

Green IT News for Universities and Colleges

New VC Cases and Survey Results

A new case describes the content of, and technical [background to, the V Factor event](#), a blend of face to face discussion and virtual interaction at four Welsh sites. This was jointly organised by SusteIT and the Welsh Video Network (WVN), both of whom have JISC funding for videoconferencing (VC) projects. The whole event was streamed and recorded - and the presentations will be shortly available at the [Welsh Video Network website](#). Another SusteIT/WVN case examines [the use of VC at Aberystwyth University](#), which has a studio at each of its 4 main campuses and booked nearly 600 VCs in 2009-10, avoiding an estimated 120,000 pounds sterling of travel costs. ([Previous cases](#) have covered VC use at the University of Bedfordshire, Coleg Llandrillo and the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance).

A recent [JANET survey](#) found that many institutions are intending to make much greater use of VC in future. However, our own survey of university travel specialists at 44 institutions found that, while they'd like to see this, and expect some progress, there are many barriers. The main ones are lack of knowledge amongst potential users, preference for face to face interaction, lack of trust in technology working and lack of incentive to use it. The respondents felt the three best means of encouraging greater uptake of virtual meetings were: senior managers setting an example by using it more; simple technical guides to the various technologies; and demonstration projects in pilot areas.

This and other work is summarised in a [SusteIT submission](#) to the [Government's Call for Evidence on Alternatives to Travel](#).

JANET are also running an online briefing on desktop videoconferencing on 9th June between 12.30-1.30 p.m. Places are limited and are open to members of the JANET community. To register go to <http://www.ja.net/evt/>. More info at the [JANET website](#).

JISC Green IT Events

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[Energy Dashboards and Displays](#), University of Oxford, 14/6/2011
A workshop involving several JISC-funded projects covering display and use of building energy data

[The Use of ICT to Improve Sustainability Across Estates](#), Imperial, 30/6/2011
An EAUC-organised event focusing on effective ICT/Estates links

[Metering and Managing Energy Consumption in Data Centres](#), Leeds Met, 12/7/2011
A collaboration of several JISC-funded Green IT projects with metering cases (see below)

[Green IT for STEM](#), University of Cambridge, 7/9/2011
A multi-JISC project workshop, including presentations on refurbished data centres and financial incentives for efficiency (full details available mid June)

[Nordic E-Science Conference](#), Helsinki, 29-30/9/2011
Includes a Green IT stream, and a SusteIT speaker

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Metering and Managing Data Centre Energy [\(Back to Top\)](#)



Data centres (aka server rooms) typically use 8-10% of university electricity consumption, and the proportion is rising. There are many cost-effective options now available to achieve this (see www.goodcampus.org for examples) but action is often blocked by difficulties in identifying the best improvement actions and/or by lack of financial incentives for IT departments to take action. Measuring and monitoring of energy consumption (through fixed or temporary physical sub-meters or digital meters within IT equipment) is central to solving both these problems, and a platform for the introduction of devolved energy budgeting, shared savings and other schemes which enable IT departments to benefit financially from improvement actions. A free workshop at Leeds Met on July 12th will therefore examine sector experience in the area, with presentations on work at Leeds Met itself; the University of London Computing Centre (one of the few in the sector to pay all its energy-related costs); and the University of Sheffield. The event has been co-organised by three JISC-funded projects - Green in Silico, RECSO and one at Leeds Met on

Carbon and Energy Regulations

A new [SusteIT Guide - and associated Briefing Paper](#) - describes the 30 plus regulations and schemes on energy and carbon which are of relevance to ICT in universities and colleges. There are one page summaries of statutory measures such as the Building Regulations and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme; funding council requirements such as the HEFCE Carbon Targets; and voluntary schemes such as the EU Code of Conduct on Data Centres, procurement initiatives such as Energy Star and Government Buying Standards, and others such as BREEAM, and the Green League Table.

Sustainable E-Infrastructure in Europe

[Presentations from a Bristol Green IT for STEM workshop](#), held in association with the EU eInfranet project (which has JISC involvement), are now available at www.goodcampus.org. Presenters included from Juha Haataja from CSC Finland, Colin Pattinson from Leeds Met University, Jan-Willem Telegen from Green IT Amsterdam, and Ann Trefethen from the University of Oxford e-Research Centre. The outputs will feed into the EU's newly established [eInfrastructure Policy Forum](#)

About Us

This newsletter is from the JISC-funded SusteIT initiative. Its aim is to publicise the outputs of both our own activities, and those of the JISC Green IT programme as a whole, and to provide brief updates on other developments within the field. See www.goodcampus.org for more details on our work including copies of previous newsletters. You can unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

metering its own data centre, led by Professor Colin Pattinson (pictured) and Roland Cross.

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ICT Life Cycle Energy

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A perennial ICT question is whether more energy and carbon is consumed in production of equipment than in its use. A precise answer is difficult, and will vary by model, but a [new SusteIT report](#) and associated [briefing paper](#) concludes that a reasonable assumption for UK universities and colleges is that use is at least as important as production. However when all impacts are considered the materials and manufacturing stage probably has the greatest environmental and resource impact. The conclusions are based on an examination of LCA work since a previous SusteIT report in 2009. The implications are that, given the difficulties of influencing upstream impacts, it makes sense for institutions to focus on minimising energy consumption, through means such as whole life costing and ensuring that the most energy efficient equipment that meets their technical needs is procured. One important exception is checking that LCD screens are not manufactured using the very potent greenhouse gases, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride, as these can give them a greater carbon footprint than CRTs overall.

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Other News

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[Internet Growth](#) - Cisco predicts 15 billion web connected devices - around five for every on line individual - by 2015. They will be accessing 966 exabytes of new data a year (compared to 240 exabytes in 2010 and 1 in 2004). Much of this will be video, with one million minutes being watched every second.

[Japan Ahead](#) - A Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) report ranks a number of countries on their harnessing of ICT for sustainability. It uses 15 criteria, including intelligent buildings, travel substitution and smart grid, and gives Japan a score of 85, with Denmark and Germany joint second with 65.

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