



**SusteIT News**

**Salix Funding for Green ICT**

St Andrews' new data centre, which features high efficiency UPS, hot aisle containment, free cooling and heat recovery, has partly been financed by dedicated energy efficiency funding from Salix Finance and the funding councils. As a new SusteIT briefing paper explains, this can provide interest-free support for a wide range of measures to support ICT energy efficiency. And Salix figures show that ICT gives some of the best returns of any energy efficiency investment on a university campus, with an average payback of 1.71 years. Presentations - on Salix financed energy saving ICT actions at Cambridge, Imperial, Leeds Met, St Andrews and Sheffield - from the two September events on this topic can be viewed on [www.goodcampus.org](http://www.goodcampus.org).

**The V Factor**

Two JISC funded projects - one by the Welsh Video Network, and our own (in association with JANET) - are collaborating on a unique event on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This combines streamed presentations - on best practice videoconferencing in Welsh universities and colleges, research on conferencing impacts, and future videoconferencing opportunities - with the opportunity to join face-to-face discussion groups in Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea. Its aim is to highlight the ways in which conferencing can simultaneously assist further and higher education in meeting its current environmental and financial challenges, and to highlight the role that conferencing can play in green travel plans. Of course, not all conferencing avoids travel and so a second aim is to explore the areas where this is most likely. The event will be informed by the results of several surveys of conferencing use in the sector which are planned for the next few weeks.

**Chip Wars Rekindle**

Digital Signal Processing (DSP) chips are more expensive and difficult to programme than the mainstream general purpose chips provided by Intel and others, and hence have remained a niche product. However, DSP supplier Octasic claims that their time has come for video-intensive data centres and networks, due to a 60% greater energy efficiency - [see here](#).

**JISC Green IT Related Events**

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Greening Data Centres and Storage, St Andrews University, 19 November (free - see left)

The V Factor - How Conferencing Can Improve Productivity, Reduce Travel and Save Money, Virtual and four Welsh locations, 2 February (free - see left)

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**Other Relevant Green IT Events**

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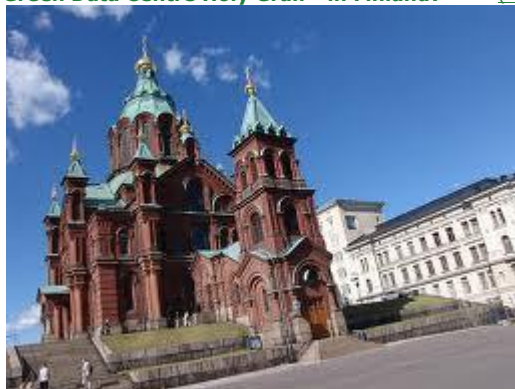
Green IT Expo, London, 9 November (free)

Ten+One - The 'Closed Loop' Economy, University of Bradford, 28-30 November (see left)

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**Green Data Centre Holy Grail - in Finland?**

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e-InfraNet is a multi-partner (including JISC), EU funded, initiative, to define and achieve high quality e-infrastructures for education and research. Its recent Helsinki conference featured ambitious Finnish plans to supply cloud services to all of Northern Europe (including the UK). The hosts, CSC - a central provider of computing services to the Finnish public sector (including universities) - are targeting a 'world best' PUE with a hydro powered, river cooled, data centre in an old paper mill. Google's new data centre also uses an old paper mill, but with seawater cooling. And several private providers have built facilities in Helsinki - one in an old bomb shelter under the city's

### The Closed Loop Economy

ICT suppliers are making much of the recyclability of their components and materials, such as Apple's aluminium casings. A [major international conference](#) at the University of Bradford, organised by the new Ellen McArthur Foundation, discusses the implications for business, community and education of moves such as this 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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### About SusteIT

SusteIT (Sustainable IT in Tertiary Education) is an initiative of the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project. SusteIT is a JISC-funded project to investigate ways to improve sustainability of IT in Higher Education. In addition to covering SusteIT and other JISC Green IT activities, this newsletter will publicise events and innovations in green IT in all sectors.

Russian Orthodox cathedral (pictured) - which recover energy from exhaust air and feed it into the city's district heating system. The conference also showed that JISC's Greening ICT programme - which is summarised in a new SusteIT briefing paper - is unique, and much envied, in Europe.

### Greenpeace Green Electronics Guide

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Greenpeace's updated Guide to Greener Electronics rates the 18 top manufacturers of personal computers, mobile phones, TVs and games consoles on their toxic chemicals, recycling and climate change records. Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Philips retain the top 3 rankings, largely for producing products free of the most hazardous substances (PVC, brominated flame retardants (BFRs), antimony, beryllium and phthalates). While HP (no. 4), Samsung (no. 5) and Lenovo (no. 14) made the biggest improvements in developing greener products, Apple (no. 9), Toshiba (no. 16) and Microsoft (n. 17) dropped down the list - the latter for backtracking on its commitments to phase out toxic chemicals.

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### ICT Suppliers: Improving but Must Do Better

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Another assessment of the low carbon record of 28 ICT providers by Gartner and WWF Sweden - which ranks IBM as first, and Fujitsu as second - also finds considerable progress. However, WWF co-author, Dennis Pamlin, comments that "If the ICT industry is to deliver on its promise of making a significant contribution to enabling a transformation to a low-carbon economy it is going to require substantially more than marginal incrementalism."

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