



**University of
Nottingham**

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The University of Nottingham has won this award not because of one impressive project but rather because of the sustainable ethos evident in everything it does.

In the 2011 UI GreenMetric league table, Nottingham was named most sustainable university in the world. A stroll through the institution's University Park campus demonstrates why. From the 230 bikes hired out to students last academic year to the 9,600 PCs that switch automatically to low-power mode, Nottingham's environmental philosophy filters down into every activity, backed by a £1.5 million-plus Carbon Management Plan.

This culture is embodied in the university's Strategic Plan 2010-2015, which seeks to engage all parts of its community to reduce collective environmental impact. It seems to be working, with 87% of waste either recycled or recovered in 2011, among other impressive statistics.

But Nottingham's commitment to sustainable development is perhaps most apparent in new campus buildings. They are all designed to meet the BRE Environmental Assessment Method "excellent" rating as a minimum, and the Gateway Building is insulated with almost 2,000 straw barrels harvested from the institution's own farmland.

Patrick Finch, bursar and director of estates at the University of Bristol and one of the judges, said Nottingham had been a "trailblazer" for environmental best practice, but "there is no sense of resting on laurels". "In both the innovative approach to estate development and the determination to embed best sustainability practice across the university, Nottingham has again shown the way".