

Sustainability Board Report

May 2018

The Students' Union at UWE is committed to embedding sustainability into all that we do, and we work proactively in partnership with UWE Bristol to bring about meaningful progress and change.

Green Impact Submission

2016-2017: The Students' Union at UWE gained Excellent (Gold) Accreditation. NUS had 69 participants submit their toolkits and gain an award this year. The Students' Union have worked through the workbook of criteria of actions from NUS – giving us a structured framework for advancing organisational sustainability and truly realising our strategic plan goal to “embed sustainability in all that we do.” The new grading is a ranked system of: working towards accreditation, Good, Very Good, and Excellent (replacing Bronze, Silver and Gold.)

Last year we scored a total of 406 points which is 92% difference from the average score of 211 across all participants in Green Impact students' unions this year.

Following on from our Green Impact audit, we were delighted to receive the overall award for The Students' Union of the Year (Commercial Union) at the NUS Awards 2017.

2017-2018: The Students' Union at UWE submitted our documentation to NUS on Friday 13 April. We undertook all 50 criteria, via the workbook, under the following headings:

1. Knowledge & Understanding
2. Leadership & Strategy
3. Partnership & Policy
4. SU Operations
5. Outcomes
6. Outreach and Collaborations
7. Self-Defined Criteria
8. Campaigning & Influencing

We are currently scheduling our face to face audit with NUS for 22 May 2018, the final awards will be announced in early July at the NUS Conference.

Please find a number of highlights from the submission:

Teaching Award for Sustainability

This year we have proudly added the “Teaching for Sustainable Development Award” which is defined as:

“This award is for a staff member who embraces education for sustainable development. This person will understand how students are exposed to the concepts of sustainable development across their programme of study and will encourage awareness of thinking from other disciplines. They will ensure that students are given opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes which support sustainable development. This member of staff will inspire students to become sustainability-minded professionals and citizens.”

At the close of nominations, in the first year of The Teaching for Sustainable Development Award, **20 nominations** had been entered. The student nominations came **from 8 of the 15 departments and all of the 4 faculties**. This made it a very popular award and to our surprise one of the most representative awards of 2018. To get this response in the first year of this awards' existence was phenomenal to see.

Congratulations to Sarah Hills, Senior Lecturer of Geography and Environmental Management, who was the first recipient of this award!

Energy Use and Utilities Savings

- Over the last three years, we have saved 17.2 tonne CO2 equivalent through electricity usage – the equivalent of taking 3 cars off the road for a year!
- We also reduced our water consumption over the last three years saving 1,080.42m3 of water, which equates to saving 1.1 CO2 tonne equivalent.

Positive Change from Switching To Compostable Coffee Cups

“The compostable cups have been a resounding success. Although slightly more expensive than the Starbucks equivalent, the feedback has been nothing but positive and most people opt for the compostable cup when offered.” Paul Dingley, The Students' Union Commercial Manager (Licensed Trade)

Our change from single use coffee cups to Vegware compostable cups means that we have been **reducing the embodied carbon in our cups by ~70%** (suggested figure from Vegware). In the first six months of 2017-2018, The Students' Union at UWE **saved 1 Tonne of carbon** through using Vegware packaging and 386kg of virgin materials, equivalent to **cancelling out the carbon from 2 flights from London to New York**. This is well on track to surpass our total from 2016-2017, when we saved 1.1 tonnes of carbon, 521kg of virgin material and had 1 tonne of finite resources.

Food Waste Sent For Anaerobic Digestion

The Students' Union (Frenchay, Glenside and Bower) has worked hard to place separate food waste disposals in our regular business processes around the buildings in commercial areas and staff rooms.

Please find below the tonnes of food waste from The Students' Union 2016-2017 (car park 28, shared with other UWE departments):

- Cp28: 2822kg
- Glenside SU: 213kg
- Bower : 1953kg

This equates to 4.988 tonnes of food waster in total; a **reduction of 1.182 tonnes** on 2015-2016.

- 3,020 kg of CO2e saved – **equivalent to taking one diesel car off the road for a year** or a **passenger flying return from London to Los Angeles**
- Generated 7,052 kWh biomethane – enough to cook over 1,000 roast dinners*
- OR 2,246 kWh renewable electricity – enough to charge a smart phone over 75,000 times**

All CO2 factors are taken from the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (2017)

* Assumes 2 hours in a gas oven for each roast dinner

** Uses iPhone 8 with standard charger

Frenchay specifically have **saved the equivalent of an Olympic swimming pools' water** from food waste reduction from 2015-16 to 2016-17. Please see attached evidence.

- Quantity from The Students' Union at Frenchay (car park 28 collection) 2015-16: 3.97 tonnes
- Quantity from The Students' Union at Bower Ashton 2015-16: 1.35 tonnes
- Quantity from The Students' Union at Glenside 2015-16: 0.85 tonnes

= 6.17 tonnes in total

NUS Awards

The Students' Union at UWE are entering several submissions to the NUS awards 2018. We are highlighting our welfare campaigns and mental wealth strategic work with UWE Bristol and the Global Majority Month campaign. Rachel Colley, Community Manager, is being put forward for Staff Member of the Year, recognising the leadership and drive in the sustainability agenda within The Students' Union staff culture.

EAUC Green Gown Awards

The Students' Union will submit at least one entry into the student engagement category at this year's EAUC Green Gown Awards for our Bring Your Own Bowl (BYOB) food waste event series. We will also propose Amy Staff, current Sustainability Officer, for the Student Champion Category and Rachel Colley for Staff Champion.

Rachel Colley has been invited to present at the EAUC Conference alongside NUS on a SDG Teach In Session.

NUS Responsible Futures Induction

NUS are running a new webinar in July for newly elected officers (and any other new staff) on their Responsible Futures Accreditation, and more broadly an introduction to ESD and the SDGs. Rachel Colley, Community Manager, has been approached to join the webinar and provide a ~15min overview of our work on sustainability.

Green Team – Student Engagement Activity

Gardening 101 Series

One of the Green Team student staff members has embarked on a new project in Term 2 to deliver a gardening course especially adapted to students who have little to no experience. The Green Team have delivered three 'Gardening 101' sessions this year so far. These sessions have covered topics such as:

- Basics of seed planting
- Permaculture principles
- Basics of Garden planning
- Wellbeing/nature links
- Bringing nature into your home (terrarium building)

The course has been very well received, with many students noting their improved confidence around these fundamental gardening activities.



Community Garden

There has been good progress at the community garden sessions, regularly delivered as a collaboration between the UWE Grounds Team and the Green Team. Students have been getting tours around the grounds facilities, including the compost areas where they have learned about how ‘waste’ garden materials can be turned into useful resources. Attendees have also got to grips with some seed planting for various vegetables, which have gone to the UWE greenhouse for germination. These will be planted in gardening sessions over the coming weeks.

“Findings have shown overwhelming benefits from attending garden sessions for the students taking part, with every participant recognising many positive impacts on their personal wellbeing and mental health. Although there are obvious benefits from food production and horticultural knowledge, many of the students have treated the community garden as a chill out zone, and an escape from the everyday university life. Volunteering at the garden sessions has enabled new friendships to form over shared interests for the environment, and has provided many students with an area they can not only learn, but refresh and energise both their mental and physical health in a safe and much needed university campus space.”

– Alex McKie, *MSc Sustainable Development in Practice*. Extract from her Masters dissertation looking at the role of community gardens in higher education, highlighting motivations behind attending community garden sessions and student perceived benefits.

Greenspace

We are very proud to announce that our woodland volunteering project, Greenspace, won the group award at the South Gloucestershire Council Chair’s Community Awards 2018. This is a great recognition of all the hard work from the student project leaders that have been running woodland activities for interested students. The project leader has been liaising with The Students’ Union staff,

volunteers and community groups to create positive environmental change. The award is also a celebration of all the time and effort given from our Greenspace session volunteers, who give up their time on weekends to improve Splatts and Sims Hill woodland. The Greenspace sessions have been continuing throughout Term 2, with students helping to install path improvements. This has allowed residents to more easily enjoy their local nature spot.

Gleaning Volunteering Project

The Students' Union at UWE have created an exciting new partnership this academic year with Feedback, an organisation tackling food waste all over the nation. We have supported them in our communications and meetings to create a new student group called UWE Green Team Gleaners. This group has channelled UWE volunteers to attend gleaning days organised by Feedback, with 8 volunteers taking part and helping to save over 1,000 portions of vegetables between September – November 2017.

As a follow on engagement event, Feedback hosted a UWE Disco Soup event at local community café, Café Connect, where volunteers helped prepare a fantastic food waste feast. There was a second Disco Soup event organized in December at The Cameron Centre in Lockleaze. This not only strengthens the links between UWE students and the community, but also gives students the opportunity to reimagine the culinary delights that can be achieved with 'food waste'.



The UWE Gleaning Network collaborated with students from Bristol University for the Gleaning Apprentice Challenge. This saw a friendly competition between the two universities to sell 300L of juice made from locally gleaned (5/11/17, 6/11/17, Barton Hill Settlement - 10/11/17, Gloucestershire Farm - 17/11/17), pressed and pasteurized (10/11/17) apples to raise money for Feedback. The result of this event was that 20L of apple juice was sold.

“The Green Team have been a great help to the West England Gleaning network, from inviting us to Green Gathering meetings and Bring Your Own Bowl events, to including shout outs for volunteers in newsletters, they've helped us recruit more students to get involved with our project. With the help of UWE students we have ran two surplus food 'Disco Soup' events, engaging the public with surplus food issues, with more than 30 people attending. We also Gleaned (saved from farms) more than 3 tonnes of fruit and vegetables during the autumn of 2017, around 20% of our volunteers were from UWE.” – **South West Gleaning Coordinator – Heather Mack**

Bring Your Own Bowl: Feel Good Special

The Green Team collaborated with the residences community project, HallsLife, to deliver another successful Bring Your Own Bowl event during the Feel Good February 2018 campaign. The group partnered with local supermarkets and food coops to secure a supply of surplus food, which they turned into two delicious curries. These dishes were served out to over 200 students at The Students' Union Bar, where volunteers engaged and educated students around local food waste issues. The event series has been a massive success in raising awareness and changing behaviours around food waste, with some headline stats included below:

- From Sep 2017 – March 2018, BYOB has increased student awareness around food waste issues by over **20%**
- From Sep 2017 – March 2018, BYOB has developed a culture where over **90%** of students feel encouraged to take action on food waste
- From Sep 2017 – March 2018, BYOB has developed a culture where over **70%** of students feel they have the opportunity to engage with others in their student community
- In 2017-2018 we have increased the student attendance at our BYOB events by 275%, with 611 students engaging in food waste issues.



Fairtrade Social – Coffee and Cake

As part of our International Women's Day celebrations, UWE Fairtrade hosted 'Fairtrade Social: Coffee and Cake' in collaboration with The Green Team, UWE Veg*n Society and UWE Vegan Staff Network. Beautiful vegan cakes and treats were made by the UWE Veg*n Society, including banana and chocolate loaf. The treats were made using Fairtrade sugar, chocolate and fruits, demonstrating how small changes can make our diets more sustainable for all. As people tucked into their free Fairtrade treats, we had a presentation from Urania Hernandez, a 36 year-old coffee farmer from the La Perla community in Nicaragua. Urania detailed how the purchase of Fairtrade products makes

a big difference to women's lives. With the sustainable model used by Fairtrade that cuts out the 'middle men', the workers in La Perla were able to collaborate and form a worker's cooperative which has minimum requirements for women's membership. Urania noted that Fairtrade also works with their community to empower more women to raise their own income through work in local industry. The event also had presentations from Vice President Community and Welfare, Sian Hampson, and from UWE Vegan Staff Network, on their work. The event was well attended, with over 40 people visiting to try the Fairtrade/vegan products and hear Urania speak. The audience was a healthy mix of staff from The Students' Union and UWE Bristol, with many students also attending.

Menstrual Cups: The New Period

This new innovative initiative at The Students' Union began in October 2017 when our Vice President Community & Welfare, Sian Hampson, was approached by a student, Jennifer Copeland, about moon cup safe bathrooms:

"I am going into my third year at UWE and, as I have started using a Moon Cup, I am not aware of any cup-safe bathrooms on campus where I can clean my cup. Depending on how many other women at the university use them, I thought it could be a good idea for some bathrooms to become cup-safe. I think more women should be encouraged to use them given the environmental and health benefits of them. But lack of cup-safe bathrooms doesn't make things seem easy for people thinking about using them.

I am an ambassador for 'clean your cup', and they identify cup-safe bathrooms in their various cities by sticking their logo sticker on the bathroom mirror and then map them on their website. They told me that there are certain criteria for a bathroom to be cup-safe, one being it must have a sink in the cubicle. So, the only cup-safe bathrooms at UWE I am aware of are disabled toilets. And, depending on how many cup users there are, or if the disabled toilets were identified as cup-safe, this could limit access for disabled users." – Jennifer Copeland

A meeting was arranged with Sian Hampson, Tessa Duell, President of the Feminist Society, and the National Faith and Identity Societies Coordinator, Marianna Mussett. Through this conversation we realised that we wanted to launch a much broader campaign to educate, empower and engage the UWE student body about the multiple benefits of menstrual cups. We felt it important to highlight the intersections about how menstrual cups are not just a safer and more affordable option but also more environmentally sustainable. We thought this was a great way to link feminist discourse with The Students' Union and UWE Bristol's sustainability agenda.

Sustainability Officer Engagement and Leadership

At the same time as this was developing, Amy Staff, The Students' Union Sustainability Officer, and Vicki Harris, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator at UWE, were working in conjunction to create 'The New Period' campaign, tied in with the wider Green Team campaign for the year #PlasticDetox. This campaign aimed to break down the taboos around menstruation in a creative, fun and engaging way on campus, whilst promoting the cost, health and environmental benefits of menstrual cups to students.

In order to design the most effective promotional materials, both Vicki and Amy, alongside Vicki's intern Maria Swierk, set out to survey students on 16 January about the main barriers preventing them from buying a menstrual cup. The main obstacles found included the initial investment, perceived messiness, safety and leaking risk. The posters were then designed to target these points,

as well as to address their positive environmental impact. The posters could then be strategically placed on the back of toilet doors. Please see poster designs attached.

This campaign drew inspiration from Hannah Short's successful pay-as-you-can sliding scale menstrual cup scheme as run at SOAS Students' Union. This was the only other example of a students' union undertaking a campaign of this nature that we could uncover. Students at SOAS have the option to pay £0-£12 for a cup, based on the understanding that paying the full amount will help to subsidise a cup for someone who might otherwise not be able to afford to purchase one. In November 2017, the scheme had been running for 3 weeks, with 24 cups sold in total. The initial idea was to use Change for Change funding to buy £500 worth of menstrual cups to replicate this idea at The Students' Union at UWE – with any money made being reinvested to buy more menstrual cups. However, this idea snowballed and it was decided that we wanted to give the chance for students' unions all over the country to stock menstrual cups in their shops. This resulted in The Students' Union at UWE successfully lobbying NUS to approve a supplier in January 2018; Lunette Cups have since been approved. This showed innovative lobbying and working in partnership to create a tangible result. It will also support sector wide change as all students' unions will have the ability to purchase from this supplier.

The idea of Change for Change funded menstrual cups in The Students' Union shops was not possible within our current retail structure due to space limitations within the shop. The Retail Manager was supportive and wanted to find a route forward, therefore we made a collaborative plan to create evidence of the level of student demand that would be required for the shop to permanently stock them in future. The Students' Union has since been tasked to find 150 students that would support the idea, and 75% of those (112 MAI's) that would buy one if they were available, this data will be collected in the Autumn Term through a survey. To increase the impact of this campaign to an international level, we are currently investigating lobbying the NUS to approve Ruby Cups as a supplier, as for every cup bought one will be given to a MAI in a country with no access to menstrual products.

Collaboration – partnership:

The intervention and campaign is the result of collective partnership working and being creative about getting relevant stakeholders involved.

A collaborative partnership formed, linking The Students' Union Green Team, The Green Team Coordinator, The Students' Union Sustainability Officer, UWE Sustainability Coordinator, Vicki Harris, and her intern, Maria. The Students' Union Liberations Campaign and International Women's Week coordinators, Marianna and Saharla, were also involved along with along with UWE Feminist Society and No More Taboo, a Bristol-based social enterprise aiming to tackle taboos around menstruation and sanitation.

No More Taboo:

Through a close partnership between The Students' Union, UWE Bristol, UWE Feminist Society and No More Taboo, our campaign emerged in a number of creative and innovative ways.

Launching our student engagement campaign at International Women's Week: The New Period

The inaugural launch events took place over International Women's Week from 4-10 March 2018. UWE Feminist Society hosted The Big Period Quiz at The Students' Union Bar, with questions that broke down myths about menstruation, highlighting different cultures attitudes towards menstruation and period poverty issues. In order to be as inclusive as possible all questions were framed using the term 'menstrually active individuals (MAI's)', rather than women. This was important because not all women menstruate, and we wanted to ensure we are trans and non-

binary inclusive. This event, which our Sustainability Officer, Amy, supported by baking and selling vegan vulva cupcakes (pictured), raised £99.62 in total for No More Taboo.



We built on this by hosting a stall with Amy and No More Taboo on campus on International Women's Day. This stall was successful in engaging with students in raising awareness about period poverty in Bristol and sustainable, ethical and reusable menstrual products. Amy gave out fake 'menstrual cup' tattoos as a platform to speak to students about the campaign – several men also showed their support by getting a tattoo and agreeing to tell their female friends about the stall. Interested students were able to scan their student card to subscribe to a mailing list and keep up to date with the campaign. A diverse range of students bought products and expressed the desire/need to be able to purchase products on campus, including students from the Malaysian and Somali Society. Any profit made from the products sold was reinvested into No More Taboo's current projects, including (but not limited to) giving vulnerable women access to reusable sanitary products. Several students expressed explicitly how access to reusable menstrual products are important to them from an environmental viewpoint, especially as MAI's use on average 11,000 pads and/or tampons in their lifetimes, and one pad can contain the equivalent of 4 plastic bags. A menstrual cup could therefore save approximately 44,000 plastic bags (per person) from ending up either in landfill or our oceans.

Others felt like they weren't ready to take that step yet but found that a lot of their original concerns and misconceptions had been cleared through their engagement with the stall.

To widen the impact of the campaign further, The Students' Union is currently in talks with No More Taboo to run a second stall at UWE's Bower Ashton Campus, as well as a 'Period Party' at Frenchay in the Autumn Term. The Period Party will serve to give attendees the opportunity to learn about the work of No More Taboo, sample and buy reusable menstrual products, as well as being able to ask questions during a group discussion.

Learnings on building a culture of sustainability in our organisation

(Moon cups- it was lunar-cy to think about!)

Our menstrual cups campaign has provided a great opportunity for internal development, regarding how we collaborate and work together to produce sustainable outcomes at The Students' Union. Originally, our campaign was requesting that The Students' Union stock menstrual cups, reasoning all of the welfare and environmental benefits that they bring. We were a little disappointed when this wasn't agreed straight away, however, after several meetings with shop staff about the finances (and associated monetary risk for our charity) of bringing new product lines in to stock, we learned that it is important to not only consider the classic 'environmental' view of sustainability, but to think more holistically about the potential impacts, including financial sustainability. From this, we can ensure we consider a full range of sustainability impacts (using the SDG's) in our campaigns to make sure that we have optimised the outcomes for our union and students (and the planet!).

Moving forwards: With our campaign still in motion, we will be embarking on the following to progress:

In the Autumn Term 2018-19, we will be delivering a series of engagement stalls, further educating students and raising awareness of the sustainability benefits of the cups. In line with the request from The Students' Union Shop to demonstrate demand through a data driven method, we will also be collecting signatures of students who would commit to buying a cup if we did stock them in our shop. This signature survey will also be available online, so we can have open participation from our members who have an online presence. This will all be in conjunction with the release of marketing materials, such as images to go on marketing screens around our buildings, produced in collaboration with The Students' Union Marketing department.

Sustainability Committee 2018-19 Election

On Tuesday 13 March, our Sustainability Officer (supported by the Green Team Coordinator) hosted the election event for the 2018-19 committee. Students voted in five committee members to fill the following positions:

- Education
- Energy
- Waste
- Water
- Portfolio Position

The Students' Union are currently still recruiting a few more potential members for the committee through online voting. After this process is complete, The Green Team will be sending out communications to all parties involved in the committee process letting them know the final roster,

along with contact details and next steps. Any positions that are left free after our online vote will be opened up in our October 2018 by-elections.

Plastic Detox

Our current Sustainability Committee has been busy planning and delivering their first ever large-scale campaign, Plastic Detox. The aim of the campaign is to empower students to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle more plastics for a positive environmental outcome. To raise awareness, the volunteer committee championed their own events and worked with project partners to put together a fortnight of innovative events to stimulate student minds and inspire change. Some highlights include:

- Plastic Detox Crafternoon – Students used upcycled plastic to fashion marine themed plastic decorations, to be used at a future Plastic Detox event.
- Stoke Park Spring Clean – Green UWE led a community clean-up day where students had the opportunity to take plastic action in their local area.
- Switch the Straw Stall – The committee and UWE Malaysian Society ran an engagement stall around plastic straws. They sold metal reusable straws and donated the funds raised to local charity, City to Sea.
 - At our Campaign stall with No More Taboo (Bristol Based charity supporting breaking taboos around menstrual cycles) during International Women’s Week, Amy Staff, Sustainability Officer, was approached by the Malaysian Society for help to raise awareness of reusable straws and the detrimental impact of single-use straws. This tied-in perfectly under our ‘packaging’ focus for Plastic Detox, as a result a campaign stall has been organised for the 19 April, to raise money for both City to Sea (Bristol based charity: www.citytosea.org.uk/) and a Malaysian sea turtle conservation centre
- Lock in: Plastic Detox Takeover – The committee organised a massive celebration of plastic free living in the form of a club night. Attendees were given plastic free party bags, which contained reusable metal straws, vouchers for plastic free stores in Bristol and biodegradable glitter. The decorations for the event were sourced from upcycled plastic, made at our crafternoon event.
- #LetsGetQuizzical: Plastic Detox Takeover – A special themed quiz event The Students’ Union Bar quizzed attendees on their environmental knowledge.

During the campaign, the committee were empowering students to sign the SU #PlasticDetox Pledge, consisting of three statements:

1. 'I personally pledge to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle more plastics'
2. 'I mandate The Students' Union to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle more plastics'
3. 'I mandate UWE to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle more plastics'

209 students have signed this pledge.

Our pledged students would like to ask the university to take meaningful and impactful action against plastics. What is UWE Bristol doing to reduce its plastic footprint and tackle single-use head on, both in the operation of UWE as well as within the curriculum? Is there an action plan on this with specific goals set? There have been concerning reports of students having to hand in physical copies of text documents inside plastic wallets. Students have also commented that lecturers are guiding students to burn coursework audio files onto a CD before handing in.

As part of our series of Plastic Detox campaign events, The Students' Union teamed up with multiple local partners to carry out successful interventions and raise awareness.

Prizes Supporting Plastic-Free Living (and local businesses):

In order to create a lasting impact, as part of the campaign we will be providing party bags to the first 50 entrants of the Lock In: Plastic Detox Takeover event on 21 April 2018, as well as a prize hamper for the winning team at the quiz on 22 April 2018. These will both serve to advocate plastic-free living and support businesses with the same mission (local where possible). We have received a 'naked cosmetics' donation from Lush Bristol, are in talks with EcoStrawz, a reusable straw company, to buy 70 stainless steel straws, and are working with EcoStardust, a biodegradable glitter company, to provide a glitter make-up artist for the Lock In event and prizes. Further to this, The Students' Union would like to promote UWE's fruit and veg stall, Scoopaway and Zero Green (Bristol's first zero-waste shop) by including flyers within the party bags and vouchers in the quiz hamper.

Student Matters To Discuss

Food Waste – Matter Raised by Sustainability Committee

It is understood by The Students' Union that UWE Bristol use Food Waste Disposers (FWD) to get rid of food waste on campus. These devices shred commercial food waste into small pieces that pass through the local sewer system.

1. Has a full **sustainability appraisal** (water, energy footprint, etc.) been made for using Food Waste Disposers (FWD) compared with disposal via the conventional waste stream? Or is it the case that this was the only alternative solution available to catering operations, as the conventional waste contractor has insufficient capacity at the current time?
1. Is this seen as a **long-term solution**, or will it resolve with a new waste contractor? And if so, when?
2. **What steps are in place to avoid or minimise** food waste in the first place? (Waste hierarchy = avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery, disposal).
3. How does Wessex Water deal with shredded food produced from UWE in the water? Is it used for energy generation?
4. **How much** food waste (weight, proportion of total food waste stream) is disposed via the FWD/sewer?
5. How much **extra water** does the FWD route require (FWDs use water to flush the waste through the pipes)?
6. Is **Wessex Water aware** of this practice? Are there any implications to UWE's wastewater charges (e.g. trade effluent?) or does Wessex Water view this as extra resource for the biogas facility?

Illuminated Poster Boards and Screens

As part of Green Impact, we looked at our illuminated poster display boards and public TV screens. There are approximately 500 illuminated poster display boards across 80 students' unions. Assuming they are left on overnight and at weekends, these boards will collectively use around £22,000 of energy each year, resulting in around 120 tonnes of [carbon dioxide] being emitted annually. If the display boards are managed by an external provider, you should have an arrangement in place to

understand how to best manage these to prevent electricity wastage. For higher points, this could also relate to those across campus and managed by your university.

The Students' Union at UWE's digital screens in 2016-17 operated from 07:00 – 21:00 seven days a week, due to the longer hours that the building was being occupied.

In 2017-18 we took the sustainable decision to change these hours and instead operate from 08:30 – 18:00 (reducing by 4.5 hours per day, 22.5 hours per week), and we are looking to further reduce this to 09:00 – 17:30 at our next update cycle at the end of June 2018. They are also now turned off during the weekends, which is an additional saving of 28 hours per week.

Please find below our energy saving conversion, quantifying the saving and making it relatable for our members and staff team.

Compared to our old timings, running 1 year of the new system saves 1528 kWh of electricity.

How many times could you boil a kettle (equivalent) - 1 year	
Old screen timings	18736 boiled kettles
New Screen Timings	9081 boiled kettles
Reduction per year (our savings)	9655 boiled kettles

Due to our findings, we engaged numerous UWE colleagues to ascertain who was responsible for similar timings on the university's side. After much discussions, we were put in touch with Scott Lowson who informed us that the digital screens are controlled centrally by our team in Facilities technologies. In addition, the light boxes are left on and not fitted with timers. We were informed that an electrician could fit them if a works request was raised.

Is this element of the campus covered by ISO14401, how can UWE take The Students' Union as an example to drive forward similar practises?

Onezone Vegan Milk – Megan Glynne presenting in person

- Student feedback was raised through a HAS Departmental Committee in December 2017.
- It was general consensus that access to vegan milk in the Onezone canteen was limited. In terms of both waiting times and variety (only Soya milk was and still is available).
- Students were required to queue at the kitchen and request milk on an individual basis.
- There was a general feeling of this being an inconvenience, particularly when rushing to lectures.
- Students questioned why this is the case, when other UWE outlets provide vegan & dairy free alternatives.

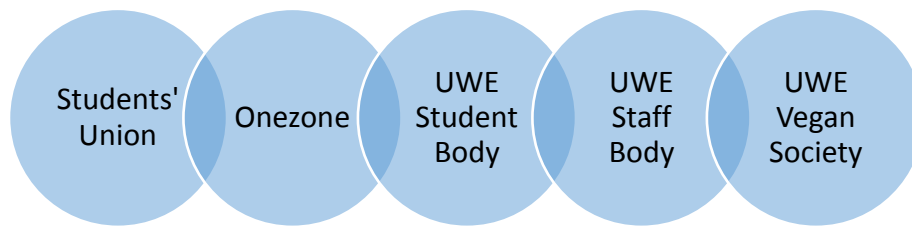
STAKEHOLDERS:

HAS - Health and Social Science (HSS)

MG - Megan Glynne, Lead Department Rep for HSS

MC - Matthew Carr, Executive Head Chef

POS - Point of Sale



MILK TRIAL 1

- In December 2017, MG liaised directly with MC, Executive Chef at Onezone.
- In January 2018, MC agreed to a month long trial, during which he would monitor usage.
- After this trial, MC reported that Onezone were wasting up to 1 litre of soya milk a week, with students using 20% of what was provided.
- Despite this, MC agreed to implement a second trial until the end of May.

MILK TRIAL 2

- MC again reported that Onezone are wasting over a litre of soya milk each week.
- There has now been discussion on whether to scale back this trial. Replacing the fresh milk with substitute pots, offered at POS. This brings us back to the original issue.
- After liaising with MC on this issue, he remains open to other suggestions as long as they are sustainable.

THE STUDENTS' UNION PROPOSAL

- Access to fresh vegan milk at the point of self-service as per the original feedback and as per the model at the Atrium Café.
- This is sustainable if we reduce the volume of milk purchased. For example, 500ml per week, as opposed to 1 litre.

500ml Cartoons are available from the following retail outlets:

- *Daily Bread Co-Operative*- <https://www.dailybread.co.uk/products-listing/product/provamel-organic-soya-milk-unsweetened-500ml>
- *Ocado*- <https://www.ocado.com/webshop/product/Alpro-Longlife-Organic-Soya-Milk-Alternative/57365011>
- *Natural Grocery.co.uk*- <https://www.naturalgrocery.co.uk/Drink/milk-milk-alternatives/provamel-unsweetened-soya-milk-organic-500ml>

WHY THIS PROPOSAL IS NECESSARY

- To ensure UWE embody their core values of equality and diversity, in particular 'access for all'.
- To accommodate student dietary requirements in a way that is convenient for the student.
- To ensure consistency in food outlets across our five campuses.

Plastics – What Can We Do to Showcase Our Values?

Academic Hand-ins

Students from the UWE Broadcasting course approached The Students' Union to discuss that all their broadcasting hand-ins (for things like audio) are on plastic CDs. They say there are around 60 students on their course so for each hand in there are 60 CDs being used. In our digital age, there are

viable alternatives. I have also heard that particular academics for this course insist that they hand in their work in plastic wallets.

Coffee Cups - #noexcuseforsingleuse

<http://bostonteparty.co.uk/blog/post.php?s=2018-04-23-boston-tea-party-bans-single-use-coffee-cups>

Only 1 in 400 (0.25%) of the estimated 2.5 billion plastic coated coffee cups used in the UK each year are recycled and 4%, approximately 500,000, are littered every day. The rest (95.75%) go into landfill. Many compostable alternatives also end up in landfill as there aren't enough accessible facilities in the UK to compost them.

So the simple, unavoidable truth is that the only truly ethical solution is a reusable cup instead of a single-use one.

From 1 June 2018, Boston Tea Party (BTP) are banning disposable coffee cups in their cafes.

BTP have switched their plastic water bottles to glass ones from the brilliant Bristol-based Frank Water. They made the brave decision to stop selling any water in plastic bottles last year, resulting in a 35% reduction in their sales over night. Hearing that, BTP gave them their business. At present, The Student's Union are working with NUSSL and NUS to enable us to pursue different meal deal and purchasing options. There are not the same restrictions for UWE.

How can UWE take forward its pledge for an eco-campus, through its outlets and curriculum?