

# RGU GREEN TIMES

## BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION RGU CAMPAIGN 2013



A partnership between RGU and British Heart Foundation began in 2013 to increase student and staff awareness of recycling particularly at the end of the semester.

The campaign also created a benchmark of tonnage figures and had the potential to reduce waste costs.

Two recycling stations are in place, Woolmanhill and Garthdee, and the table below shows the number of bags donated over May and June 2013.

As well as raising money for the British Heart Foundation, the recycling provides a CO2 benefit.

Robert Gordon University Tracker		May			June			TOTAL
Site Name	16 <sup>th</sup> May	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> May	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	10 <sup>th</sup> June	17 <sup>th</sup> June	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	
Woolmanhill Self Catering Flats	17	16	14	10	16	2	27	<b>102</b>
Garthdee Campus	0	0	22	6	12	4	46	<b>90</b>
<b>Total Bags</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>192</b>

### Avoided Greenhouse Gas emissions from donating to the British Heart Foundation

Type of item	Weight (kg)	Net benefit (kg CO2 equivalent) to landfill
Clothing		
Books		
Mixed Standard Donations	1036.8	10,552
Furniture and Electrical		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>10,552</b>

Using a bag value of £20 means that this campaign could have raised up £3,840 for The British Heart Foundation

The donation banks that were sited for the campaign are to remain permanently and there is evidence to suggest from work with other universities that the banks will be utilised by both staff and students throughout the year. There is now scope to extend the scheme and site further banks with the university. As a result of the campaign, the British Heart Foundation are now able to approach both private halls of residence and the local authority to extend the campaign to students living off campus.



Sources: Benefits of Reuse Case Study: Clothing (WRAP) 2011; Benefits of Reuse Case Study: Electrical Items (WRAP) 2011; 2012 Guidelines to Defra's/DECC's GHG conversion factors for Company Reporting; BHF data



## X10 BUS SERVICE

In September 2013 the University, in conjunction with First, launched a new bus service from Kingswells Park and Ride to Garthdee.

The service provides a fast, direct route from the west of the city to Garthdee, avoiding the city centre. The service travels from Kingswells Park & Ride via Queens Road, Springfield Road, Seafield Road, Anderson Drive, Auchinyell Road, Garthdee.

There are two buses each morning from Kingswells to Garthdee and two buses each afternoon from Garthdee to Kingswells. The service operates Monday to Friday.

Park & Ride tickets are available on a daily basis, and all adult and student bus passes can also be used.

More information on the service can be found both on the RGU Transport and First Aberdeen websites.



## SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

In each Green Times we will be featuring someone from within the University who has made a significant contribution to sustainable issues.

This issue we are featuring Bill Walker, Print Manager, Gatehouse Design and Print Consultancy.

The Gatehouse – Design and Print Consultancy at RGU was awarded a top honour at the 2013 Association of Print Managers

in Education national conference held at Harrogate in North Yorkshire. The Robert Gordon University

entry for the category of best environmental print unit was selected for a highly commended award with the judges complimenting the RGU print unit for their extremely high 'green' portfolio of working practices.



Pictured with the award is Bill Walker, Print Manager at the Gatehouse.

- The Gatehouse case study included using recycled paper to support organisational rebranding
- certificate in recognition of being the first print unit in Scotland to successfully introduce a programme of alcohol reduction thereby reducing IPA (isopropyl alcohol) and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) from their premises
- one member of staff is represented at the University's waste management working group
- PDF proofing system introduced to replace hard copy outputs
- aluminium printing plates recycled through waste disposal company
- department registered with the OGC recycled printing papers framework agreement policy
- chemical free computer to plate production system
- press chemicals collected by a waste management company, recycled and disposed of safely
- waste paper trimmings are recycled
- notepads are made from the waste paper off cuts and recycled throughout the University
- recycling of staff waste - plastic bottles, cans, glass etc
- packaging boxes and packing material returned from customer to be reused
- vegetable oil based inks used in the printing process

Environmental practices at the Gatehouse along with recycling information available on web page <http://www4.rgu.ac.uk/gandp/home/page.cfm>

## SHARED DATA CENTRE SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARDS

It is well recognised now that data centres consume significant amounts of energy and can significantly affect the carbon footprint of an organisation – not to mention the associated



high running costs. IT Services have been actively looking at the University's data centre configuration over the last 4 to 5 years, and both the University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen College (now part of North East Scotland College) were also looking to upgrade their own facilities for the same reasons. So, eighteen months ago, Robert Gordon University (RGU), the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen College, and Banff & Buchan College agreed to pool resources and jointly invest in a single state-of-the-art shared data centre, based at the King's College campus of the University of Aberdeen.

Moving into the new data centre was a major project over the summer of 2013 for RGU's IT Services Department. Dozens of servers had to be moved with minimum downtime and, after many months of very detailed planning and preparation, the majority of the move was achieved over a weekend in July.

"IT Services have over a number of years improved the resilience of the university's main systems and this allowed us to shut down and move the servers from one of the server rooms while the other server room kept things going. In the event most people saw very little impact," said Andrew McCreath, Executive Director of IT and Communication at RGU.

A key objective in moving to the new datacentre was to ensure that the opportunity was taken to substantially lower the University's environmental footprint.

"The new data centre uses fresh air for cooling as far as possible and that means that in our relatively cool north-east climate the equipment can be cooled without the need to consume significant energy on air conditioning,"

continues Andrew. "This was a colossal undertaking by the teams involved from across the four institutions. Together we have met the challenge and produced a low carbon, highly efficient alternative data centre for the whole of north-east of Scotland's tertiary education sector. Everyone involved in this project should be immensely proud."

The fresh air conditioning has enabled the project to reduce the sector's carbon footprint by more than 1,400 tonnes annually, as well as slashing energy bills by more than a quarter of a million pounds each year across the four institutions. As a bonus, much of the power that is used now comes from the combined heat and power plant at the University of Aberdeen.

In recognition of these achievements, the £1.2million north-east of Scotland shared data centre has taken first prize in the Public Sector category of the European User Awards organised by Computer Weekly magazine, and has also won an award at the EUAC (Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges ) Green Gown Awards.

## RGU SUSTAINABILITY GROUPS

If you have an interest in sustainable issues, and are interested in joining any of the sustainability groups (staff and students welcome), then please contact [judith.logan@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:judith.logan@rgu.ac.uk).

