

NEWS RELEASE

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Britain's Universities to face the green spotlight: People & Planet will publish *The Green League 2007*

For the first time ever, on **7 June 2007**, prospective students concerned about the future of the planet will be able to access information on the environmental performance of all UK universities to help them choose where to study, thanks to a new **green league table**. Compiled by People & Planet, it will be published in the **Times Higher Education Supplement** to coincide with World Environment Day.

People & Planet's **Green League 2007** will rank all 122 British universities – awarding them with a First, 2:1, 2:2, Third, or Fail – based on eight different environmental criteria, both policy and performance related. It will incorporate data never before published in the public domain – obtained in a freedom of information request – including the percentage of energy purchased from renewable sources, percentage of waste recycled, and CO₂ emissions for each individual institution.

Publication follows the January 2007 publication of the UCAS and Forum for the Future, '*Future Leaders Survey*', which revealed that **45% of young people** "intending to study education, social sciences, architecture, and building and planning **said a good track record on sustainable development was important or very important in choosing where to study.**"[1] With increasing competition in the HE marketplace, The Green League 2007 will come as a warning to individual institutions: they've got to **Go Green** to stay competitive.

"Inevitably, sustainability will become a 'must-have' as part of the corporate brand and the environmental agenda will begin to exert a significant impact on how universities market themselves," says leading HE marketing and management consultant, Rosemary Stamp.

The UK Higher Education (HE) sector – which occupies a full 9% of all UK office space, and emits 3 million tonnes of CO₂ from energy every year – is currently one of the **dirtiest businesses around**. A recent report by Business In The Community found that the HE sector scored an average of only 55% on the BITC environment index, compared to the business average of 83%.[2] Despite the fact that it is university academics who continue to warn us about the catastrophic effects of climate change, and the current generation of students who expect to inherit the consequences, our league table will show that their own institutions 'could do [*much*] better'.

People & Planet intends this league table as a wake-up call to the Higher Education Funding Councils who have, until our Freedom of Information request, not even made their own environmental statistics publicly available. Since the Funding Councils **refuse to take a 'prescriptive' approach** to making the HE sector go green, it is even more important that they allow public information provision and a competition mechanism to drive standards up.

—ENDS—

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NOTES

1. UCAS and Forum for the Future, 'Future Leaders Survey',
<http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/docs/page/165/495/Futureleaders0607.pdf>
 2. BITC & EAUC, 'Universities that Count',
<http://www.eauc.org.uk/documents/News/HE%20Benchmarking%20Project%20Report%20Final.pdf>
- People & Planet is the largest UK student network campaigning to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment. Our network covers 70% of Britain's universities and 10% of Sixth Forms. For more info visit <http://peopleandplanet.org>.
 - People & Planet is a founding member of Stop Climate Chaos, the national coalition of civil society organisations campaigning on climate change <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/>.
 - People & Planet's Go Green campaign aims to transform the environmental performance of UK Universities. Students across the country want their Universities to cut carbon emissions, recycle properly, purchase environmentally friendly products, protect biodiversity etc. So they are calling on their Universities to 'go green' by gaining support from the Vice Chancellors to publish a comprehensive environmental policy, carry out a full environmental review, and employ full-time staff dedicated to environmental management. Since 2003, P&P campus campaigns have resulted in several prominent Universities – e.g. LSE, Nottingham, Warwick, Portsmouth, Birmingham, Edinburgh – going green by adopting our four key demands <http://peopleandplanet.org/gogreen>.
 - The Green League 2007 will be published online at <http://peopleandplanet.org> on 7 June 2007 at 12:00.
 - For inquiries and further information, please contact Robbie Blake, People & Planet - Go Green Campaign Coordinator, gogreen@peopleandplanet.org, 01865 245678.