WINNING STUDENT SUGGESTION: Organise an awards ceremony to reward staff who have helped encourage environmental awareness – This is a fantastic suggestion and one that we have tried to take on board with our Aston Go Green Awards. A celebratory lunch was held in May to reward all our staff who signed up as Eco-Champions. The Aston Excellence Awards also have a category to reward the staff member who has contributed most to a Sustainable Campus.

Estates

WINNING STAFF SUGGESTION: Set aside space for green roofs – Green roofs are something we are particularly keen to encourage here at Aston. The first phase of Aston Student Villages has a green roof space above the chaplaincy and the second phase includes plans for a brown roof which will provide a valuable habitat for Black Redstarts.

Double glazing – Plans are in place to fit double glazing where appropriate and efficient, in particular in the Main Building.

Ban heaters / fans in offices – We do encourage staff not to use personal heaters or fans, and instead to report temperature issues to the Estates helpdesk. However, we do recognise that there are certain locations where heating controls need to be improved and so fans / heaters are sometimes necessary.

Reduce heating / air conditioning levels – Heating is set at a comfort level of 19° ad controlled automatically through our Building Management System; where there is a specific issue we ask that staff report this to the Estates helpdesk.

Install occupancy sensor lighting – *Lighting is being converted where appropriate and as refurbishments take place.*

Make more use of LED lighting – We aim to install the most appropriate lighting in all areas, taking into account energy efficiency and cost.

Employ a Switch off team to turn off lighting and equipment at the end of the day — We prefer to encourage staff to take responsibility for their own equipment and areas and encourage everyone to switch off at the end of every day. The disadvantage of employing people for this is that there is the risk that a piece of equipment could be turned off by mistake.

Switch off ABS blue lights – These are energy efficient lights and are seen as a key feature for the building. ABS have agreed to target a 15% reduction in overall energy use during 2010 and would like to achieve this without switching off the blue lights, although they are already on a timer/sensor mechanism which ensures they are turned off at night and in bright sunlight.

Replace outdoor lights with solar powered lighting – Outdoor lights have been replaced with energy efficient lighting. Solar lighting is not currently recommended for these areas because of minimum lighting requirements and reliability.

Seal windows to reduce heat loss – *Some windows have already been sealed to reduce drafts; others are being double glazed or replaced as appropriate.*

Install turbines to increase efficiency and harness energy of lifts – *This would be a more major long term project but is potentially something we could look into when replacing or refurbishing lifts.*

Connect a turbo trainer to supplement electricity (Woodcock) – This is a really innovative idea and it would certainly be something different for Aston; we will look into whether or not this is a real possibility but it could be something we could work with our School of Engineering on.

Printing

More use of electronic data exchange to reduce printing: Blackboard, etc. – This was included in our Aston Go Green Awards for staff but we do need to do some more work on this; we are looking into offering some training courses for staff. One step in the right direction is the move from paper induction packs to online information provided by HR to new staff.

Electronic submissions for coursework – This is left up to the individual schools to manage; there has been some progress made on this and some coursework and feedback are now done electronically.

Monitor printing monthly and reward the largest reductions - *ISA have previously put forward a funding bid for a similar project which was unfortunately turned down but this is something we are keen to do.*

All printers to be set double sided – ISA set up all new printers to default duplex printing. You can contact them to make changes to existing machines.

Use only recycled printer paper – Aston has committed to purchasing only 100% recycled printer paper.

Clubs/societies to print fewer flyers – use electronic communications – This is a great suggestion and one that we will follow up with the Student Guild.

I.T. equipment

Set computer monitors to 'sleep' rather than screensaver - This was included in our Aston Go Green Awards for staff and we encourage staff to use the most energy efficient settings on their computers; ISA can be contacted for help.

Encourage use of eco-buttons – We prefer to encourage staff to switch off their computers themselves as this is an easier and cheaper option and promotes responsible environmental behaviour.

Encourage staff to switch off computers / equipment at the end of the day - *This was included in our Aston Go Green Awards for staff.*

Travel

Promote bus/train service to students; provide information on passes - We try to promote sustainable travel to both staff and students as much as possible. Information on bus and train services is available through our website and at the Student Advice Point. We have taken on board the suggestion to promote travel passes more and hopefully Travel West Midlands will be attending this year's Welcome Week so that students can purchase travel passes directly.

Promote car sharing – Aston has signed up to a Car Share scheme and both staff and students can sign up through our website.

Sell bikes to students to promote healthy, sustainable living – We run regular bike sales, working with local charity Cycle Chain. These have proved very popular and we plan to continue them throughout the year.

Encourage working from home and offer appropriate support – This is a very complex issue and one that has been discussed previously. It involves the views and priorities of a number of different departments and so is not something that we can commit completely to at this time.