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SusteIT News

Green IT News from SusteIT

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 below or www.goodcampus.org for more details on our work. You can unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

Greening Data Centres and Storage

Presentations from our Cardiff event on [Greening Data Centres and Storage](#) - jointly organised with the JISC-funded Project Fileshare project at the University - are now available. They include coverage of Cardiff's own HPC cluster which achieves a PUE of 1.3 through a combination of quad-core servers, highly efficient UPS and HV transformer and chilled water cooling; and Leonard Kay from Custodian on their award-winning commercial data centre which achieves a PUE of 1.2 through overhead supply of fresh air cooling and other means.

Salix Funding for Low Carbon ICT

The presentations are now available from two JISC/Salix/SusteIT workshops which highlighted opportunities to apply Salix funding (which is available to many universities and colleges) to ICT. Paul Smyth of Salix showed that investment in ICT energy efficiency has better returns than most other areas, and provided examples of its use to date. Presentations by Scott Brooks (Nottingham Trent), Chris Cartledge (Sheffield), Roland Cross and Colin Pattinson (Leeds Met), Paul Hasley (Cambridge), Peter Hopton (British Computer Society), Okan Kibaroglu (Imperial) and David Stutchfield (St Andrews) provided further examples. The

JISC Green IT Related Events

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Greening Data Centres and Storage

St Andrews University, 19th November (free)

This event profiles St Andrews' new data centre, which is anticipated to have a very low PUE of 1.2 using high efficiency UPS, hot aisle containment, free cooling and heat recovery. (See feature on our last event on this topic, at Cardiff, left).

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Other Relevant Green IT Events

Green IT Expo

QEII Conference Centre, London, 9 November

One day event which is free to senior IT managers.

Ten+One - The 'Closed Loop' Economy

University of Bradford, 28-30 November

A major international conference, organised by the new Ellen McArthur Foundation, discussing the implications for business, community and education of moving from a linear, 'take-make-dump', economy to a circular one with high efficiency, 'cradle to cradle', materials loops increasingly powered by renewable energy. In addition to transforming ICT products, this economy will also require cutting edge ICT applications to make it happen.

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Green ICT Call

A message from Rob Bristow, JISC Green ICT Manager

JISC is seeking proposals - by 17 November - for Phase II of our Greening ICT Programme, within three strands. The first is on Rapid Innovation, where we are looking for short, technically focussed, projects that create greener ICT. A secondary aim of this strand is to enthuse and empower the developer community, and to get them to turn their many talents towards this topic.



discussions highlighted the need for greater promotion of the Salix funding opportunities to IT managers. See [Energy Efficient ICT -Salix funded Investment Opportunities](#) - held at Kings (20 Sept) and Nottingham Trent (23 Sep).

Financing IT Energy Efficiency

The final report from the first stage of the JISC-funded Responsible Energy Costs (RECSO) project, led by Forum for the Future and the University of Gloucestershire, is now being finalised. It identifies three areas for further development - devolved energy budgeting, shared savings/costs schemes, and the sub-metering which underpins both - and the project is seeking institutional partners for pilot activities in the next stage. A separate summary of the discussions from the workshop on [Financing Energy Efficiency in IT](#), held in Manchester (14 July), which RECSO ran with ourselves is also available.

Our partner project on sustainable laboratories has produced a relevant [case study on shared savings/costs at the University of Cambridge](#). Academic schools and major administrative units are given an annual energy target and receive a cash benefit if they better it, but must pay the incremental energy costs if they exceed it. One Department faced an unexpected bill of £35,000 as a result, and is now investing in evaporative cooling of its servers, and other energy efficiency measures, in order to cut its consumption.

About SusteIT

SusteIT (Sustainable IT in Tertiary Education) is an initiative of the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project, which is based at the University of Bradford. SusteIT is a JISC-funded project to investigate ways to improve sustainability of IT in Higher Education.

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The second strand is targeted at Estates, and must be led or co-led by the Director of Estates (or equivalent) in an institution. This is because Estates involvement is necessary to solve some current ICT problems (such as high cooling loads), and is also key to many future applications such as smart buildings.

The third strand will fund a small number of 18 month exemplar projects to show how ICT can support campus-wide initiatives for sustainability. The Ecoversity project at the University of Bradford, and others, have provided 'first generation' models of how these can work and the aim of this part of the call is to demonstrate how ICT can make them even more successful in future.

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EPEAT Goes Global

EPEAT, the eco-label for computing equipment developed by the US Green Electronics Council, is now making inroads in Europe and the UK. To register, desktops, laptops and monitors must meet 23 'baseline' environmental performance criteria (including meeting Energy Star 5.0), and are then rated as Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the percentage of 28 additional criteria which they meet. 42% of total US desktop and laptop sales are now EPEAT-certified, and 2.5 million EPEAT-registered products were sold in the UK. The Environment Agency is just one of a growing number of UK bodies which are requiring EPEAT Gold in their procurement. There has been some doubt as to whether this complies with EU Public Procurement Law, but this is possible if the term 'or equivalent' is used (giving suppliers the chance to demonstrate that alternative certification provides the same level of assurance). The growing number of EPEAT registered products sold in Europe is also making the topic less controversial. A discussion of EPEAT and other eco-labels can be found in SusteIT's 2009 paper on [Sustainable ICT Procurement in Higher Education](#).

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