Clean & Green goes electric

The Clean & Green team has taken delivery of their first electric vehicle built by the French company Goupil Industrie.

The Goupil G3 replaces the Nissan 2.5 litre pick-up and is more compact with a width of only 1.1m which will allow the team to navigate the footpaths in order to service the litter bins. The G3 has a range of 80 miles on one charge with a top speed of 25mph. It is ideal for the stop/start driving that the Clean & Green team do and is completely silent making it ideal for working near buildings. It also has an audible reverse alarm, flashing light and bell to let pedestrians know it’s coming.

Stephen Beasley a member of the Clean & Green team says that the vehicle is user friendly and now he can get up to every bin.

Over £1,000,000 to be invested in energy saving in 2013/14

Over £1 million is earmarked for investment in energy efficiency initiatives, including £687,000 of interest-free funding from HEFCE’s Revolving Green Fund and Salix Finance. Over the past three years we have invested £1,613,768 on energy efficiency at the University and saved £6,118,508, resulting in a reduction of 14.7% in our overall carbon footprint since 2008/09.

There is no room for complacency though. Our carbon emissions were up in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12. This means that while we are saving against the 2008/09 baseline, we need to do much more to stay on track with our 35% target by 2015/16. Although there was a prolonged cold winter and sites including Sibly and Bulmershe were not disposed of as early as expected, we should still be pressing ahead with carbon reduction.

Work is about to begin on the new Whiteknights Utility Project to install a new Energy Centre which will generate electricity on site and provide much more efficient heating to 16 key buildings. Additionally, Lighting upgrades are planned for multiple buildings across the estate and cavity wall insulation surveys are underway for 26 buildings on the Whiteknights campus to help us keep warm through winter. The HumSS copper roof replacement is progressing well, boosting insulation levels which will ultimately save around £18,000 on annual energy bills.

Clean & Green

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68% recycled but there’s more to come!

During the 2012/13 academic year we increased our recycling rate to 68%. This is up from 52% last year. Not only did we recycle more than last year, but the total recycled and non recycled waste was reduced by approximately 10%, so a double win!

We don’t want to be complacent though, this means that there is still 32% of waste that is going to land fill and we need your help to reduce that number. A black bag audit recently confirmed there is a lot of recyclable waste going into the general waste. The main project for the coming academic year is the installation of central bins in office areas.

By adding these additional bins. It means that desk side bins will slowly be phased out. The aim here is that it will help us stop and think about how we are disposing of waste instead of just throwing it in the general waste bin under the desk. Experience at other Universities has shown that these measures can increase recycling rates by 60%.

The scheme will be introduced on a building by building basis and will aim to provide recycling facilities for all.

Do’s and don’ts

- Please do not use black bin bags for recycling. Anything in a black bin bag will automatically go to landfill.
- Please don’t contaminate the recycling bins with general waste – otherwise the whole lot will go to landfill!
- Think about reducing waste and reusing resources before disposal.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to email us at waste@reading.ac.uk

Mixed recycling

- Plastic bottles
- Drinks cans
- Food cans
- Plastic containers
- Food/drinks Cartons (Tetra paks)
- Food tins and foil

Please empty and rinse items before recycling.

Paper recycling

- Cardboard
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Envelopes
- Catalogues
- Books

Non-recyclables

- General waste
- Other plastics
- Food waste
- Paper cups
- Plastic bags
- Crisp and sweet wrappers
- Expanded polystyrene

Recycling point

- Plastic bottles
- Drinks cans
- Food cans
- Plastic containers
- Food/drinks Cartons (Tetra paks)
- Food tins and foil
- Cardboard
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Envelopes
- Catalogues
- Books
- General waste
- Other plastics
- Food waste
- Paper cups
- Plastic bags
- Crisp and sweet wrappers
- Expanded polystyrene

Please help keep the campus clean and recycle your rubbish responsibly.

Glass can be recycled at bottle banks across campus, check the web site for the nearest location www.reading.ac.uk/cleanandgreen

For more information please contact waste@reading.ac.uk

Sustainability road shows

In a bid to get out and talk to people about sustainability issues that matter to you, the Sustainability Team has started the Sustainability Road Shows. Each month, we will be visiting a different building to meet occupants and talk about environmental and energy issues that matter to you. So far we have visited Whiteknights House and Blandford Lodge. If you would like us to visit your building, please email us at sustainability@reading.ac.uk

Dates for the diary

Launch of Green Impact Awards workbook: 1st October 2013

The 2013/14 Green Week has been moved from the autumn term to the spring term. It will now run between 10–16th February 2014. Watch this space for more information!