

## **School building short listed for prestigious sustainability award**

The Zuckerman Institute for Connective Environmental Research building in the School has been short listed for the 'Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development' award by The Times Higher Education Supplement.

The citation read as follows:

“In 1994 the University of East Anglia erected its award-winning Elizabeth Fry Building, dubbed “The Best Building Ever” in terms of energy efficiency and comfort. It has now been trumped that with the Zuckerman Institute for Connective Environmental Research (Zicer). The building houses 140 research staff and postgraduates in social and natural science alongside virtual-reality laboratories that can bring together scientists, policymakers and other users to investigate particular environmental problems.

Zicer encompasses five research centres in UEA's double-5\* rated School of Environmental Sciences whose head, Chris Vincent.... has been nominated for the award. The centres examine climate change, investigate sustainable solutions, conduct interdisciplinary research to inform environmental policy and give practical guidance on environmental risk.

The building includes a range of energy-saving technologies, including screens and power saving for computers, controlled lighting and improved insulation. Grants from the European Union and Department of Trade and Industry allowed the university to put photo voltaic cells in the roof to harness solar power. Zicer's key low-energy feature is the Thermo-Deck heating, cooling and ventilation system, which uses floor slabs to distribute warm or cold fresh air as necessary.

Greg White, head of liaison for research and business services, says “The Elizabeth Fry Building set a precedent in environmental friendliness and sustainability and Zicer is a testament to UEA's leader-ship in this field. On particular days, the building actually contributes [energy] back into the National Grid.”

The award winners will be revealed on November 15 2006 at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London.

For further details, see: <http://www.thes.co.uk/Awards/2006/>