

ECOⁿnect

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium Ltd



NWUPC Sustainability News



September 2019
Issue 14

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of ECOⁿnect, the NWUPC's e-newsletter focusing on Sustainable practices and projects from across our member and supplier base. There are some fantastic projects being undertaken by our members and suppliers alike and we are delighted to be able to shine a spotlight on them.

If you would like to feature in our next edition, please contact **Rikaya Knott**.

People & Planet University League

On Tuesday 16th July, People & Planet released the latest University League Table. This saw 154 UK Universities ranked on over 100 indicators that test for commitment, policy and performance in sustainable development.

As part of the research, People & Planet analyse carbon emissions data collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency for all publically funded UK Universities and publish their results toward the sector wide target of 43% cuts on 2005 emissions by 2020.

Manchester Metropolitan University has once again been named as one of the UK's greenest universities, ranked second in this year's University League Table. Manchester Metropolitan has now maintained a top three position for the past six league tables and have demonstrated improved performance by increasing their score since the last table was released in 2017. Some of the key initiatives undertaken include the university becoming a member of Electronics Watch who are a collaborative public sector organisation working to create an ethical IT supply chain.

University of Worcester were ranked in 5th place. Recent projects that the university has been pioneering include a pilot of a community electric bike share scheme for students and staff, which could be rolled out to businesses in Worcestershire to help improve mobility and air quality. The university has also been undertaking research with Worcester Bosch on how to improve heating decisions in shared student housing.

Keele University have also been judged as a First Class institution placing 18th overall in the table. Keele embed sustainability into all aspects of their operations and their commitment is reflected in their positioning.

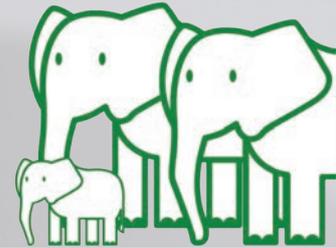


Bangor University have raised nine places in this years' table, achieving their highest score ever in 20th place. Sustainability is vitally important to Bangor University, and is embedded in the University's Strategic Plan. The University has a long-standing commitment to improving the environmental, social, ethical, cultural and financial aspects of all its operations.





NWUPC supplier, Banner, Introduces Eco-friendly Packaging



In a bid to reduce single-use plastics by 30% before 2020 across the business, Banner is pleased to announce that it has introduced eco-friendly packaging throughout its warehouses for small pick parcels.

Banner delivers an impressive **6,000** small pick parcels a week, that's around **30,000** a month and **312,000** per year to its customers!

As a key supplier on two NWUPC frameworks, Banner is proud that parcels to NWUPC members now contain a cushion of recycled cardboard instead of harmful plastics.

Reducing the impact on the environment

By recycling its used or damaged cardboard boxes into shock absorbent netted material, for use as void fill instead of plastic, Banner is now shredding and recycling over **16,000 cubic square metres** of cardboard per year; which is equivalent to the space needed for **3,200 Asian elephants!**

This new initiative will reduce the organisation's impact on the environment and the amount of waste produced.

What Banner customers have to say

The eco-friendly packaging launched this year, following a successful pilot initiative, with customer feedback showing just how important recycling is to their customers.

Over 93% of customers, who took part in our pilot, were either **satisfied or very satisfied** with the new packaging. **80% of Banner customers** said they always recycle packaging from their deliveries and 94% said recycling is extremely important to them.

Not only will this reduce Banner's carbon footprint but also its customers' too, because it's easier to recycle and dispose of.

Commitment to CSR

Craig Varey, Managing Director at Banner says: "Driving down the use of single-use plastics within Banner is a big focus for us because we recognise the impact single-use plastic has on the environment.

We are committed to the delivery of our CSR strategy and operate across four key pillars, which cover; Our Natural Environment, Our Supply Chain, Our Communities and Our People. This year we're expanding on the investments and commitments that we have already been making for several years now."

Sustainable products from Banner

With Banner you can meet not only your operational and efficiency targets, but also your environmental ones with our range of sustainable products. From hot drink cups and lids to water cups and cutlery, Banner's range of PLA (Polylactic Acid) products naturally degrade when exposed to the environment.

Banner is a supplier on the following NWUPC frameworks:

1. Office, Computer & Library Supplies (OFF3068NW)

2. Promotional Merchandise (OFF3119NW)

To find out more about Corporate Social Responsibility at Banner click here.

University of Bolton's Fight Against Global Air Pollution

The Clean Air Technologies Centre (CATCE) is a collaboration between the University of Bolton and Bolton company Radic8 (a leading provider of clean air technologies). A nine-foot-tall "pollution tower" supplied by Radic8 is set to be installed in the grounds of the university in the autumn. It will trap ultra-fine particulate matter and filter toxic gases such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Ultra-fine particles are the most dangerous form of air pollution because they penetrate deeper into the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

An estimated one kilo a month of particulate matter is expected to be removed from the air using a single tower, which collects it in a tray using a filter-less system. The tower also uses light energy to render gases such as NO₂ harmless.

The new CATCE will bring together academics working across the University in the fields of engineering, health and well-being, maths, biomedical sciences, creative technologies and business. It will work on innovating, collaborating, qualifying and commercialising clean air technologies to combat air pollution indoors and outdoors.



Richard Greenwood, Chief Executive of Radic8, said: "We are delighted to launch this partnership with the University of Bolton. In tandem with long-term strategies and government policies to reduce the sources of air pollution, we believe in developing and promoting technologies to tackle air pollution today. We have developed technology that traps dirty air, neutralises toxic air and destroys sick air, creating true indoor air quality. We believe that everybody has the right to breathe clean air and are passionate about developing and commercialising clean air technologies".



The work in CATCE will be incorporated into a degree course, a Master's and PhD research. Dr Ianis G Matsoukas, Assistant Teaching Professor and Academic Operations Lead of the Institute of Management, said: "Developing the CATCE initiative will maximise the social and economic value of the University of Bolton. This will benefit students, communities, business and civil society through learning, research-informed teaching approaches, staff development and knowledge transfer. It will be a major step in the University's contribution to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health and well-being."

Dr Kondal Reddy Kandadi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bolton, said: "The Clean Air Technologies Centre of Excellence and our collaboration with Radic8 will focus on applied research, teaching and industry placements for our students in many disciplines including engineering, business and management, medical biology and environmental sciences. This will be a major step in the University's contribution to the development of clean air technologies."





Reuse. Refill. Recycle.

5 Sustainable, Simple & Stunning Promotional Gift Ideas.

Are you an environmentally friendly brand looking for great eco promotional product ideas for staff, events or marketing campaigns? If the answer is yes, then this article is for you.

We've put together a list of our 5 most popular, innovative and striking eco-friendly products, to help you promote your brand without sacrificing your environmental values. They're perfect if you're looking to send a bold message about your conscientious and environmental business values.

Reusable Coffee Cups

We're waving the flag of the reuse revolution. The more useful and durable a product is – the more frequently it will be reused – the less impact on the environment there will be – and the more often your brand will be seen.

From fully customisable cups crafted from bamboo to compostable cups made from corn waste, a reusable coffee cup provides genuine value to the receiver day-to-day and don't get thrown in the cupboard, never to

resurface. No plastic here – they're made using sustainable and recyclable fibres – so they're a fantastic choice if you're looking to make a bold ethical statement with your promotional merchandise.

Tote Bags

Stylish and durable cotton, jute or bamboo fibre tote bags have become a travel-to-work and shopping day staple. Made from natural resources, these eco-friendly options will be used time and time again – putting an end to single use plastic bags and ensuring wearers will be carrying your company logo everywhere they go.

Reusable Water Bottles

Promotional drinkware products – like an impressive personalised thermal water bottle – are a must-have accessory just now. They'll keep drinks cool for 24 hours or hot for 12. The average consumer uses around 150 plastic bottles a year. So, providing reusable and sustainable drinkware is a practical way for brands to create a significant reduction in plastic use and promote an eco-friendly culture.

Made from premium grade stainless steel, these leak-free, personalised thermal water bottles come with a matt or gloss finish and a wide range of colours. With screen printing and laser engraving both available you can tailor yours to match your brand's unique image and personality.

Recycled Stationery

Technology is constantly progressing, but you can't beat the old-fashioned pen and pencil for sketching out ideas and taking notes. This explains why stationery is still one of the most popular promotional items. However, traditional biros, pencils and notebooks are made from plastic and trees – not so eco-friendly. We love to find interesting alternative materials. We've seen branded pencils made from everything from recycled money to recycled denim. Both perfect choices for eco-conscious brands since their production has minimal environmental impact. We've created a full-range of customisable eco-friendly stationery options that also includes notebooks, diaries and sticky notepads. All made from recycled resources.

Bamboo Sunglasses

If you're looking for a personalised corporate gift that offers both style and substance? Boost brand awareness with branded bamboo sunglasses.

The legs are made from sustainable bamboo fibre, so the production process uses much less plastic than traditional manufacturing methods. They offer brands a stylish way to reduce their environmental impact and make a fashion statement.

Light weight, good looking UV protection for bright brands.

This is just a fraction of options when it comes to sustainable promotional merchandise. Make sure your company are making the right choice.



streamline®

University of Salford is recognised as one of the UK's very best green spaces

The University of Salford has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best green spaces in the world.

The University is among a record-breaking 1,970 UK parks and green spaces and 131 in thirteen other countries around the world, that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award - the mark of a quality park or green space.

This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

The Green Flag judges described the University's Peel Park and Frederick Road campuses as an impressive, diverse collection of sites with excellent facilities and features that complement each other well, including David Lewis



Playing Fields and a selection of high-quality public art.

Jason Challender, Director of Estates said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award for the first time.

"We know how much quality green spaces matter to students, staff, the local community and visitors and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining our campus to such a high standard.

"The award recognises the hard work and passion of many people on campus, particularly the Grounds Maintenance and Environmental Sustainability Teams.

"We are pleased with the feedback from the judges and will be taking

their recommendations on board in the future management of the site."

Environmental Management Coordinator, Neva Mowl added "We are keen to engage more people with the outside spaces on campus, so if you are a student,

member of staff or from the local community we invite you to get involved with our Green Campus Group."

The University will celebrate the achievement later in the year with a flag raising ceremony.

University of Manchester signs up to the **Slave-Free Alliance**

As part of its commitment to meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, The University of Manchester has become the first higher education institution to become a member of Slave-Free Alliance.

Raising awareness on the issues of human trafficking and forced labour is a key part of the University's work to promote responsible procurement.

Slave-Free Alliance is part of Hope for Justice, a Manchester-based charity which exists to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society.

By joining Slave-Free Alliance the University has joined a global movement, demonstrating commitment to raising awareness of modern slavery and working to promote a zero tolerance approach to the practice in our supply chains.

A key benefit of joining Slave-Free Alliance is to independently review, benchmark and develop responsible University systems and processes to combat modern slavery.

"As a University with social responsibility as a core goal, joining Slave-Free Alliance helps bolster our existing approach in this important area," said Director of Finance Steve Dauncey.

"The opportunity to join a Manchester-based charity that puts victims first by removing them from situations of exploitation, and also working to prevent individuals from becoming enslaved, is a great fit for us. The potential to engage more widely with our staff and students on this issue is very significant."

"We are thrilled to see The University of Manchester becoming the first higher education institution to join Slave-Free Alliance, and we hope this will encourage the rest of the sector to take notice and take action," said Ben Cooley, CEO of Slave-Free Alliance and Hope for Justice.

"It is a clear sign of the University's commitment to working towards a slave-free supply chain, helping ensure that the products it buys and the services it uses have not been tainted by the barbaric crime of human trafficking for forced labour. We look forward to working

closely with the University over the coming months to further develop this partnership."

"We are really excited about partnering with Slave Free Alliance, not only are they based in Manchester they do some incredible work protecting and supporting victims (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-england-birmingham-48881327>) and offer us the chance to strengthen our whole approach around the modern slavery agenda. We are currently planning their independent review of our systems and processes and look forward to working together to involve our staff and students more widely by raising awareness of the issue. We hope that this not only shows the University's commitment but that it may encourage colleagues in procurement to actively promote a zero tolerance approach to modern slavery across the sector." Said Ian Jarvey, Deputy Head of Procurement.



Vona has a lot of bottle

In 2019 Gresham Office Furniture launched its new range of sustainably manufactured and environmentally-friendly seating – the Vona. Gresham have always been at the forefront of ‘green’ manufacturing processes and this is the latest in a long line of such innovations.

The Vona is a conference chair that can be used singly or linked together to form rows of seating and can be stored into vertical stacks for ease of storage. The seat itself consists of ergonomic triangular plates which adapt themselves to the body for more comfort, along with a Gabriel Fame seat pad. The seat has a sled frame which means it can be positioned easily.

But what makes the Vona special is that it is not only manufactured in an environmentally-friendly way, it actually reduces pollution by being made from recycled plastic bottles thereby reducing material which would go to landfill.

Vona is Gresham’s response to the human need to reduce our carbon imprint on our planet, and to rediscover waste as a material of the future.

One of the biggest threats to the planet is the pollution of our precious seas by plastic. In fact, plastic bottles are the third worst plastic polluter of our oceans with enough plastic being thrown away to encircle the earth four times!

Let’s look at some more facts:

- Plastics in our oceans are ingested by marine life and thereby enters the food-chain
- 40% of Europe’s plastics are used only once, then thrown away
- Eating or becoming entangled by plastic endangers over 1,200 species of animal. And eventually humans.

Gresham reviewed the facts, and by adapting a process used in the car industry, they developed this simple, but unique chair, made out of – basically waste material.

It is made of recycled Felt (60% re-cycled polypropylene bottles and 40% non-woven textiles). Each chair is made from 70 plastic bottles, that would have gone to landfill or worse, dumped at sea.

The angular design is worthy of note by itself. It’s unique, attractive and eye-catching and fits in perfectly with modern design.

However, with its’ environmental credentials, the Vona chair points to the future of furniture manufacture by utilising material that would be discarded.

And, by using no less than 70 plastic bottles for each chair, we will be doing our bit to save our world.







University signs up to Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings

UCLan is First University in Europe to Commit to Highest Ethical Research Standards Abroad

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is the first European university to adopt a global code designed to prevent the export of unethical research practices to low and middle-income countries.

Tackling what is known as 'ethics dumping', the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings (GCC) opposes double standards in international research and supports building long-term research relationships between lower-income and higher-income regions of the world.

Examples of 'ethics dumping' in low- and middle-income countries by researchers from high-income countries, such as Europe and the USA, include imposing high risks on research participants who are unlikely to benefit from the study's results. It could also involve not respecting cultural requirements such as community approval for research involving indigenous populations and refusing to compensate for harm incurred during a study. Taking valuable biological samples out of the country without sharing the benefits and undertaking animal experimentation that is ethically unacceptable or even illegal in the researchers' home countries could also be considered as 'ethics dumping'.

The GCC sets out a framework of four values that all researchers should follow; fairness, respect, honesty and care. This involves researchers in high-income countries, from institutions like UCLan, collaborating with host country researchers during all stages to develop a culturally appropriate plan to share the benefits of the research, which could range from information, a new low-tech health intervention, or a vaccine.

Generally, no research should be carried out in a low-income country that would be prohibited in

high-income countries. As part of this framework, the GCC requires all international researchers to obtain ethical approval from bodies in the country where the research will be undertaken, as well as from the researchers' countries or institutions.

The GCC has been developed over four years by TRUST, an international collaborative EU-funded project, led by Professor Doris Schroeder, Director of the Centre for Professional Ethics at UCLan.

Authors of the ground-breaking initiative include representatives from highly influential global organisations, such as UNESCO and the Wellcome Trust and colleagues representing vulnerable populations. The GCC has already been adopted by the European Commission as a mandatory reference document for all research funded under the Horizon 2020 programme, by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership and the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Professor Schroeder said: "A pioneering international team has created the GCC using an ambitious participatory approach. It was a high-risk approach at the time, but we never lost sight of our mission, to stop ethics dumping. I am delighted to see UCLan become the first university in Europe to adopt it and send out a clear message against ethics dumping." Dr Lynne Livesey, Joint Institutional Lead at UCLan, said: "It is fantastic to see an academic from our own institution lead on a global campaign that will shape the future of research practice. The GCC is very much in line with our own institutional ethical values and practice and we are very happy to have this spirit captured in a short, clear and inspirational ethics code. We are very proud of Doris and what she has achieved with the global TRUST team."



University & Schools Furniture Supplier Signs up for **Zero Landfill**

FMS Interiors Ltd has signed up to a zero landfill policy with Sustain, a branch of Senator to ensure that 100% of waste from the furniture they work with is getting reused and recycled properly.

FMS Interiors Ltd are a dealer and supplier based near Warrington; being an NEUPC accredited supplier they are specialists in serving the Higher Education sector but will work on all projects large and small in both public and private sectors. They have a close relationship with multiple manufacturers varying in size and price, which ensures they are confident they can source any product you will need for the space you are creating. FMS Interiors Ltd are known throughout the UK to help with everything, from things other companies deem to be 'too small' like mops and kettles all the way through to beds and sofas. Their speciality is loose furniture but more recently they have gained vast and varied experience in fit-out and interior design.

The company's tagline is "We do what everyone else says they do" and not only does that show with the results and loyal clientele, it is also displayed through their actions. Within this year they have signed up to a zero-landfill policy with the company Sustain which is a branch of Senator, based just up the road from the offices based in Blackburn, UK.



The zero-landfill policy ensures that post delivery and installation, FMS Interiors Ltd will remove all old products and packaging from site and ensure none of it goes to waste. In the month of March 2019 from FMS Interiors Ltd there have been 30 wardrobes, 30 bedside tables, 45 bed frames and 1000 mattresses and other miscellaneous products recycled, and over 13,000Kg of loose furniture diverted from landfill.



Sustain ensure that 100% of the waste is expertly recycled and reused with items like chair backs being given a new life as a coffee coaster or a notebook covering. Padding from study chairs is also being used as carpet underlay. To do all this they have a dedicated team of 20 people who are local and have been expertly trained to make sure that every single item of the furniture does not go to waste. After being established in 2009, in 10 years the company has recycled 6,000 tons of cardboard and that is just the beginning. They have also engineered a way to recycle items that no one else can, for instance polystyrene, of which they have filled over 100 lorries and are continuing to do so.

This is a service available to all NWUPC members under Lot 5 Residential Furniture of the NEUPC agreement. FMS are new to this agreement and are currently raising awareness of their services across the UK.

For more information please contact our Sales Director Joanne Staples and she will be happy answer any questions you will have.

Phone - **07494 784 870 (Mobile)**
E-mail - **j.staples@furniturems.com**

EnvoPAP: Sustainable Tree-Free Paper for a Circular Economy

The **circular economy** is a concept that aims to minimise waste by reusing materials and regenerating natural systems thus avoiding landfill waste. The old-fashioned linear consumption has led to our plastic-filled oceans and rampant **deforestation**. The crucial part the rainforests play as the 'lungs of the planet' is at odds with the corporate interests and illegal logging in the Amazon and other unprotected forests across the globe.

The EnvoPAP Story

Kaushal Shah thought of a plan to combat this problem whilst studying at the University of Southampton. He saw the potential of turning agricultural waste in his home country of India into usable products.

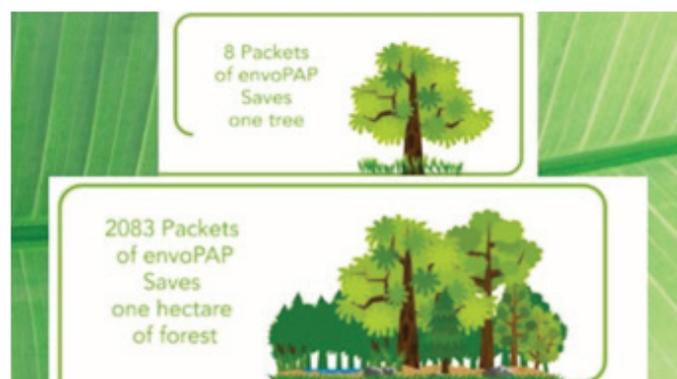
Today, Kaushal is the C.E.O of EnvoPAP. EnvoPAP has created a **unique, eco-friendly and efficient copy paper**, made by **upcycling sugarcane waste instead of fresh trees**.

The Process

Conventional paper requires virgin fibres obtained by felling trees, envoPAP is made using a reclaimed waste product called bagasse which is made from the fibres of sugarcane and wheat husks. After being transferred to the mill, the bagasse is converted into pulp through a **carbon-neutral** and **chlorine-free** process before being pressed into paper.

The Benefits

Buying just **eight packs of EnvoPAP paper saves one tree** from being cut down. The upcycling of the crops avoids burning the fields ready for the next harvest. This tradition has been found to have an alarming impact on the rates of **serious diseases** for the local population. The farmers cooperatively sell their waste to the mill, which provides **an extra income** for the local population.

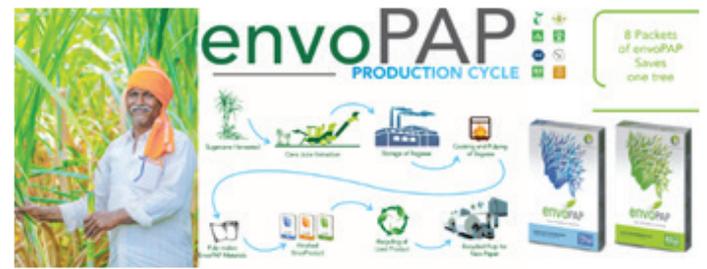


The Price

EnvoPAP costs more than the cheap and unsustainable copier paper but is **less expensive than the recycled alternatives with less environmental cost**. This is due to the fibres requiring less processing as the fibres arrive partially processed.

EnvoPAP is a sustainable solution for any organisation that combines **high paper usage and strives to limit their environmental impact**.

Get in touch with Springfield Papers and we can send you samples of this revolutionary paper.



Case Study

'I have tested the Envopap A4 Paper over several weeks using 3 different printing machines. I am satisfied that it won't stretch to breaking point and it won't easily twist, warp or jam inside any of the appliances I have used it on. I believe it to be a sound paper. I am happy to use Envopap A4 to help the University reduce it's carbon emissions and also our Carbon Footprint.'

Steve Bridges
Library Services, Bristol University

