



# Sustainability at Royal Holloway 2008

Royal Holloway  
University of London



# Achievements

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Royal Holloway has been working on the following initiatives to improve its environmental performance:

- Ecological management plan
- The College grounds
- Sustainable travel plan
- Sustainability officer
- Sustainability policy and strategy
- Fairtrade status
- Carbon management strategy
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Sustainable estate planning
- Other achievements

So what have we accomplished...



## Ecological management plan

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- Developed in October 2005 as part of the College's 10-year plan.
- Includes woodland and grassland management to enhance nature conservation:
  - sowing of wild flower meadows
  - clearing invasive species e.g. rhododendron and laurel
  - planting of native trees and shrubs
- Includes pond management to encourage amphibians.
- Species monitoring is required to determine success of the plan e.g. badgers, bats, amphibians.
- The ecological management plan can be downloaded from the sustainability web pages.



## The College grounds

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- In the last three years over 100 trees have been planted across the campus. All trees were native species, such as hawthorn, birch, ash, hornbeam and oak.
- During November 2007 a further 100 saplings were planted along the road to Gowar and Wedderburn halls by the local scout group. Species included birch, crab apple, rowan, hazel and field maple.
- Native flowers have also been planted in the woodland, such as betony, hedgewoundwort, wild strawberry, foxgloves, yellow pimpernel, purple loosestrife, water avens, ragged robin, yellow flag iris, fleabane, greater burnet saxifrage.
- Bird boxes, hand-made from wood off-cuts from the Estate's yard, have been put up in Founder's woodland.
- 15,000 lightbulbs have been planted over last 2 years.
- Since 2007 green waste from the College grounds has been composted and used for planting or mulching the following year.



## Sustainable travel plan

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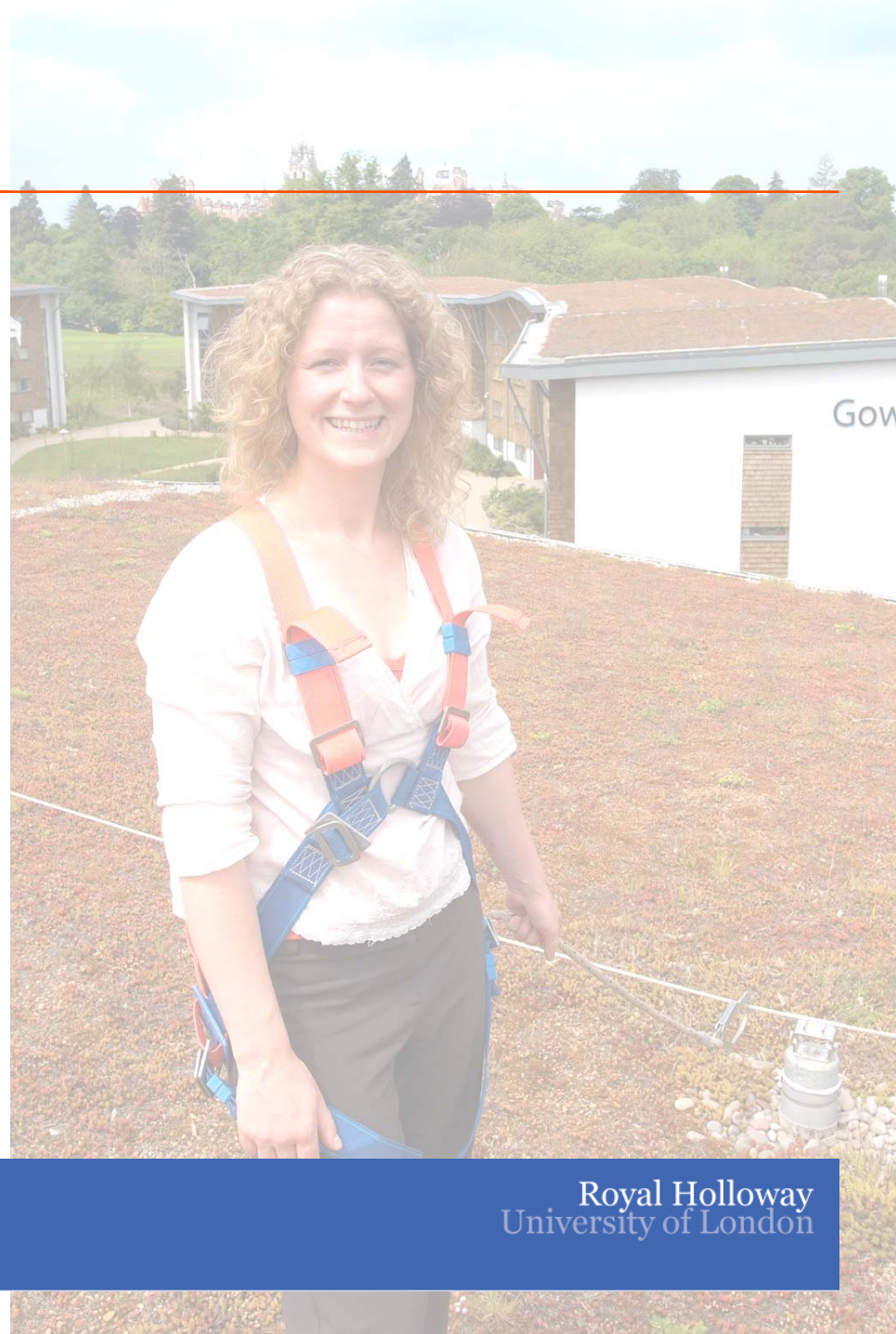
- Developed in June 2004 as part of the College's 10-year plan.
- Aim is to encourage staff and students to use sustainable transport.
- The College's car sharing database was set up in 2005. Register on line at [surreycarshare.com](http://surreycarshare.com).
- Since the introduction of a Sustainability Officer facilities for cyclists on campus have been improved:
  - Over 660 cycle spaces across campus including secure storage
  - Showers for cyclists in Founders and at the Sports Centre
- The College's bus fleet runs on biodiesel.
- Links have been made with local transport providers to explore ways their services can be improved for travelling to and from Royal Holloway.



## The sustainability officer

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- This post was introduced in January 2005, to implement and maintain the College's travel plan, ecological management plan and to promote environmental management initiatives.
- The College has a 5-year sustainability strategy and yearly sustainability action plan.
- A sustainability policy was agreed in November 2007 and is available on the College's website.
- A sustainability steering group has been set up to drive the policy and strategy forward.



# Fairtrade

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- The College achieved Fairtrade status in December 2005. This requires:
  - a Fairtrade policy
  - a Fairtrade steering group
  - Fairtrade tea and coffee served at all meetings and events
  - Fairtrade products on sale in College shop
  - Campaigns to raise awareness of Fairtrade
  - Although not a requirement, Fairtrade balls are used by the Sports Centre

## EVENT PLUG!!

**Fairtrade fortnight 25 Feb – 9 March 2008**

Come along to a free Fairtrade tasting promotion in Windsor Building, 11.30-2pm on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008.



## Carbon management strategy

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- A 5-year carbon management strategy has been agreed and implementation will start this year.
- The aim is to reduce carbon emissions by 15% from 2005/6 levels.
- The strategy requires staff and students to work together, for example:
  - Switch off equipment when not in use
  - Switching off lights
  - Improving heating and lighting controls
  - Better energy management
  - Inter-hall energy saving competitions
- Reducing our energy consumption and subsequent emissions will result in estimated savings of £1.5 million over 5 years.



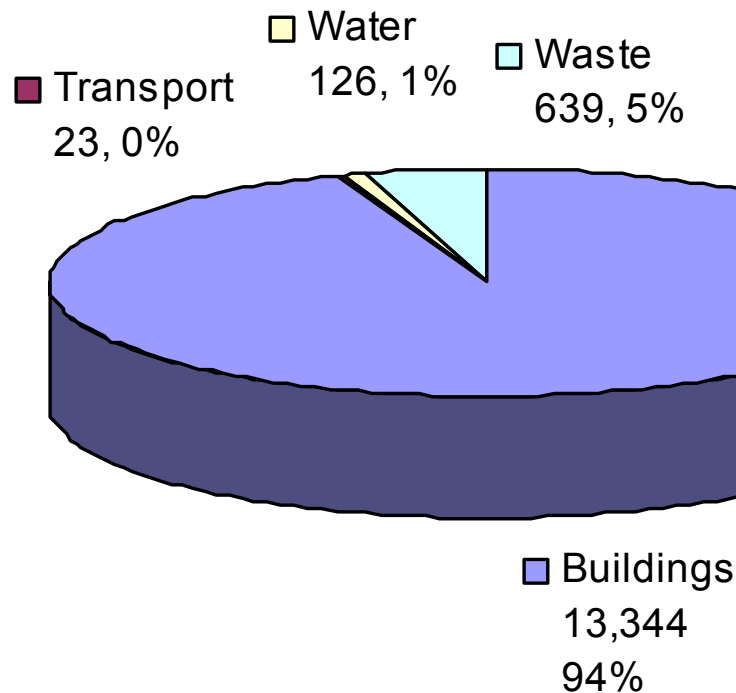


# The College's carbon footprint

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## Carbon Footprint 2005/6 (tonnes of CO2 per year)

**Total emissions 14,131 tonnes**



## Reducing and reusing

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- An end of term reuse project was piloted in Runnymede halls during summer 2007.
  - This year there will be collection points around the campus at the end of the summer term.
  - Students are asked to bring along all unwanted clothes, CDs, kitchen equipment, books and electrical equipment.
  - Items are recycled or reused by local charities.
  - The project will be run by teams of student volunteers – to volunteer contact the Sustainability Officer!
- Royal Holloway bags for life were introduced in the College shop in 2006 and re-launched in 2007 with new branding.
- A reusable mug promotion took place during 2006/7 to discourage the use of disposable cups.



# Recycling

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- The College is running recycling trials in office and academic areas. The trials will be used to determine how recycling facilities will be expanded across the College.
- Improvements to recycling facilities for paper, cardboard & ink cartridges have been ongoing since 2005.
- More recycling banks will be installed during 2008 for students in halls of residence.
- Bags for collecting recycling are being introduced to halls of residence kitchens in the next few weeks.
- Waste cooking oil is being turned into biodiesel since January 2008.
- As already mentioned, composting of grounds waste started in Summer 2007.



## Sustainable estate planning

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- 'Green' sedum roofs were incorporated into the Gowar and Wedderburn development and Tuke, Williamson and Butler. The roofs are designed to increase biodiversity, prevent flooding and improve insulation.
- Tuke, Williamson and Butler have been rated as 'very good' in a BREEAM assessment (a standard used to assess the environmental performance of buildings).
- Construction design of these new halls helps minimise heat loss.
- Card activated power supply fitted in Gowar and Wedderburn rooms.
- Following refurbishments, occupancy sensors have been fitted to control lighting in toilets e.g. Founders, The Hub and Tommys.
- 98% of the demolition waste produced by Athlone, Cameron and Williamson was recycled.



## Other achievements

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- Replacement of the campus steam heating system took place in 2007. More efficient and localised gas-fired boilers now supply heating.
- A fleet of 9 electric vehicles and 3 golf buggies are operated on site by Facilities Management.
- A campus wide conversion to low energy light bulbs is underway.
- A phased approach to the installation of Building Management Systems (BMS) in academic and residential buildings has been adopted. This enables increased operational efficiencies and reduced energy costs.
- BMS is installed as standard in all new buildings.
- Production of the College prospectus for 2008 was carbon neutral.



## Coming up...

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We are considering the following initiatives as future projects:

- Waterless urinals
- Increased recycling facilities for students and staff
- A campus wide switch-off campaign
- Battery recycling
- Environmental champions scheme
- New legislation meaning that every building on campus over 1000m<sup>2</sup> will have to display a certificate rating its energy performance.



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**Any questions?**

