

# Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund projects 2011-12



## About the LSIS Stepping Up in Sustainability Fund

Through the Leading and Learning for a Sustainable Future strategy and action plan, LSIS is working with and supporting individuals and providers in the sector to build and promote learning and resources to respond to the challenges of sustainability and carbon reduction. Our focus is on developing capacity and capability, and on sharing and embedding effective practice.

Towards all of these aims, the Stepping Up in Sustainability (SUS) Fund supports practitioner-led projects to develop, embed and share effective approaches to sustainable development.

In 2010-11, LSIS supported 27 projects under the SUS Fund and the Cut the Carbon (CCF) Fund. We have also been pleased to support nine FE-HE Carbon Reduction Partnerships. Case studies and resources from the 2010-11 SUS and CCF projects are available on the LSIS Excellence Gateway at [www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sustainability](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sustainability).

## This year's projects

Bidding for the 2011-12 Fund was open from 31 August to 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Over 40 applications were received, and we were impressed with the quality and range of proposals put forward.

We are now pleased to confirm the details of 14 funded projects. These include a number of projects building on 2010-11 projects, and several brand-new projects. Projects will be completed by 31 March 2012 and case studies will appear on the LSIS Excellence Gateway. A number of the projects will also be undertaking local dissemination and sharing activities, including events and workshops. Look out for details of these on the LSIS Excellence Gateway.

Details of the projects are below. For more information contact us at [sustainability@lsis.org.uk](mailto:sustainability@lsis.org.uk)

### Cambridge Regional College

#### Developing change agents to support sustainability issues within academic roles

This project will develop ten change agents that can:

- encourage general sustainability within the Academies;
- develop and embed learning material relating to sustainability;
- relate sustainability to the Academy's own procedures and practices;
- monitor and report sustainable practices; and
- create a sustainability plan and reporting system for each Academy.

### City College Coventry

#### Producing a Low-cost, High-value Video Guide to Learning for Sustainability

The College's Planning for a Low Carbon Future and 21st Century Skills programmes have provided important gateways to innovation in learning for sustainability. YouTube – and the

production of a library of low cost, high value, “how-to” videos – offers an exciting and effective way of sharing key lessons across the sector and beyond.

## **Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change**

### **Sustainable Learning**

This project will focus on embedding a sustainable development ethos within learning delivery, throughout all stages of learner engagement, delivery and evaluation. It will develop methods, tools and best practice to ensure there is a greater awareness of the role of learning in the creation of truly sustainable and thriving communities.

## **Craven College**

### **‘Let’s Go Zero’**

This project will develop the very successful ‘Let’s Go Zero’ recycling zero landfill brand and use the impetus within College and the wider community to move into other areas of sustainability. The college will use the LGO mascots and marketing to set sustainability targets and apply these to the whole college environment.

## **Enfield Adult Education Service**

### **Sustaining Circles**

This project will set-up and support the development of Learning Circles as a focal point for community action, focusing on active learning about sustainability. It will seed the creation of a culture of sustainability as a core principle for community-based, active learning in a self-perpetuating environment.

## **Hartpury College**

### **RespECT: Responsible Energy Consumption through Teaching**

This project will measure the electricity consumption (kWh) in 5 of the 35 similar student residential hostels, using the results to raise awareness amongst students and staff that individual actions can impact energy usage. The project will pioneer an innovative approach to learner engagement that will reduce electricity consumption, reduce waste and promote good practice.

## **Leicester College (with Change Agents UK)**

### **Change Agents – Inspiring Learners**

Change Agents is an inter-disciplinary module designed to inspire and support learners from a range of curriculum areas to think and act for change. The module is underpinned by sustainability competencies and skills for change. It is an externally assessed action research programme, combining skills development, application, discussion and reflection.

## **Lewisham College**

### **Eco-Skills for Trainers, Mentors and Learners**

This project will develop and deliver:

- a learning package for trainers and mentors on carbon free and environmental sustainability, providing skills to support young people, adults, green representatives and vulnerable workers to establish workplace projects around the green agenda; and
- an employability skills unit on green issues for those entering the job market.

## **Redbridge Institute of Adult Education**

### **A Greener Future**

This project aims to achieve a greener future by getting learners and staff fully involved and committed to carbon reduction. By the end of the project we also expect to have student envirochampions in each curriculum department to champion and campaign on energy reduction and recycling, and reduce our direct carbon emissions by 11,500 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

## **South Staffordshire College**

### **Sustaining Carbon Reduction Strategies**

Building on learning from the successful Lowering Energy Survey System (LESS) project, we will extend carbon reduction/energy saving activities across all campuses. Using a variety of different approaches (eg campaigns, software, surveys, competitions, incentives) we will further raise the profile of carbon reduction activities and their benefits in combating climate change and reducing costs.

## **South Thames College**

### **Community Engagement on Green Skills and Low-carbon Zones**

This project will support the engagement of the College with sustainability organisations within the local community. This will use the model of the Furzedown Low Carbon Zone to promote education for sustainable development in Wandsworth. It will link South Thames College students with the local community as a strategy to develop green skills.

## **Stockton Riverside College (with Stockton Borough Council)**

### **Learner-led Sustainability Enrichment Programme**

This project will engage learners in sustainable activities through developing an exciting Sustainability Enrichment Programme, designed through learners' and partners' input. A transferable toolkit pack will be produced, accessible on the college's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). A new Sustainability Student Group and Champions will be established and a celebratory Sustainability Showcase Dissemination Event will be held.

## **Sussex Downs College**

### **SustainIT**

Sussex Downs College will continue to promote a shift in behaviour, by embedding sustainable practices focusing on carbon reduction strategies, with the development of an online learning tool: SustainIT. Developed by the college community the modules will integrate mechanisms to minimise our carbon footprint. Modules will be shared with our external stakeholders.

## **Walsall Adult Community College**

### **Employer Engagement: Use of on-line technology to reduce environmental impact and maximise social capital**

We are continually reviewing and developing our services and behaviours in line with our sustainability commitment. We are currently developing the mechanism by which we engage with apprentices and their employers. This project will develop, pilot, measure and communicate the approach and benefits of on-line meetings and dialogue with employers as part of the apprentice based programmes we deliver.