

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Are British Universities getting greener? *The Green League 2008 to be published*

On 3 July 2008 the award winning **Green League 2008** will be published by People & Planet, the UK's leading student campaign network. The Green League 2008, which last year won best campaign in the **British Environment and Media Awards**, is the only league table showing the environmental performance of Britain's universities. In the second year of publication, students will be able to see whether their institution is meeting the challenge of climate change.

Published in **Times Higher Education** and sponsored by **WWF**, People & Planet's **Green League 2008** ranks all British universities – awarding them a First, 2:1, 2:2, Third, or Fail – based on nine environmental criteria, both policy and performance related. It will incorporate data, obtained through the freedom of information act, including the percentage of waste recycled and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for each individual institution. The table will also show the **change in a university's ranking** between 2007 and 2008.

“Student power is not dead after all. Students have certainly started to raise the profile of sustainability up senior managers agendas through the Green League.”  
(Iain Patton, Executive Director, Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges)

**The Green League 2007** brought sustainability to the forefront of Vice Chancellor's minds and, one year later, the 2008 Green league will be the clearest indicator yet of whether it has led to **tangible changes within the sector**. It is now time for this initial shift to be built upon. In addition to highlighting the performance of individual universities, the Green League provides an overview of the Higher Education sector and exposes the need for a **comprehensive carbon reduction strategy** to drive down carbon emissions year-on-year. People & Planet will be calling for leadership and drive from the government and for the full blown support of all sector stakeholders. By going green the HE sector could act as a role model for the public sector - thereby instigating a **transformation to a low carbon economy**.

**ENDS**

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## For immediate release

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### NOTES

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- **CONTACT: [Alison Sutton, WWF-UK, asutton@wwf.org.uk](mailto:asutton@wwf.org.uk), 01483 412388.**
- The Green League 2008 will be published online at <http://peopleandplanet.org> on 3 July 2008.
- People & Planet's Green League 2007 won Best Campaign at the British Environment and Media Awards 2007.
- The Green League is produced as part of People & Planet's Go Green campaign which aims to transform the environmental performance of the UK education sector. This year 39 university, school and college groups staged campus actions as part of National Go Green Week – the UK's first national student week of action and events against climate chaos.
- People & Planet is the largest UK student network campaigning to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment. Our network covers 70% of Britain's universities and 10% of Sixth Forms. For more info visit <http://peopleandplanet.org>.
- People & Planet's Green Education Declaration was also launched this year. It calls for a strong Climate Change Bill that commits to at least 80% cuts in CO2 by 2050 and includes carbon reduction strategies for each sector, including the education sector itself. It currently has 51 signatories, - 46 of these are university vice chancellors. A full list of signatories is available: <http://peopleandplanet.org/greeneducationdeclaration>.
- [Spokespeople for People & Planet, and sixth-form and university students involved in the campaign, are available for interview.](#)

### FURTHER QUOTES

- "It is critical that Universities take on the findings of the Green League and reduce their impact allowing us to move to a one planet future." (David Norman, WWF-UK Director of Campaigns)
- "There is no doubt that the original Green League had a galvanising effect on universities' perceptions of their environmental performance. AUDE welcomes the continuation of the League and is glad to offer its support " (Patrick Finch, Chair of AUDE)
- "Higher education has a leading role to play in sustainable development and the sector is already taking this seriously. This is clearly a decisive time as we consult on a new sustainable action plan for HE and government plans to link future capital allocations to reductions in carbon emissions. Whilst we do not endorse league tables, the Green League highlights this critical area of university activity." (Andrew Smith, Leadership, Governance and Management, HEFCE)
- "It's clear that the league has caused quite a stir in the sector with carbon reduction and environmental strategies being listened too. I am sure that the very essence of Universities being ranked on their performance has livened much of the hard work that environmental teams around the sector have been trying to do." (Dr John Hindley, Manchester Metropolitan University Environmental Sustainability Manager)