

AIMS (Academic Institutions Management Services):

a Higher Education management support service, based at the University of Liverpool

created more than thirty years ago specifically to serve the higher education sector

until recently, use of the service was restricted to its member universities. Those services are now available to non-member institutions, who can take advantage of the specialist skills and knowledge of the AIMS consultants

non-member institutions can apply for membership or associate membership of AIMS, or commission individual assignments

for more information about the services of AIMS or for details about membership or the commissioning of assignments, please contact:

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Great Success of Trial Membership Offer

The option of cut price trial membership offered by AIMS has attracted a great deal of interest among UK Higher Education Institutions in the north of England. Two levels of trial membership were offered: full trial membership, which provides 45 consultancy days for a subscription of £10,000; and reduced trial membership, which provides 20 consultancy days for a subscription of £5,000. Three institutions, the Universities of Bradford and Huddersfield and Manchester Metropolitan University, have already taken up the offer.

Trial members will receive all the services and privileges of full members of AIMS, which include:

- the undertaking of reviews
- the facilitation of internal reviews
- the provision of advice and guidance on an *ad hoc* basis
- free access to good practice guides published by AIMS
- free access to reports commissioned by other member institutions, subject to their approval
- representation at meetings of the AIMS Management Committee.

The attractiveness of the trial membership offer is that institutions can enjoy the highly professional services of AIMS at a charge rate that is half, or less than half, the fees charged to non-member institutions - with no future commitment.

We know that a number of institutions are still actively considering the trial membership offer. We could accept one more application this year - please do not delay too long and risk disappointment, as there is no guarantee that the offer will be repeated next year.

Optimising Waste Management Arrangements

We have recently completed a review of waste management arrangements at one of our member institutions. During the course of the review, we identified several policies and initiatives that are relevant to HE/FE institutions.

Government Policy

It is Government policy, through the Department of the Environment and the Regions (DETR), to reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste that is landfilled to 85% of 1998 levels by 2005. There is a focus on recovering value from waste materials and reducing their impact on the environment.

Recycling reduces landfill requirements, the tax on which is constantly rising.

Risk of Fines

Organisations are at risk under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Government's Code of Practice on Waste Management: The Duty of Care specifically requires adequate equipment, training and supervision to be provided to ensure that waste is being legally managed. Failure to comply with the code can lead to fines of up to £20,000.

The Forum for the Future

In Spring 1997, the Forum for the Future was awarded a DETR Environmental Action Fund to run a two-year HE 21 project to generate and promote best practice for sustainability across the HE/FE sectors. By Autumn 1997, the project comprised 25 partners.

The Local Government Management Board and the Forum for the Future are keen to maximise collaboration between the local authority (Local Agenda 21) and HE 21 activities.

The EAUC

In recent years, there has been an increasing awareness within the HE and FE sectors of the need to address environmental issues - both at an institutional level and within curricular programmes. An increasing number of staff has been given responsibility for progressing the environmental agenda.

Informal networking has existed for some time within and between the two sectors, but the past few years has seen a growing desire to see a more structured approach.

The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges was launched in September 1996. Its aim is to raise the profile of environmental

management and facilitate improvement of environmental performance. To that end, it provides a forum for the sharing of experiences and information and promotes good practice.

EcoCampus

The EcoCampus Scheme is an initiative championed by Going For Green, an organisation that promotes public understanding and involvement in issues relating to sustainable development. Going For Green is a sister organisation of the Tidy Britain Group.

EcoCampus sets out a framework for an environmental management system for institutions, which allows them to review their environmental performance, prioritise significant impacts, implement measures for continuous improvement and receive an EcoCampus award, subject to external verification of progress.

Institutions wishing to join the scheme will be asked to endorse the EcoCampus code, a set of principles that act as a framework for the award.

You might find the following websites to be of interest:

<http://www.detr.gov.uk/waste/>
<http://environment-agency.gov.uk/>
<http://www.he21.org.uk/>
<http://www.eauc.org.uk/>
<http://www.tidybritain.org.uk/>