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Press Release

CRC RECEIVES TOP 'GREEN' ACCREDITATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by 40 per cent over the next five years has helped Cambridge Regional College achieve a top environmental accreditation.

It is the first further education college in the country to be awarded ISO14001 certification for its Environmental Management System for all its operations after proving its commitment to saving energy with an ambitious carbon management plan.



Nii Lante Wallace-Davies, right, from certification body SGS, presents ISO 14001 accreditation to CRC's Sarah Bearpark and Vice Principal Chris Lang

By 2016, the College aims to have reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 40 per cent through making its buildings more energy-efficient, reducing emissions from business travel and fleet vehicles, and encouraging staff and students to use greener methods of travel.

Over the next few months alone, the College will save 384 tonnes of carbon – 18 per cent of its target – by replacing all its lighting with LED lights. Installing timers on electronic equipment to reduce power usage and improving recycling to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill are among the other measures planned for a greener college.

Sarah Bearpark, CRC's Environmental and Sustainability manager, said the ISO accreditation was a huge achievement for the College.

"We are absolutely delighted to be the first FE college in England to receive the accreditation for our whole site. Reducing our carbon footprint by 40 per cent is an ambitious target, but we are determined to make a real difference," she said.

"There are many small things we can do which together can have a big impact. For instance, in our hair salons we are changing all our towels to microfibre towels - they are longer lasting, take up less room in the washing machine and are quicker to dry in the tumble dryer."

Chris Lang, CRC Vice Principal with responsibility for sustainability, said all staff had taken part in environmental training, highlighting energy-saving and waste management, as part of the ISO 14001 accreditation. Further attempts to engage fully with staff and students would gather momentum in 2012.

"It is essential for all of us to reduce our carbon footprint and we aim to teach our students best practice in environmental matters, so that when they go into the workplace they will be very aware of saving energy and minimising waste," he said.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.