

Green League 2008: Quotes

"I am delighted with the University of Gloucestershire's result in this year's People and Planet Green League. The Green League is playing an important role in encouraging universities to engage with the sustainability agenda.

At the University of Gloucestershire we regard the search for sustainability as the biggest issue facing mankind today. Consequently we have put it at the heart of our University development plans. We are seeking to weave it into the DNA of the institution through the curriculum, through research, through public engagement and through the way we run our organisation. We believe that everyone in the University - staff and students - needs to be committed to this agenda and committed to promoting it in whatever way they can. Our success in the league table is a great encouragement for all of us!"

Professor Patricia Broadfoot, Vice Chancellor University of Gloucestershire, Winner of the Green League 2008

"Higher education has a leading role to play in sustainable development and the sector is already taking this seriously. This is clearly a decisive time as we consult on a new sustainable action plan for HE and government plans to link future capital allocations to reductions in carbon emissions. Whilst we do not endorse league tables, the Green League highlights this critical area of university activity."

Andrew Smith, Leadership, Governance and Management, HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council England)

"There is no doubt that the original Green League had a galvanising effect on universities' perceptions of their environmental performance. AUDE welcomes the continuation of the League and is glad to offer its support."

Patrick Finch, Chair of AUDE, Association of University Directors of Estates

"Student power is not dead after all. Students have certainly started to raise the profile of sustainability up senior managers agendas through the Green League. * The Green League 2008 reflects the need for universities to report their environmental performance publicly and take seriously their responsibility to provide a sustainable learning environment. * There is of course still a long way to go and the EAUC encourages students to engage much more with their universities and build powerful partnerships and coalitions with teaching and campus management staff. Where better than the class rooms and laboratories of our universities to be the test-beds of a more sustainable future. Staff and students unite!"

Iain Patton - Executive Director - Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (pls use quote in entirety or the bit marked between *s separately)

"It's is clear that the league has caused quite a stir in the sector with carbon reduction and environmental strategies being listened too. I am sure that the very essence of Universities being ranked on their performance has livened much of the hard work that environmental teams around the sector have been trying to do. The league has been a supportive instrument to help kick start those implementation plans and move all the talking to action and improvement. The sector has a huge role to play in sustainable literacy to help secure environmental improvement on a wider scale and in the production of graduate as global citizens of the future equipped with skills for

sustainability.”

Dr John Hindley, Manchester Metropolitan University Environmental Sustainability Manager

“I am delighted we have maintained our top two position in this prestigious national league table for the second year running.

The university’s cutting-edge research led by our national Centre For Sustainable Futures, Centre for Sustainable Transport and the Marine Institute, through to our innovative sustainability policy excellence in sustainability and the environment is central to all aspects of our institution.

The university already enjoys Fairtrade status, has a much celebrated Green Travel plan and has recently established a Waste Management Centre allowing us to increase recycling rates and use energy and water as efficiently as possible. Further developments and refinements across our research, teaching and campus operations will continue to enhance our position here and we have identified this important activity for further strategic investment in the future.”

Wendy Purcell, Vice Chncellor University of Plymouth, Green League runner up two years in a row

“The dramatic improvements in the league after only one year should be celebrated. With many UK universities leading the research on the environmental threats facing our planet, it’s common sense that they also lead in environmental performance. These advances are a welcome response to the urgency of tackling the threats to people and nature.”

David Norman, WWF-UK Director of Campaigns