

National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

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Dear sir/madam

RE: Invitation to participate in Tree O'Clock

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) is pleased to announce that it is working in partnership with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), the National Union of Students and the BBC Breathing Places campaign to invite Universities and Students' Unions to participate in an attempt to break two Guinness World Records as part of National Tree Week. 'Tree O'Clock' will be taking place on Saturday 5th December. The two records the campaign is attempting to break are:

- The most trees planted in multiple locations in one hour (*current record 653,143*)
- The most trees planted in one location in one hour (*current record 18,124*)

We are keen to involve universities in this event because we believe it provides a good opportunity for universities:

- to showcase their commitment to biodiversity, through the management of university campuses, and;
- to engage university staff and students (and possibly their local communities as well) with environmental issues as part of a high profile national campaign.

We have sent this letter to Estates Departments, Volunteer Centres and Students' Unions in order to raise awareness and explore opportunities.

We are hoping that a number of universities will be interested in committing some space for planting trees on 5th December as part of this campaign. Student volunteering groups or Students' Unions may be able to work with Estates Departments to find appropriate space and involve volunteers in preparing the space and planting trees.

The NCCPE is part of the Beacons for Public Engagement project, which aims to inspire a culture change in how universities engage with the public. Our Student Volunteering Initiative, funded by **v**, is aiming to

engage over 4,000 student volunteers in a number of national campaigns, exploring a range of models for involving students in volunteering on a national level.

The BBC will also be working with Autumnwatch, Blue Peter, CBBC and others to encourage them to cover the Tree O'Clock world record attempt. However, it is important to stress that the BBC will not commit to covering specific events.

To get involved in this event and for further details please log onto: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml>. Please contact me for more information about the NCCPE's involvement in this campaign. In particular, please let us know if you are considering registering for the event as:

- we can provide guidance on involving volunteers in the event.
- we will be looking to capture the impact of involvement of universities across the UK, and therefore to maximise the recognition and profile gained by the sector through participating in this event.

For more information about the NCCPE and our work, please visit www.publicengagement.ac.uk

Yours sincerely



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