



Info Pack



Introduction:

Many universities have made huge improvements by meeting the demands of their People & Planet group's Go Green campaign & through participation in the award-winning Green League. Yet the carbon emissions and energy consumption of university estates and communities are still responsible for a large chunk of the UK's climate change impact. Despite innovative practice, at both community and institutional level, our universities' responses to climate change are still not quick or effective enough. The higher education could and should play a key role in leading the UK's transition to a low-carbon future.

People & Planet's Going Greener campaign is inspired by the fast-growing Transition Movement which brings communities together to develop and implement their own responses to the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change. Universities differ from most communities because of their transient student populations. People & Planet's Going Greener campaign has adapted the transition model to help staff and students at universities come together and help their university make a sustainable transition to a low-carbon, lower energy future.

Did you know?

A carbon footprint study by Transition Edinburgh University found that only **15%** of their emissions came from the institution itself, compared with **85%** from the community's lifestyle.

Source: teu.org.uk

Campaign Aims:

Goal: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from higher education institutions by 50% by 2020 (from a 2005 baseline) by challenging and transforming behaviour, policies and practices.

Objectives for 2010-11:

1. Mobilise 20 universities into pioneering a Going Greener transition university model which achieves a 5% reduction in carbon emissions by July 2011 through practical projects and campaigns, with students driving forward and maintaining their impact.
2. Student-led groups run Go Green Week 2011 activities in all 20 Degrees Cooler universities reaching at least 10,000 people.
3. 4000 staff and students demonstrate increased awareness of climate change and actual behaviour change through Degrees Cooler monitoring and evaluation.
4. All 20 Degrees Cooler universities show measurable improvements in Green League 2011 results.

A TRANSITION UNI IS:

- **LOW-CARBON**
- **LOW-ENERGY**
- **RESILIENT**
- **RELOCALISED**
- **COMMUNITY-LED**

Behaviour change is key

Transition is about preparing your university for a lower-energy, low-carbon future. But it's also about individuals taking responsibility and changing their own behaviour. People & Planet's Going Greener campaign provides resources, ideas and support to its own student-led groups and their wider university community to help bring about behaviour change in 4 key areas. See **Resources** section below and People & Planet's website for action guides, videos, case studies and more on each behaviour. We're also developing a Transition Universities wiki to help universities, students and others share ideas online.



Save energy
Recycle more
Less flying
Sustainable local food

Working together, building community

Unlike other People & Planet campaigns, Going Greener is decentralised and provides a loose framework for our groups (and others) to follow. A P&P group alone cannot create a transition university – they will need the collaboration and support of a wide range of stakeholders within the university, from their Students Union and environmental managers right up to the Vice-Chancellor.

Absolutely key to the success of any Transition University project is a Going Greener Open Forum or Steering Group. This could develop out of existing Sustainability Committees or form a separate, wider forum for bringing students and staff voices together.

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Holding Going Greener Open Forums has raised awareness among some key environmental staff about just how much demand there is for environmental improvements, from both students and staff. This realisation has given fresh impetus to discussions about behaviour change projects.

Organising EEK Week (Go Green Week) together has shown campaigning students that staff can be “on their side”, and the events of EEK Week have helped to raise the profile of various green groups.

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Feedback from a Greener Living Assistant 2009-2010



Going Greener Diary 2010-2011:

When	Key Going Greener events and activities
Late Sept- Early October	Freshers Fairs P&P groups recruit new members and publicise Going Greener campaign and upcoming activities including 10:10:10.
Early October	Going Greener Meeting P&P groups encouraged to have initial meeting with Environmental Managers and Greener Living Assistant (GLA) about the Going Greener campaign and plans for the year. (NB: Environment Managers are encouraged to pro-actively contact their P&P groups too to set out their work plans for the year and map out opportunities for collaboration)
Sunday 10th October	10:10:10 Global Day of Doing. Students and staff roll of their sleeves and get stuck into practical projects to green their unis http://www.1010global.org/uk/101010
Late October	Going Greener Open Forum P&P groups and environmental manager set up first Going Greener Open Meeting of the year. From this a Transition Steering Group and project working groups can be formed. Ongoing planning and implementation of Going Greener projects
6-7 November	Shared Planet 2010 All Degrees Cooler P&P groups and GLAs to attend. Will include Going Greener workshops, Go Green Week planning, skillsharing, practical skills sessions, big name speakers etc. http://peopleandplanet.org/sharedplanet
November	Going Greener Open Forum Get Go Green Week planning on the agenda. Ongoing planning and implementation of Going Greener projects
7-14 February	Go Green Week 2011 Aim to cut emissions by 5% and engage 500 people at each uni. Launch transition projects, engage new people, media work, big stunts etc http://peopleandplanet.org/gogreenweek
Early March	Going Greener SU Motions P&P groups attempt to get a Going Greener motion passed through the SU and submit to national NUS conference.
March	Going Greener - Transition Universities Conference (date TBC) <i>First ever national conference for universities in transition, hosted by P&P and Transition Edinburgh University.</i>
March-April	Green League 2011 submissions Group to assist university in Green League submission and reviewing Carbon Management Plan .

An updated version of this timeline will be circulated each term and online at:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener>

Useful links & Resources:

Action Guides

Going Greener: creating transition communities Action Guide:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/dl/goinggreener/actionguide.pdf>

Going Greener Open Forums: How to use Open Space:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/skills/using-open-space>

Project Ideas and Case Studies

Degrees Cooler Case Studies:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/degreescooler>

Transition Energy:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/energy>

Transition Travel:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/transport>

Low Carbon Diets:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/food>

Zero Waste:

<http://peopleandplanet.org/goinggreener/waste>

Communication Channels

Going Greener: Transition Unis Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/transitionuniversities?ref=ts>

Transition Unis Twitter channel:

<http://twitter.com/transitionunis>

Going Greener Groups Discussion e-List

<http://lists.peopleandplanet.org/>

Sign up for monthly P&P e-updates

<http://peopleandplanet.org/eupdates>

Contact Us

People & Planet has two staff members dedicated to the Going Greener campaign and Green League. We're on hand to answer any questions you have and provide advice and support to our groups. You can reach us both by phone on **01865 245 678**.

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You can email both of us in one go at: goinggreener@peopleandplanet.org