

# Adam Smith College News

## KEEPING IT GREEN



## Creating Sustainable Practitioners

Adam Smith College students are becoming much more aware of sustainability thanks to changes to the way they learn in College.

Students are benefitting from the introduction of a new sustainable living unit within their course and are being taught about how their actions can make a difference. The new unit looks at a variety of measures including sourcing local suppliers and produce, reducing their carbon footprint and ensuring products are disposed of and recycled responsibly.

The unit also involves students creating a 'Personal Action Plan'. The plan identifies nine actions which the students complete and these actions will be updated as their awareness develops.

Topics studied within the unit will encourage students to consider the global challenges currently being faced through climate change and how their actions at local level can help in the journey towards a more sustainable economy.

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world. The Scottish Government has passed the Climate Change Scotland Act 2009, which is a historic bill aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the transition of Scotland to a low carbon economy. The Scottish Government has set an ambitious target for reducing greenhouse gases which is a 42% reduction target for 2020 and an 80% reduction target for 2050.

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"Please recycle me when you've finished reading me!"

# First Renewables Students Start at Adam Smith College



Over 50 students, studying courses from introductory level right the way through to degrees, are some of the very first in Scotland to start a formal qualification in renewables.

Coming from all over Fife, as well as the Lothians, Angus and Perthshire, the students are taking the opportunity to study in our state-of-the-art £17.5 million Future Skills Centre in Glenrothes.

Students enrolled on renewables courses come from all walks of life, including students from Adam Smith and other Scottish colleges, to people looking to change career. They all have one thing in common, the desire to take advantage of the job opportunities and prospects that the renewables sector will bring to Fife.

Renewables is one of the largest growth sectors in the UK and the Scottish Government is heavily committed to this new dynamic industry. It's an exciting time for Fife with various developments in renewable energy taking place in the Kingdom. New skills are also required in areas such as fabrication and welding, electrical, mechanical engineering and project management.

The fantastic facilities and staff expertise at our Future Skills Centre make us ideally placed to lead the way in renewables training.

Renewables students are pictured on the front cover.

# New Addition to Future Skills Centre Proposed

Our Stenton Campus in Glenrothes is all set for a new addition following approval of planning permission for an Eco-House.

Local Glenrothes company Cullen Building Products (acquired by ITW Ltd in 2008 and now part of ITW Industry UK), the market leader of timber engineering connectors within the UK and Ireland, is kindly donating a two storey project house to the College.

The donation of the Eco-House kit is extremely generous of the firm who wish to give students a unique and innovative way of learning in the construction field. The Eco-House demonstrates ITW's most innovative products which champions environmental considerations from kit construction through to transportation and the actual building of the house.

The Eco-House was first showcased at Ecobuild in 2011 and was built in the indoor exhibition area to let buyers and builders see first-hand the latest products and innovations in situ. It is hoped that the Eco-House will revolutionise the way houses are built in the future.

Students studying everything from carpentry and joinery, trowel trades, mechanical services, construction management, surveying and renewables will have the privilege to work on the Eco-House, bringing new opportunities to our courses.

An example of the Eco-House kit donated by Cullen Building Products



# Launch of New Renewables DVD



Violeta Illendo (Fife Council), Keith Winter (Fife Council), Fraser McLoughlin (Adam Smith College), Lucinda McAllister (Fife Council), Chris Parr (Tullis Russell), Ronnie Ross (Kirkland High School), Lewis Oliver (Carlton Primary School).

Hundreds of school pupils throughout Fife will soon be gaining a valuable insight into careers within the renewables industry thanks to a new DVD launched recently by Adam Smith College and Fife Council.

The DVD, created by Adam Smith Business Solutions and Opportunities Fife, was unveiled at a special event held at Kirkland High School and Community College in Methil.

The aim of the DVD, which will be rolled out to primary and secondary schools across Fife in the coming months, is to improve awareness and provide information to young people of the career opportunities within the renewables sector. Schools will be able to use the DVD within lessons and as part of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Bite size films are used within the informative DVD to showcase various employers within Fife and the jobs that are available, from solar technicians to managers of large scale renewable projects.

The DVD was commissioned by Opportunities Fife to raise awareness of the renewables sector within schools and to demonstrate the commitment by employers and skills partners to develop learning and development tools which enables the people of Fife to reach their full employment potential and contribute to a thriving Fife economy.

Adam Smith is working hard, alongside schools and local businesses, to address the skills gap and to ensure that we are at the forefront of training in this field, helping local people benefit from Scotland's growing renewables industry.

## Adam Smith Green Facts



Recent statistics show that we are well on our way to reducing our carbon footprint. In the last year we have achieved the following:

**Emissions** – reduced our carbon output by 170 tonnes, which is the equivalent to the weight of 1700 baby elephants!

**Energy** – through implementing new automatic shutdown procedures and careful control of our energy use we have reduced our energy bill by £40,000.

**Waste** – recycling figures are showing a steady increase of 3%. Over the last year we have implemented a recycle awareness campaign and installed a mini recycle centre at our Future Skills Centre in Glenrothes.

**Travel** – travel incentives and information to students and staff on alternative modes of transport seems to be taking effect with the figures showing a 5% reduction in mileage claims.

These figures show that we are well on our way to achieving our goal of reducing our carbon footprint by 25% by 2013–14.

## Did You Know?

### Prospectus

We have dramatically reduced the number of prospectuses we print by nearly half the amount! With the number of online course applications increasing all the time, we are choosing instead to use our website, a more environmentally friendly form of promotion, to recruit new students.

The copies we do print use paper and printing conditions that are approved by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests.

### eCommunications

By using more environmentally friendly forms of communication during the student admissions process, including emails and online applications, since August 2010 we have saved over £18,500 on postage costs alone!



**ADAM SMITH COLLEGE**  
INSPIRING LEARNING

## Merry 'e' Christmas from Adam Smith!

For the first time ever we are sending our season's greetings electronically!

We recognise the impact that paper Christmas cards have on the environment and are excited to be sending out an animated version this year.

The eCard, designed in-house, has a simple yet clever message hidden within the design. The tree symbolises the spine of the College, spiralling upwards showing progression while the lights upon the tree represent subject areas from our teaching departments showing the variety of courses we have to offer.

Overall it's fun and festive as well as being environmentally friendly.

## Environmental and Renewables Courses at Adam Smith College

We offer a range of courses in this exciting new sector:

- **NC Renewable Energy Systems**  
(Leading to the award of NC Engineering Systems)
- **HNC Renewable Energy Systems**  
(Leading to the award of HNC Engineering Systems)
- **HND Environmental Sciences**
- **BSc Sustainable Architectural Design**  
(In conjunction with the University of Abertay Dundee)
- **BSc (Hons) Renewable Energy Technology**  
(In conjunction with the University of Abertay Dundee)
- **PDA Renewable Energy Systems**

## Adam Smith Business Solutions

We pride ourselves on providing companies with training courses that will really make a difference

Courses include:

- **Carbon Footprinting**
- **Solar Power**
- **Renewable Energy**

For training advice call 0800 756 1292

Tel: 01592 223535  
[www.adamsmith.ac.uk](http://www.adamsmith.ac.uk)

