

The IoE Sustainability Network

Academic Forum
25 November 2010

Where do we come from?

- A group of staff and students started to meet in 2006 to discuss our concerns over the Institute's wastefulness and disregard for the environment
- Our monthly meetings were attended (sporadically) by people from almost all academic and administrative departments
- We were supported (persistently) by our new Estates manager Anthony Tyrrell

What did we achieve? 1.

- Awareness-raising: through publicising our eco-tips, running plant and book sales, celebrating a Green Christmas and a Fair Trade Fortnight
- Fund-raising: hundreds of pounds were donated to WaterAid over a three-year period
- Reductions in consumption, waste and landfill: through streamlining ordering of paper and print, recycling food and office waste, 'turning out the lights' wherever possible

What did we achieve? 2.

- We needed to move from a grass-roots to a more institutional level of involvement: from asking individuals to act, to asking the organisation to act
- We received support from Bryn and Geoff (who met us to discuss issues)
- We were backed by Dylan who became our 'champion' and raised issues at other levels
- We have received practical and expert support from Anthony throughout

What's the problem? 1

- The first tranche of savings/efficiencies are easy to make and produce a feel-good factor (and complacency?)
- The next tranche of savings/efficiencies are much harder to achieve and require fundamental re-thinking:
 - Energy policy
 - Buildings policy
 - Purchasing policy
 - Travel policy
 - Curriculum policy...

What's the problem? 2

- The Institute remains very close to the bottom of the 'Green Gown' and other rankings of HEI sustainability and environmental awareness
- We don't know how to set about involving every level of the institution - individuals, programmes, departments, faculties, senior management – in developing a common vision for ACTION!
- Your ideas are welcome!

Questions for discussion:

1. How can individuals at IoE work towards mutually reinforcing energy-saving agendas?
2. Where should the Sustainability Network direct its energies – reduce, re-use, re-cycle or all three?
3. Should air-miles issues be left to individuals or enforced through IoE policy?
4. Can ALL programmes include environmental issues in their curriculum?