ROBINSON COLLEGE

Environmental News

REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT FORUM January 2017

This report is the fifth edition issued by the Environment Forum and covers activity in 2016 and plans for the year ahead.

Gardens

As before, we continue to chip woody material to save on skips, log up larger wood & pass on to staff & Fellows. Composting where we can to avoid broadleaf weeds, which not only saves on skips but, by going back into the soil, improves structure & quality for growth of plants. We re-use pots, canes, stakes & ties unless they are beyond saving.

In the last year RBCB has started bringing their spent coffee grounds to us. We put these on the compost heap as apparently they hold nitrogen which is vital for healthy plant growth. On average this amounts to a large waste bin per week not filling up wheelie bins.

We now source the College supply of Xmas trees (5) from a grower near Ipswich, thereby reducing the carbon footprint created by transporting from Holland, to distributor, to us.

The department has begun to use Aspen alkylate petrol in our 2 stroke machines. According to the manufacturer, “This was initially developed for work health reasons and contains virtually no harmful substances such as benzene, aromatic hydrocarbons, polyaromatic hydrocarbons or olefins. Ordinary petrol contains around 100 substances including these harmful ones but Aspen petrol only has around 10 of the least harmful. This means that health risks from exposure to petrol fumes and exhaust fumes are minimised.” Aspen 2 for 2 stroke machinery “improves machine performance & ensures a longer service life. The cleaner petrol means in turn, a cleaner engine with fewer deposits.” The machines produce no clouds of oily smoke & very little smell.
**Maintenance**

**D Staircase**

This year’s theme continued where we left off last. The staircases continue to be refurbished to a high standard. This year we decided to replace the windows and frames in D staircase as opposed to just changing the glass. This has improved the amount of heat loss.

We have improved the insulation to the ceiling void and installed TRV’s (thermostatic radiator valves).

In the bathrooms we have removed the old inefficient radiators and replaced them with new timed towel rails, giving greater efficiency and using less power to gain the same heat rating.

Where possible, we are using very low energy lighting or LED’s; whichever is more appropriate for the area.

We have installed USB charger points to the rooms giving lower output but sufficient to charge equipment with the same connection leads, e.g. mobile phones tablets etc.

This picture shows the heat loss in the blocks F and G, the heat loss through the brickwork is more difficult to change but may need to be addressed in the future. However the windows and frames are within the 10-year improvement plan.

![Image of heat loss in blocks F and G]

The purple colour shows area of damp penetration through the parapet walls and actually shows the water ingress runs.

The whiter the light the more the heat loss. The bottom right windows are open and the glass doors to G staircase shows large amounts of heat loss.

Floodlight still using significant energy even in daylight
1A Sylvester Road Refurbishment

This linked to the main project and the theme again was to bring the building up-to-date and make it more energy efficient. Again we installed TRV’s, replaced all windows throughout the building using 40% reclaimed aluminum frames and double glazed using K glass where we can.

The old windows that were rotting through.

We have installed water pumps which create higher pressure but reduce the volume of water.

All lighting has been improved and corridor lighting is now on timed and motion detection. All lighting is low energy or LED.

Externally, we have installed a wood effect cladding to replace existing rotting soft wood frames and panels. The insulation rating of the new boarding is significantly higher than the soft wood and is guaranteed for 15 years. This reduces the requirement to repaint and reproof the old panels which had to use heavy solvents on a 5-year cycle.
Other Projects

- 5 Adams Road - Replacement windows

**Before**

**After**

- Lighting - Projects continue throughout the college site.
Waste and recycling area.

Works began knocking the old untidy area down. This was followed by the erection of a new full-length wall to enclose the area. Planning permission was sought and approved for this project.

It was agreed that we create a new area for the recycling. The area is intended to give a better aesthetic view from the roadside but also to provide a simple, tidy area where the focus on recycling can take place.

The completed work, ready Oct 2016.
Housekeeping

Recycling

The recycling has increased over the last year due to putting individual recycling bins into all rooms in the Hostels. This has helped to improve the quantity of recycling received from those areas.

There has been an increase of recycling bins in the loading bay which has improved recycling overall and subsequently decreased the amount of general waste.

We are looking into improving our waste disposal as we would like to make sure that all of our waste is landfill-free in the future.

Recycling of Printer Cartridges

The company who deal with our used printer cartridges now either recover the cartridges for reuse or break the cartridges down and recycle the materials.

In March last year we sent them 64 items of which 97% were reused and 3% were recycled. In December we sent them 113 items of which 86% were reused and 14% were recycled. We are very pleased to say that as a result, no printer cartridges are going to landfill.

For the cartridges that were reused we received a rebate of £20.42.

Beginning of Term Sale

At the end of the last academic year we were able to store a large quantity of items (kitchenware, fridges, etc.) that the students had left behind when vacating College. At the beginning of this academic year we held our annual ‘sale’ in the Umney Foyer and our current students were able to re-use these items in return for a donation to charity.

This year we managed to raise £692.20 for The Alzheimer’s Society, leading in the fight against Dementia.
Clothing Banks

This year we donated **742 bags** of clothing to the British Heart Foundation. This is more than double the 358 bags which were collected last year. On average each bag is estimated to raise £14.

By collecting these bags, Robinson has raised **£10,388** towards the charity. This puts us second on the list of all the Colleges who have contributed.

We believe this is because we put 3 temporary clothing banks at 3A, 3B and 1 Sylvester Road to save long journeys for students. Our main clothing banks are placed in the Loading Bay.

Due to high demand from the students we left one clothing bank permanently at 3A, 3B Sylvester Road.

The table below shows the number of bags collected by each College:

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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Bags Collected</th>
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Battery Recycling

We introduced the battery recycling system which helped reduce the amount going to landfill.

We do not have any figures to report on this yet.

Please see the procedure below:

The cage is used to collect old broken and unwanted electrical items which the wholesaler collects from the College under “The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive”). These are taken for recycling where practicable.
**IT Department**

The library copier has been replaced with a new unit, which is more energy efficient and prints from the same Robinson ‘Findme’ queue that the student computer room uses. This means that students printing to the copier only have their jobs print out when they present their University card to the copier and release the job, meaning far fewer wasted print jobs are left on the machine. The machine also allows students to scan to email. Similarly, the Porters’ Lodge, and Warden’s Secretary printers have been replaced with smaller copiers which are more energy efficient than the printers they replaced, and use larger capacity consumables to reduce waste.

Print reduction more widely in the College is promoted, with all departments having a report to be able to see the quantity and estimated cost of their printing, with most printers being defaulted to black only and duplex by default to reduce consumable and paper usage. Within the department, all invoices received electronically, are signed and emailed to the College Office for payment rather than printed, and all purchase orders are also electronically created and emailed to suppliers to reduce printing.

**Catering**

*Sustainable Food Policy*

- Increase the vegetarian and vegan foods across all our food outlets
- Continue to source locally-produced products in order to sustain the local economy
- Minimise food waste by shrewd ordering and utilisation
- Use free-range or any animal produce purchased ensuring that animal welfare standards are adhered to
- Work with suppliers that only provide sustainable fish, as per ‘sustainable fish cities’ policy Robinson College signed up to in 2016
- Use as many Fairtrade products, where possible, across all our food outlets
- Increase communication to staff, customers and suppliers showing our commitment to sustainable food
- Continue to produce ‘themed food evenings’ promoting sustainability in the Garden restaurant and Formal Halls
What happens to Robinson College’s waste oil used during cooking?

There was an increase in vegetarian and vegan options in the Garden Restaurant during this week in May last year, including a themed evening and vegetarian formal hall.

The report below covers all collections of used cooking oil for 2016 as well as the conversion of carbon savings and average family cars removed from the roads as a result of the used oil being converted into forecourt standard bio diesel by Olleco.
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<tr>
<th>Ticket No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vol Ltrs</th>
<th>CO2 Savings MT</th>
<th>Ave Family Cars Removed From Roads</th>
<th>Division</th>
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| Total      | 2340       | 3.99     | 20.05          |
Cleaning is one of the most important operations in the Catering Department. With ‘Diversey’ our cleaning supplier we not only have a global leader in food safety but they are a leading brand of sustainable cleaning, sanitation and hygiene solutions. Diversey is committed to a cleaner, healthier future.

Diversey Care helps provide a cleaner and healthier planet for future generations and works alongside NGOs including the World Health Organisation, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Global Food Safety Initiative. Innovation across the business continues to introduce new levels of waste reduction, energy and water conservation, and lower reliance on raw materials.
Porters’ Lodge

The Porters’ Lodge continued to actively support the College Environmental Campaign during 2016, ensuring all plastics, waste paper, cardboard and printer cartridges etc. are responsibly disposed of in the correct receptacles either within the Lodge or the nominated areas within College.

As well as dealing with its own waste, the Lodge endeavours to educate the students passing through (following an evening out) to correctly dispose of various food wrappers. This also helps to maintain the smart appearance of College.

During the Conference period, information is displayed within the Lodge informing guests of College procedure for the disposal of any rubbish they may have and also of the designated smoking areas within the College.

A continual area of concern, particularly during the autumn and winter months when the heating is on, is the recurring issue of rooms, Teaching Rooms, communal rooms etc. being left open, lights on, windows and doors open when they have been finished with. As such, while carrying out routine Security Patrols, the Duty Porter will pay particular attention to ensuring lights are off and windows etc. are closed to try and reduce our loss of heat and use of energy.

Leaving a hostel window wide open, staircase doors open or the entrance to the Umney Foyer when the temperature is minus 5 outside is not a good use of the College Heating system. This is an area that could be expanded upon within the Student fraternity.

The Duty Porter also routinely notes down and reports any defective lights observed around the College whilst on patrol.
Green Impact

For the third year in a row, Robinson College has won an award, this time Gold for a second time following the completion of the Green Impact challenge.

Green Impact is a change and engagement programme that helps people understand sustainability and social responsibility, shows them what they can do to make a difference, and supports them in achieving these actions.

Developed over the last ten years by the National Union of Students, Cambridge University uses the Green Impact model in its own bespoke programme to create our local community of people, working together towards common, agreed goals.

Each year awards are given to teams adding light competition and a useful way of inspiring and recognising achievements. CU students receive training, enabling them to support and verify each programme, aiding their own understanding of sustainability and social justice as well as their professional development.

So it’s good for the environment, good for our students and good for Robinson!
This chart shows the kWh usage in the Main College Building. It depicts a very encouraging performance in respect of electricity usage year on year, especially when you consider that the Crausaz Wordsworth Building is fed from the MCB. There were some adjustments that needed to be put in place as the operation of the CWB was tested through its first winter 2015/16. It’s a notable achievement that as the building experiences increased occupancy going into its second year, electricity usage is being managed more effectively.
Environment Forum Strategy

1. With reference to the Legal Register, each department will complete the Legal Compliance Checklist annually to ensure compliance as required against all relevant legislation.

2. Devise and implement waste management policies and procedures in every department which result in targeted reductions through monitoring and reporting.

3. Ensure that all recyclable waste from all parts of the College is disposed of through recycling schemes.

4. All staff will attend an environment workshop (or will have had the opportunity to receive information) and understand what is expected of them to achieve the College Policy.

5. Monitor and record usage of electricity. Devise and implement measures to minimise the consumption of electricity.


7. Monitor and record usage of water. Devise and implement measures to minimise the consumption of water.

8. Incorporate into the College plans long-term strategies for energy efficiency.

9. Define and implement a food purchasing policy which sets measurable targets of supply sources – local, regional, national.

10. All our food suppliers have in place sustainability policies in keeping with Robinson’s ethos.

Plans for 2017

- Bin Brook – energy extraction scheme
- More Solar panels?
- More changes to pumps and motors
- Delivery of the Environmental Awareness Workshops throughout the year for all staff
- Brainstorm promotional campaigns
- Promote sustainable behaviour to the student body
- Remove use of black bin liners in Kitchen, Garden Restaurant and Red Brick. This will result in no landfill waste coming from these areas. All waste to be segregated.