

**Green IT News for Universities and Colleges**

**Green Regulations Affecting ICT**

A new paper, **Carbon and Energy Issues Affecting IT in Higher Education**, from the JISC-financed Green in Silico project will help IT and other managers within the sector to understand and respond to the many regulatory and other initiatives of relevance to ICT-related energy usage, carbon emissions, and other environmental impacts in universities and colleges. The topics include statutory measures such as the Building Regulations, Carbon Reduction Commitment, and WEEE as well as optional schemes such as the EU Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency. [Click here](#) for a copy of the paper.

**Data Centre Energy Efficiency Metrics**

A new SusteIT briefing paper discusses the **Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE)** metric for data centres developed by [Green Grid](#). The metric relates total energy (computing + overhead such as cooling) to computing energy so that a low PUE reflects a more limited overhead. In many older data centres a PUE of around 3 is typical but state of the art facilities are now down to 1.3 or less. The paper highlights recent best practice data centre developments at the Universities of Cardiff, Hertfordshire, and St Andrews, and at the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (all the subject of SusteIT cases). While PUE has limitations and should not be the only tool to measure efficiency, it is a helpful guide to shape design choices and provide a target. The paper also describes new measures being developed by Green Grid and others, including Data Center Compute Efficiency, Energy Reuse Effectiveness, and Water Usage Effectiveness. [Click here](#) for a copy of the briefing paper.

**Scottish Videoconferencing Case Study**

**JISC Green IT Related Events**

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[Greening Science Computing](#), University of Bristol, 26/5/2011  
A free half day workshop in conjunction with the EU eInfranet project (see below)

[Procuring for Sustainable ICT](#), University of Birmingham, 24/5/2011  
A JISC-funded EAUC event with speakers from AUPO, DEFRA, ESD, and JISC's PROCO2 project. (NB See the relevant SusteIT briefing papers on Energy Star and IT Eco-Labeling Schemes).

**Energy Dashboards and Displays**, University of Oxford, 14/6/11 (provisional)  
A JISC-funded multi-project workshop on the display and use of energy infrastructure about buildings. Details available shortly via link below.

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**eInfranet and Greening Scientific Computing** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

[eInfranet](#) is an EU project involving JISC and other partners which is aiming to develop and deepen European collaboration on ICT infrastructures for science. The project has three strands, on cloud computing, green ICT and security. [A meeting at the University of Bristol on 26-27/5/2011](#) will identify and select concrete actions on Green ICT which the project can take forward in the next 12-18 months. Some places are available for UK experts who have suggestions on possible actions, or can contribute experience to the discussions. Contact the co-organiser, Rob Bristow at [r.bristow@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:r.bristow@jisc.ac.uk) for details. In connection with the meeting, a free workshop is being held on the morning of 26/5 featuring speakers from CSC (the Finnish provider of computing services to universities and the public sector), Green IT Amsterdam (a multi-stakeholder initiative to drive improvement with a focus on data centres), Leeds Metropolitan University (on the environmental impacts of cloud) and the University of Oxford (on their JISC project to improve the energy efficiency of HPC). The workshop will have a number of delegates from eInfranet and therefore provides a great opportunity for UK attendees to learn more about practice elsewhere in Europe.

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A [new SusteIT case study](#) describes how the **Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA)** supports teaching and research at 8 universities through a VC infrastructure. This enables specialised physics courses which would be difficult to offer within individual universities to be provided through collaboration, as well as being used to bring in international expertise and for cross-university seminars. It also enhances opportunities for student interaction. Identical suites at member universities create an impression of a single virtual space, while twin screens allow lecturers and supporting materials to be seen simultaneously. While the enhanced academic capacity is the main benefit of the VC service, it also minimises time and costs of travel. [Click here](#) for the SUPA case study.

## **Department for Transport Call for Evidence on Alternatives to Travel** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

SusteIT described current evidence on environmental impacts and sector activities on teleconferencing, videoconferencing, flexible and remote working at a public sector focus group held by Transport Minister Norman Baker and officials. This is part of the Department's development of a long term strategy on **Alternatives to Travel**. There is now a **Call for Evidence** on the topic which provides a good opportunity for universities and colleges to highlight their own good practice and views (a questionnaire is available which should be submitted by 31/5/2011). The Department is also interested to hear the reasons why organisations are not making use of alternatives. Some of the examples highlighted in the focus group were the support activities of JANET and the Welsh Video Network (WVN), examples of VC use at the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (see left) and the JISC-funded Exemplar project by Coventry University on flexible and remote working. Follow link below for questionnaire and more info.

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## **Data Centre Metering**

The [JISC-financed Responsible Energy Costs \(RECSO\) project](#) is organising a workshop on this topic for early July, and would be interested in hearing from anyone who has a good sub-metering infrastructure in their centre. RECSO is preparing guidance documents and case studies, and running workshops, on devolved energy budgeting, shared savings schemes, whole life costing and sub-metering, and is looking for partners to work with in all of these areas. The project can be contacted via its project manager at [martindbennett@btinternet.com](mailto:martindbennett@btinternet.com). [Click here](#) for more info about the project.

## **BCS Student Competition on IT Waste** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

The British Computer Society (BCS) Green IT Specialist Group is running two competitions for students at all levels of study in higher and further educational establishments in 2011. The competition themes are the 'innovative use of redundant IT equipment for promoting the Green IT agenda and messages'. Entries should be submitted by 27 June 2011.

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## **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](http://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.

## **Other News** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

**The Green Cloud is Hot** - [A blog in Greener Computing](#) argues that cloud computing will make IT greener, not least because it will utilise large-scale data centres running at around 50 degrees Celsius compared to the current ASHRAE level of 27 degrees.

**The Green Cloud is Not** - Greenpeace has ranked the 10 top cloud-based IT firms. According to '[How dirty is your data](#)' Yahoo, Google and Akamai come out top, while Apple, Twitter and Facebook were bottom.

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