



## Green Dragon Environmental Standard

The college was awarded the *Green Dragon Environmental Standard* in 2007. Since then the college, through its estates department, has worked hard to keep and improve on the award.

The college is always looking for ways to improve and reduce the environmental impact of the college activities through its resources including gas, water, electricity and the waste produced by the college from cardboard packaging to the rubble from refurbishing buildings.

### Our recycling rate is 60%

The college is making great progress in recording and capturing the waste that is leaving the Gower Colleges Swansea campuses. We have recycled nearly 800 bins this year so far with a weight of 36097Kgs.

- Two new mixed recycling bins have been introduced at Llwyn-y-Bryn.
- New mixed recycling and cardboard bins have been introduced at Gorseinon.

The college has recycled a range of items including:

- 195Kgs of fluorescent lamps
- 2067Kgs of WEEE items
- 200 litres of cooking oils
- 79Kgs of batteries
- 116m<sup>3</sup> of construction waste
- 18m<sup>3</sup> of confidential waste

### Carbon foot print

The college produces enough Co<sub>2</sub> each year to fill an air ship 200,000m<sup>3</sup> from its gas and electricity usage



Scaled against a 747

## Environmental Initiatives

*Some of the initiatives* include:

- Using biodegradable coffee cups and sandwich wrappers in the coffee bar and refectories
- Working with ILS students to design posters and art work for the college recycling bins.
- Sketty Hall: The fitting of LED lighting to more than half of the car park lighting saving on electricity and the maintenance cost of fitting new bulbs (*LED's have a life of 5 years*). We also cleaned the fittings at the same time.
- Tycoch Campus: During the maintenance of car park lighting and external building lights a number of the lights have been changed to LED's which have a much longer life increased reliability with less maintenance costs.
- Gorseinon/Tycoch Campuses: A voltage optimisation system has been fitted on the main incoming electrical supply to the site, which fixes our voltage range reducing wastage (*reducing costs*) also stopping surges which will increase the life of electrical equipment.
- LED Lighting introduced at a number of points at Tycoch Campus and Gorseinon: This reduces electrical usage banked switching and a reduced heat load in the room. Also giving a more natural light and brighter light.
- During this year we have recycled 79kgs of batteries using battery recycling bins at:
  - Gorseinon reception main building
  - Tycoch student common room
  - Tycoch corridor outside A9
  - Arts block at Gorseinon
  - Kingsway reception
  - GCS training reception
  - Llwyn-Y-Bryn main reception
- Undertaking bat, fauna and environmental surveys on both the Gorseinon campus and the proposed site of the college's Hill house development.
- During the construction of the new refectory at Gorseinon the contractors were awarded the *considerate contractors award* for the way in which the work was carried out and planned.
- The finance department are implementing paperless wage slips.

## Sustainable development

The estates department when carrying out projects/requests continues to take into consideration if there are any elements of sustainability that we can build into the projects at the planning stages. This ranges from working closely with curriculum areas to raising awareness with estates.

**Your ideas are welcomed – just send an e-suggestion through the electronic student handbook.**