

# Meeting the sustainability agenda



Pioneering Eco Residence scheme at Lancaster University

## Why is sustainability key?

Sustainability is currently a major topic in the HE sector, founded on the UK's commitment to tackle climate change with a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. While universities are already making great strides in addressing their contribution to the green agenda, it is widely acknowledged that more needs to be done. In response to this Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has proposed aligning future funding to sustainability targets.

Universities are increasingly realising that they must be run as businesses in order both to withstand tough economic times, and to attract the best students. During previous recessions student numbers have increased, yet those same students face their own financial pressures and will become more discerning in their choice of institution. A university's ability to provide innovative, modern and sustainable buildings that also create an environment conducive to learning is crucial in their appeal to students.

“Our partnership with UPP has proved beneficial to both parties and, most significantly, our students; not least through design that puts us at the forefront of sustainable thinking.”

Stephen Willis Director of Finance & Resources,  
Leeds Metropolitan University

## How can UPP help?

While carbon reduction will be necessary across all aspects of a university, from the built environment to the student body, HEFCE identifies that, “Accommodation is a major source of carbon emissions in terms of initial construction, lighting, heating and cooling.” That is why we have developed the Eco Residence, an award-winning model in sustainable accommodation, to help our partner universities meet targets and encourage students to lead the way in green living.



UPP's Eco Residence scheme at Lancaster University was awarded the prestigious BREEAM Excellent rating in 2008

## Sustainable concept

Launched in 2007, the UPP Eco Residence model was developed in collaboration with Dr Avi Friedman, professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal. It can be tailored to the specific needs of a particular university and can address local site constraints and planning requirements.

## Sustainable construction

The Eco Residence is constructed using timber frames sourced from sustainable, managed forests and manufactured offsite – this helps minimise waste and increase production efficiency. By using environmentally-friendly products and offsite construction methods, UPP can reduce the carbon footprint of the build by 30%.

The building also features a range of energy and water saving technologies, including roof-mounted solar thermal panels used to preheat hot water, a mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery, and lighting controlled by Passive Infra Red (PIR) units. The residences also boast enhanced air tightness and better insulation levels than buildings constructed using traditional methods.

## Sustainable lifestyle

Once students have moved into the Eco Residence, integral systems help them live in a sustainable manner – for example, recycling facilities encourage waste reduction and online monitors mean students can track their energy consumption in real-time. At some sites, students even compete to see who can maintain the lowest levels of energy use.



Recycling facilities at Lancaster University

For further information on UPP's Eco Residence model please contact:



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## UPP's Eco Residence is already in place at:



Eco Residences at Lancaster University



Leeds Metropolitan University (artist's impression)



Woolf College, University of Kent