sustainable society is nurtured through a culture that promotes a continued stream of mentoring and learning generations.
2. Partnerships are a motivating force towards change, empowering people and groups to take action.
3. Working together locally, helps people connect to place and build a stronger, interconnected cultural identity based on mutual respect.

WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT...

Judges were really impressed with the vision and role of a university in its community. It demonstrates how education can play a proactive role in creating sustainability skills and foster concrete partnerships amongst wider community stakeholders. Its key strength is its diverse community of practice bringing a wide range of issues and partners to the fore. It connects outwardly as well as within. Reaching well beyond the university and community with their message on sustainability across the State, this project has great potential to be replicated.

SCALE OF IMPACT

EfS Tas delivers on the UN RCE model as it is global in scope with broad community participation around a higher education institution. The model is relevant beyond the tertiary sector as it is designed to be cross-sectoral and include organisations and people interested in sustainability education. With UN RCE recognition, EfS Tas exemplifies a path that other institutions and communities can follow.
Building a sustainable future: From start to beginning

As a Church of England Foundation, sustainability is part of our core mission and values. Not until 2010 was this explicitly stated through strategy, or the first person to take an institutional lead was appointed. Since then, a strategic and evolutionary approach has transformed the University, both operationally and academically.

Sustainability is a cross-cutting theme that is supported by a strategic framework. It is managed through a strategic management group that is an executive committee of the SMT. The University has held ISO14001 certification since 2013, supported by the LiFE Index performance improvement framework. Since 2015, sustainability has been built into the annual Business Planning process for all Schools and Departments, and innovative use of the 6 Capitals Model is increasing the understanding of value creation and non-financial reporting.

Christ Church started late in taking explicit action on sustainability, but is now beginning to make a real tangible difference!
Student-led Environmental Management Systems

Chiba University is the only university in Japan that has acquired both ISO14001 and ISO50001. Since 2003, the Student Committee for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) has been in charge of operating the EMS. It has a core role in making drafts of environmental objectives and plans for the university, lecturing about EMS at trainings, serving as internal auditors, and editing environmental reports. They also carry out various activities such as raising ecological awareness, environmental education for children and green conservation.

As a result, environmental burdens and expenses were greatly reduced, creating a unique Accreditation and Qualification System. Students learn and carry out these activities as a course for three years. They can build not only knowledge but also business skills, and finally are awarded an EMS practitioner qualification. According to a survey, over 80% said the activities were useful for working in society.

TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. We created a student committee within the university to operate a university EMS.
2. As a part of the education using the “Accreditation and Qualification System”, we found students took on various EMS roles.
3. We have learned that student-led EMS has not only environmental and economic effects but also educational.

WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT...

Judges were impressed with this great student engagement example of a university putting faith in its students. The complexity and long-term demands of implementing an EMS and going through ISO accreditation whilst sustaining student engagement is a huge task and to be applauded. This is a powerful hands-on lab for students to learn and do. A perfect balance of top-down and bottom-up with a profound engagement outcome. Very impressive.

SCALE OF IMPACT

This method can be introduced not only in local universities but also in educational institutions overseas. In recent years, Chiba University has sent members from the Committee to conferences, both domestic and international. They spread our green endeavours to people in various academic fields. Some critics might say that our organisation imitates sustainable activities conducted by other groups. However, we believe that it is only our university-affiliated organisation that is managed entirely by students.
Durham University, United Kingdom
Van Mildert College Outreach

For almost 30 years, community outreach and volunteering has been a way of life at Van Mildert College. Six student-led projects support local families, young people, schools, the elderly and promote environmental conservation. The projects work across North-East England with a range of community partners including Aycliffe Secure Centre, County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, and a range of local primary and secondary schools. During the 2016/17 academic year, Van Mildert students completed over 6,300 volunteer hours.

Giving back to the community, promoting environmental awareness, and supporting the widening participation agenda are central to the college ethos and reflected in its motto – Sic vos non vobis – not for yourselves. The projects also allow Mildertians to develop skills such as entrepreneurship, leadership, negotiation and communication. These skills undoubtedly complement and enhance our students’ academic pursuits, not only through participation but also the genuine student leadership and direction of the projects.

ISCOM Paris, France
The Solidarity University of Communication

Every summer since 2013, ISCOM Paris has organised the Solidarity University of Communication. During this 2-day event, the school teaches communication, free of charge, to 30 young entrepreneurs in deprived neighbourhoods, through accessible and inexpensive communication tools: digital, press relations, public speaking and visual creation.

Specific audience: Entrepreneurs from suburban areas are chosen by La Miel (Home of the Local Economic Initiative - Paris Nord), Ile-de-France Region and Action’elles, one of the main support networks for women.

Pragmatic training: Entrepreneurs are accompanied by communication professionals to better communicate their activities: the school has partnered with the first independent group of communication consultants, HOPSCOTCH GROUPE, and alumni to aid this training.

Long-term project involving students from ISCOM Paris: since September 2013, entrepreneurs call on third year students, who bring their communications skills to the table. They are gathered in communication “micro-agencies”.

TOP 3 LEARNINGS
1. Creating a culture in which outreach is ‘a way of life’ for students is vital to ensuring longevity.
2. Work closely with a wide range of community partners – we couldn’t do it without them!
3. Students should take a genuine leadership role in the running and shaping of the projects!

TOP 3 LEARNINGS
1. We positioned ISCOM as the leading communications school in solidarity entrepreneurship.
2. We strengthened the corporate culture by mobilising the school’s actors and collaborators on a solidarity project.
3. We created a network of public and institutional actors that come together on a volunteer basis for this event: communication agencies and professional interveners.

greengownawards.org
University of Southern Queensland, Australia

Embedding sustainability at University of Southern Queensland

Since 2009, the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) has adopted a holistic, enterprise wide approach to sustainability. From integrating sustainability into strategic planning (goals and KPIs), policy and procedures (PDs and Procurement), to significant renewable energy, waste and water solutions.

Outcomes include: 32% reduction in waste; 25% increase in recycling & resource recovery; 4000+ signatories Sustainability Pledge; 2016 awarded 6 Star Green Star Rating – Springfield Building B; initiated 2MW Sustainable Energy Solution (stage 1 Australia’s largest integrated solar carpark) reducing CO2-e by 20%; energy efficiency lighting upgrades savings of 195,228kWh/yr; 84% reduction in bore water; 15% decrease vehicle emissions, 2014 launched intercampus shuttle.

Ayrshire College, United Kingdom

Park Life

The College’s Social and Environmental Studies students have worked on a voluntary basis with conservation staff at Dean Castle Country Park for the past four years, to conserve the natural environment for future generations. The natural green spaces within our natural environment are being eroded - this problem has been addressed by the students planting new native trees, creating new wetland habitats and improving access for all park users with the creation of paths and walkways. The students’ practical efforts with the Park Life initiative earns them the ‘John Muir Award’. The student volunteers continue to promote the ideas and attitudes of sustainability amongst other young people.

The College has benefited from improved engagement, attendance, retention, progression and recruitment as a result of this partnership project. The local community benefit as well as tourists to the park as a result of the voluntary work.

**TOP 3 LEARNINGS**

1. Be tenacious, never give up on doing the right thing, but do it smart.
2. Understand what the various decision makers are likely to view as beneficial from the project and pitch accordingly.
3. Always provide a quality business case, as credibility is easily lost, and negative bias created.

**TOP 3 LEARNINGS**

1. Our students are now environmentally conscious citizens who will continually safeguard the park’s future.
2. We realised the benefits of volunteering, particularly when we feel we are making a difference.
3. Our students gained an understanding of park staff’s roles, helping their own career choices.
The University of Adelaide, Australia

Adelaide Sustainability Association: Sustainability Super Group

The Adelaide Sustainability Association (ASA) provides dynamic professional development opportunities for students at the University of Adelaide.

Developed by students, for students, the club with 900+ members is empowering undergraduates through programmes, activities and events that increase global environmental awareness, improve skills and develop capabilities relevant to future careers in sustainability.

Led by a passionate student committee and with the assistance of key staff mentors, the ASA is motivating the student body to be inspired, not overwhelmed, by the opportunities that climate change presents.

The University of Winchester, United Kingdom

This Changes Everything: 11 songs about climate change

The album “This Changes Everything” tackles an issue that the music industry is failing to acknowledge: Climate Change. Music has long been a prime way of raising awareness and creating a dialogue, and it is our duty, not just as a University, but as people, to ensure everyone is conscious of Climate Change, and that turning our backs on it and pretending it is not happening is no longer an option.

The fact the University has both a record label and a desire to raise awareness of Climate Change meant that creating an album of ‘11 songs about Climate Change’ was a logical and necessary move and will ensure that our students are more engaged than ever with this vital issue.

TOP 3 LEARNINGS

1. Uniting like-minded students across multiple disciplines will generate perspective and variety in solutions to problems.
2. Utilising influential staff members to champion a student club, increases engagement with local industry and wider university community.
3. Students are optimistic about the future and confident that they can make a difference.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS AND FINALISTS 2017-2018

WINNERS

- UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- CHIBA UNIVERSITY

FINALISTS

- Van Mildert College
- ISCOM
- UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
- Ayrshire College
- THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE
- UNIVERSITY of WINCHESTER

COMMUNITY

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- International Finalists represent 164,000 students across 3 continents delivering these SDG goals:
  - 44% are working towards ‘sustainable cities and communities’
  - 67% are delivering on ‘climate action’
  - 89% are delivering ‘quality education’
  - 1 in 3 are delivering ‘affordable clean living’

Want to enter the Awards? Look up your region and enter now.
Visit www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards
GREEN GOWN AWARD REGIONS

The Green Gown Awards are currently run in the regions outlined below. For further information on each region, categories on offer, as well as timelines for applying in 2018, please visit www.greengownawards.org/home

If you are working with a country or region interested in running the Awards not currently listed, please do contact us. The Headquarters for the Green Gown Awards is under the UK & Ireland region.

Headquarters and Region: UK and Ireland
Launched in 2004, the Awards are delivered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC). The Awards are open to any tertiary education establishment – including all post-16 educational institutions such as colleges, universities and learning and skills institutions.

Case studies and videos of past winners and finalists are available [here](mailto:greengown@eauc.org.uk)
[www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland](http://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland)

Region: Australia and New Zealand
The Awards were brought to Australasia in 2010 and are delivered by our partners, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS). The Awards are open to all tertiary education institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

Case studies and videos of past winners and finalists are available [here](mailto:ggaa@acts.asn.au)
[www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-australasia](http://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-australasia)

Region: French-speaking Europe and Canada
The Awards (Les trophées des campus responsables) were brought to French-speaking Europe and Canada in 2014 and are open in all French-speaking universities and colleges, schools and specialised institutes in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and French-speaking Canada. They are being delivered by our partners, Campus Responsables.

Case studies and videos of past winners and finalists are available [here](mailto:foulon@utopies.com)

Region: GUPES: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia
Launched in 2016, and in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the GUPES Green Gown Awards is open to institutions in each of the 6 UNEP regions.

Case studies and videos of past winners and finalists are available [here](mailto:greengown@eauc.org.uk)
[www.greengownawards.org/gupes-green-gown-awards](http://www.greengownawards.org/gupes-green-gown-awards)
Want to be our headline sponsor for 2018-2019?
Join us and be a part of the global innovation and problem-solving power of students, universities and colleges.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with the creativity and impact of the only global university, college and student sustainability leadership award.
As Headline Partner of the 2018-2019 International Green Gown Awards, you will be a part of the solution. We want you to influence and share student, university and college global sustainability excellence in teaching and research, leadership, campuses, employability. Our partnership will show how students can benefit the quality of life for us all in our businesses and communities.
Work with us and let’s make a future fit for life.
The Awards are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and supported by the UN, national governments and education bodies.

For your valued partnership you will receive:
- Global profile with universities, colleges, governments and UN - a committed, well-connected and influential community
- EXCLUSIVE ‘in association with’ status – you will be the sole sponsor of the International Awards with your logo on all Award communications
- Present an Award and speech at the International Green Gown Awards Ceremony
- Work alongside winning students and institutions to create new placement and research opportunities
- Connect your organisation with world leading research and practice, tell your sustainability story and have the opportunity to present in webinars relating to the finalists over the next twelve months.

The exclusivity and prestige of these established Awards, combined with the commitment and connections of influential applicants make this a hugely attractive partnership opportunity. We will work with you to maximise business value through access to entrants and the wider global Green Gown

Want to be a part of the solution? We would love to hear from you.

greengown@eauc.org.uk
www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards
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UN Environment

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