



LIGHTS OUT FOR CHRISTMAS PLEASE!

PHOTO: [HTTP://BIT.LY/136DUGA](http://bit.ly/136DUGA)

# The Green Pages

December 2014

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

## Big Christmas **Switch Off!**

**Switch Off** and unplug this Christmas...

It's *Lights Out for Christmas* this year!

Join the Faculty of Engineering's Big Christmas Switch Off and make sure your department is unplugged before you leave University on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Spread the word amongst your colleagues to turn off all unnecessary equipment.

Look out for monitors, chargers, lights and open windows!

The Switch Off is a great way to spread the word about energy efficiency and we will be collecting meter readings from each building to compare this year's energy usage over the

Christmas holiday, with the same period last year. That way, we can see how much of a difference the switch off has made!

So join in and together we can all save energy and money!

Hopefully the Switch Off won't be just for Christmas...

The Arts Tower blackout in April 2014 reduced energy usage by 24% when compared to previous weekends and saved £110!

Just think of the savings we could make if we all switched off at the end of every day!



### The GIPAs arrived!

Interest in Green Impact is high amongst students and this year, we trained 44 in the GIPA role!



### Green Impact goes global!

Turn to the final page to find out more!

Photo: [bit.ly/1zVuBEx](http://bit.ly/1zVuBEx)

## School of Dentistry does recycled Christmas!

Teams went all out!!

Christmas decorations don't have to cost the earth!

During the festive period, our consumption and waste rises dramatically. Food waste goes up 80% and six million Christmas trees will be binned. Each year in the UK alone, we use 50,000 trees worth of wrapping paper – that's enough to gift wrap the island of Guernsey.

Organised by the Green Impact team within the department, the School of Dentistry showed us just how spectacular a recycled Christmas can be!

Seven teams throughout the department took part in the



competition and decorations ranged from plastic bottle reindeers to a newspaper nativity and the winners, who created a spectacular winter wonderland!

Competitors were judged on criteria including originality, effort and green-ness and the winner received a trophy made entirely from recycled computer parts!



Take a look at our Green Christmas tips below to find out how you can help the environment this Christmas!

## Green Christmas...

Take inspiration from the school of Dentistry and have a sustainable Christmas!

- Make your own decorations from recycled or natural materials
- Buy a tree grown locally and recycle it when Christmas is over. Or buy a tree with roots and replant it!
- Plan your meals to limit food waste – the UK wastes 230,000 tonnes of food each year over the festive period alone.
- Buy local produce for dinner – it's travelled less miles to your plate!
- Use old newspapers or reusable gift bags instead of wrapping paper
- Cut down on fairy lights and switch to LEDs
- Send an e-card or make one from recycled materials



*A crocheted carrier bag snowflake and a Christmas wreath made from toilet roll tubes and old sweet wrappers were amongst the decorations made by the school of Dentistry competition winners!*



## COMING UP...

**Green Impact Christmas!**

It's time for our Christmas energy saving initiative. Put your woolly jumper on and turn your heating down, at **University or at home!** Send us your photos to win a prize!

**Love Food Hate Waste workshop**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2015. An exciting workshop about food waste will be happening in Sheffield. Contact Green Impact to find out more.

## FAST FACTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This month, enough Christmas cards will be delivered to people in the UK to stretch around the world five times

Over 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging will end up in the rubbish bin

Five million Christmas puddings worth of food will be binned

## GET IN TOUCH:

greenimpact@sheffield.ac.uk

This month, GIPA Coordinator Guy Tallentire gives his top tips for reducing waste this Christmas; it's definitely worth a read!

Guy's is the first in a series of GIPA Coordinator blog posts over the course of Green Impact 2014/15. Each blog entry will focus upon a different green topic or a different Coordinator's experience of their time in the role so keep your eyes peeled for more exciting insights.

We will also have a regular section on the blog which will digest and summarise important current environmental news stories.

This week, there's an overview of the UN Climate Change Conference held this month in Lima, Peru. Have a read and let us know what you think of the outcome.

Canada!

*In the **first ever** Green Impact international buddy up, teams from Sheffield have been paired with teams from Mac Ewan University, Alberta. Teams will share ideas and experiences over the next few months and here at Green Impact, we can't wait to see how this develops! We will keep you updated!*

## AND FINALLY....

It's the end of 2014 and what better way to start the New Year than with a **Green New Year's Resolution!**

Perhaps it's recycling that you would like to do a bit more of, or maybe it's improving your fitness by walking to work. It's up to you!

We would love to hear from you, so send us your green resolutions.

Have a lovely Christmas and see you in 2015!