

Good Practice: Awards Ceremony

These are good practice case studies to show how a little time spent preparing to make your Green Impact can make a huge difference. Browse through to see what other institutions have done to create a legacy, plan their year and engage their senior management and students union.

Formal Event: Manchester City Council



Manchester City Council needed to do an awards ceremony on a small budget but which still celebrated the efforts of their staff and engaged their senior management. They hired a grand room to create a sophisticated atmosphere and allow some stylish photographs to be taken of the event. The event was kept quite short but packed a lot of fun and interesting things in, which meant that staff had a great time but wouldn't lose too much working time. Tea and cake were served as a celebratory afternoon treat to congratulate participants. They had a range of speakers talking on interesting subjects. These involved a local sustainability activist with a passion for Manchester! A local councillor and the head of Environmental Strategy, whose enthusiasm showed senior management support.

An outside affair: Swansea University

Swansea University made the most of their outside space to host a BBQ. The event was hosted at the 'ORACLE' (Outdoor Research and Community Learning Environment), a botanical garden within the University grounds constructed from ecologically low impact and locally sourced materials. Many participants mentioned this was the first time they had visited the area, showing that the award ceremony can be a great time to introduce staff to a new experience.



The event had support of the senior management team and the Student Union with members of these departments attending. The ceremony was short with slate awards given out to teams and 'KeepCups' given along with certificates to students who had been involved with Green Impact as project assistants. The more informal nature of this event created a relaxed lunch time event.

A joint celebration: University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and Bristol University

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust celebrated their well-deserved Green Impact awards in a ceremony with the University of Bristol, in beautiful surroundings and glorious sunshine at The Orangery in Goldney Hall. Attendees were treated to strawberries and cream and wine or soft drinks, as well as a goody bag upon arrival. Congratulations came from the Vice Chancellor of Bristol University as well as Nigel Phillips, then the General Manager of Estates at the hospital (now retired)



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A day of celebrations: University of Greenwich



University of Greenwich's awards ceremony took place over a whole day and included workshops, personal development and a summer celebration. The morning started with champions being split into groups to build a raised bed in University of Greenwich's developing community garden, and to take part in a biodiversity trail and forage of Avery Hill campus. This was followed by a lunch, with a sustainable and locally sourced menu. The deputy vice chancellor, Head of Sustainability and Director of Carbon Culture were all speakers in the afternoon's awards ceremony, which was followed by a short workshop.

A gala dinner: University of Leeds

The University of Leeds hosts an annual Sustainability Awards to celebrate all staff and student sustainability achievements within the preceding year. In 2014/15 the Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands was present to speak about the importance of sustainability for the future of the University and hand out the awards.



The awards evening was organised with the aim of having the lowest sustainability impact possible; this was everything from the food, down to the awards. Therefore the standard food option was vegan and gluten free. This also had the added advantage of catering for all. The main course was a chickpea gateau with a chilli, basil and tomato sauce and the dessert was a dark chocolate brownie with almond milk ice cream and raspberries. The place cards were made from seed paper of native wildflower seeds and the awards were made from recycled university furniture. One of the best features was the table decorations made from the children at Bright Beginnings, the nursery on campus.

Canapés and nibbles: Exeter University

At Exeter University the award ceremony kicked off with vegan canapés, nibbles and wine in a grand room. Setting a sophisticated tone for the event. The networking element at the start of the awards was followed by the awards ceremony. Talks were given by teams who had completed some innovative work at the University. This included the team 'Career Zone' who had set up a scheme called '[Green Consultants](#)', a training course designed to up-skill students in practical sustainability skills. The course consisted of 3 days of training, 5 days on an on-campus project and 15 days of an internship. Students and staff talked about their experiences of the program and how it had helped improve sustainability on campus.



Multiple Locations: Ulster University



Having an organisation split over multiple locations makes it tricky to hold a 'fair' Green Impact event. Some ideas used in the past include; holding an award ceremony at each location or holding an award ceremony in one (yearly rotating) location and allow those at other sites to Skype in. Ulster University are split over 3 campuses in Northern Ireland, to give all teams an equal event the Green Impact lead team perform a travelling awards ceremony visiting individual offices of each team.

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Tea and cake: Gloucestershire County Council

At Gloucestershire County Council, staff members were invited into the council chambers to receive awards and share stories of good practice from the year of Green Impact. This ceremony was followed by cake, tea, and coffee being served in the lobby. The entire event was done on a minimal budget and wrapped up within 90 minutes as it was a busy time of year.

Celebrating at the students' union: University of Chichester



The University of Chichester held an awards ceremony in the late afternoon using their students' union as their venue. It was a really nice idea as it showed collaboration between the institution and the students' union on the environmental agenda. The event was about an hour long, had a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and was attended by all staff teams and student auditors.

The event was supported by senior management - the Deputy VC at the University - presented the awards to the teams and auditors and said a few words on the importance of the environmental agenda. After the formal aspects of the event, teams and students mingled, enjoying some locally made Green Impact cupcakes!

Other ideas:

- At the University of East London a traditional awards ceremony was followed by some engaging activities. The teams were treated to a custom vegetarian buffet and an environmentally themed pub quiz. Finally participants planted wildflowers in the new growing space.



- At De Montfort University attendants wear bow tie and tuxs, which always goes down well! The teams are also given goodies from the Green Impact shop along with their slates.
- At Chester University the Green Impact celebrations included a mini festival. At the event there were stalls, games and performances by music students as part of their course.
- MacEwan University (in Canada) host an eco-craft/upcycling activity as part of an otherwise standard event format. These events have included production of green cleaning products and on another occasion mini white boards out of old t-shirts and photoframes.
- At Portsmouth University an afternoon high tea was serviced at the awards ceremony.
- At Worcester Green Impact teams were treated to a celebratory lunch produced by the catering department using vegetables from the University allotment.
- Nottingham Trent University the traditional awards event was brightened up with a guest speaker who was a founder of a local sustainable community.



Unsure whether these ideas can work for you?

Contact your Green Impact Officer for more information

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