Whiteknights’ electricity use down 5% over Christmas

Electricity consumption on the Whiteknights campus was down by 5.4% on Christmas Day compared to 2009 figures. Across all four campuses, electricity consumption was reduced by almost 2.5%. Switching off this amount of equipment every night would save over £300,000 per year. It’s thanks to small actions taken by many people across campus that can make this possible.

The Christmas Day baseload is a useful target for future initiatives, especially the period between 18:00–08:00 when most people would be out of the office. To demonstrate how much we would save if we switched off this much equipment every night, a random day was chosen, Monday 6 December.

If we had turned off everything on the night of the 6 December that we did on Christmas Day, we would have saved £900. If we then did that every day for a year, we would have saved £328,000.

You can help us maintain these savings during these restrictive economic times. One of the easiest ways is to complete a Shut Down Guide, for your office. This simple document lists the equipment in your office, lab or room letting people know whether it’s safe to turn off. A template for this guide can be found here: www.reading.ac.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?lID=60444&sID=172917.

Who shut down with E.ON and won FA Cup tickets?

Well done to Jane Adams from the Centre for the Development of Teaching and Learning who won the E.ON shut down competition before Christmas.

Jane’s Shut Down Guide was chosen at random and she will be receiving two fourth-round FA Cup tickets. Thanks to Jane and everyone else that made such a positive contribution to the University saving 2.5% electricity over the Christmas break.

Green photographic competition

In EEST we feel that a picture speaks a thousand words. As such we want you to express your feelings about your environment and green issues on campus by sending us a photograph. This could be a landscape of the lake on Whiteknights or wildfowl by the Thames at Greenlands. Alternatively, it could be a picture of an aging building on campus or of a green initiative that you know about.

Entries will be judged on imagination and impact and must be submitted no later than 31 March 2011. The best entries may be used in future promotional activities and the winner will receive a prize. Please send all entries to eest@reading.ac.uk.

Breaking news

Thames Water has sent a £600 donation to Water Aid on behalf of the University of Reading as thanks for taking part in a research project on utility consumption.
Green Week started with a bang and launched the Higher Education Carbon Management Programme

Green Week 2010 got off to a great start with a percussion-led litter pick, started by Professor Gordon Marshall, Vice-Chancellor. It was fantastic to see so many people turn up to this event and others, including the ‘Green Friends’ event to showcase our partners’ achievements, a bicycle bonanza with Dr Bike sessions, cycling proficiency and two video screenings.

Within the fun, there was serious business to be had. Green Week was also the official launch of the HECMP (Higher Education Carbon Management Program) at the University. The HECMP outlines how we will reduce our carbon emissions by 35% by 2015/16 against a 2009/10 baseline. In the future the HECMP logo will appear more and more, this is what it looks like!

Another highlight of the week was the Awards Ceremony that marked the end of proceedings. This saw the participants in the Green Impact Award scheme formally receive recognition for their efforts. In addition to the internal success of many of our departments, the University also received the National Office Depot Award for Innovation as part of the Degrees Cooler Programme.

Following on from the continued success of Green Week in 2010, we are already in the process of planning the 2011 week. If you have any suggestions or would like to know more, please email eest@reading.ac.uk or visit our website www.reading.ac.uk/cleanandgreen.

Did you know?

Over the past year our furniture reuse store has been very popular. Departments watching the pennies have been coming to our store to see if we have second hand furniture available.

In the period between March and October 2010 we re-housed 175 items, including over 50 chairs, 50 desks and tables and 40 cabinets. One department that has been using our store for many years calculated that they’ve saved over £10,000 by coming to check our stock first.

If you want to see what we currently have available in our furniture reuse store, contact waste@reading.ac.uk.

Putting waste in the picture

Park Eat, the new catering outlet for students and staff by Windsor Hall, has been open since August 2010 and has been very popular. To encourage customers to follow the Commercial Services sustainability plan, new recycling signs have been installed at the waste disposal points.

Designed by our waste contractor, Select Environmental Services, special care has been taken to put pictures of likely waste products on the sign. It is hoped that by moving away from written instruction towards more simplified pictorial designs the signs will be understood by a much wider audience.

We anticipate improved recycling figures for Park Eat in the months to come!

New bin labelling at Park Eat