



UNIVERSITY  
of  
GREENWICH

From a shortlist full “heavyweights” in the field, the judges recognised the remarkable achievement of the University of Greenwich in “attaining and sustaining a standard that not just matches best practice elsewhere but introduces its own innovations”.

Its winning entry was the result of three years of hard work that helped the institution to move from “laggard to leader” in sustainable development by rising 102 places in the People and Planet Green League to top of the rankings in 2012.

Under head of sustainability Kat Thorne, the university developed a “permaculture” change framework – an approach focusing on relationships aiming to minimize energy consumption, environmental damage and waste and to maximise synergy, environmental damage and waste and to maximise synergy, productivity and well-being.

The list of achievements included: a 22% reduction in the university’s carbon footprint compared with 2005, with a further 40% cut envisaged by 2020; 200 solar panels installed in student accommodation; 100% of university computers benefiting from power-down software; and achieving ISO 14001 accreditation – which provides assurance that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

“The methodology devised by the university to achieve this was particularly noted as having clear potential for use by other institutions with similar ambitions to make a step change in their sustainability performance,” said judge Patrick Finch, Burser and director of estates at the University of Bristol.