

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

April 2019

The logo for The Students' Union at UWE is a white triangle pointing downwards, containing the text 'THE STUDENTS' UNION' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'AT UWE' in a smaller font below it.

**THE STUDENTS'
UNION**
AT UWE

SUSTAINABILITY 2030

The Students' Union are actively engaging in UWE 2030 consultation and in engagement activity around the Sustainability 2030 strategy.

Our Sustainability Committee has constructed their vision for UWE 2030, endorsed by all active Presidents at The Students' Union. Please find this document attached as an appendix.

NUS GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION

The Students' Union are working hard towards our NUS Green Impact accreditation submission deadline, 20 April 2019. We would like to thank your UWE partners for their support of the submission. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of our audit in the next Sustainability Board.

FARITRADE AWARD WIN!

We are delighted to announce that The Students' Union and UWE Bristol have won three awards at the 2019 South West Fairtrade Business Awards. The awards, which are now in their seventh year, celebrate organisations which are leading the way, in championing Fairtrade in the workplace.



The awards require organisations from the South West to submit an application, detailing how they support Fairtrade in their workplace. A panel of judges then assess the entries and decide whether a bronze, silver or gold level has been reached.

The Students' Union and UWE Bristol have been consistent winners at the awards and 2019 was no exception. The results were announced Friday 8 March and we are pleased to have won the below awards:

- Full of Beans Coffee Cart, which is jointly run by UWE Bristol and The Students' Union at UWE, was the outright winner in the category Best Fairtrade Cafe or Restaurant. Phaz Cafe also received a gold award in this category.
- UWE Bristol won a gold award, (jointly with Bath University) for its work in embedding Fairtrade across the board.

All three awards are welcome recognition that The Students' Union and UWE Bristol are consistently going the extra mile to put ethical trade at the heart of their organisation. The success represents the commitment, time and effort of staff and students. We would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work. We look forward to next years' awards and building upon this success.

NUS RESPONSIBLE FUTURES ACCREDITATION

NUS are looking to introduce the concept of 'Host Partnerships' in the 2019/20 academic year. The concept is that 'Host Partnerships' would nominate themselves to be a learning space for others across the cohort during the academic year and would benefit from being recognised for their leadership across the sector. We have submitted a proposal to NUS for receiving host status.

The partnership is currently focusing on gathering evidence for our submission in May 2019.

NUS Teach In Results: February 2019, overall 206 educators at 19 institutions pledged reached 17,521 students. Thank you to all who pledged and supported this initiative.

| Leaderboard (% students reached) | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1st Place | University of Exeter |
| 2nd Place | De Montfort University |
| 3rd Place | Canterbury Christ Church |
| | |
| Leaderboard (number of teaching staff pledged) | |
| 1st Place | University of Exeter |
| 2nd Place | UWE, Bristol |

3rd Place

Canterbury Christ Church

And the overall breakdown is:

| Organisation Name | Academics pledged | Students reached | % Students reached |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| University of Exeter | 38 | 3268 | 15.081% |
| UWE, Bristol | 32 | 2581 | 9.314% |
| Canterbury Christ Church | 31 | 1725 | 10.677% |
| De Montfort University | 25 | 2964 | 14.178% |
| Imperial College of London | 21 | 1200 | 7.225% |
| Ulster University | 17 | 671 | 2.667% |
| Nottingham Trent | 12 | 1089 | 3.900% |
| Worcester | 10 | 363 | 3.472% |
| Bournemouth University | 6 | 380 | 1.995% |
| University of Southampton | 4 | 672 | 2.922% |
| Oxford Brookes | 2 | 174 | 0.975% |
| Coventry University | 1 | 394 | 1.339% |
| Leeds University | 1 | 1400 | 4.405% |
| Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Ireland | 1 | 40 | 1.333% |
| Loyola University Chicago | 1 | 30 | 0.183% |
| University of Northampton | 1 | 90 | 0.693% |
| University of Nottingham, Malaysia | 1 | 60 | 1.200% |
| University of Portsmouth | 1 | 120 | 0.544% |
| University of Salford | 1 | 300 | 1.462% |

Student Experience Awards: The Teaching for Sustainable Development Award: Svetlana Cicmil – FBL. Congratulations!

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/thesuatuwe/Student-Experience-Awards-2019-Award-Winners/>

WELCOME EVENTS PLANNING

Thank you to Paul Roberts and Louise Finch for facilitating a workshop for The SU on building sustainable practises into our events programme. We explored Welcome as an opportunity to scope out new ways of reducing our negative environmental impact and increasing student awareness of the agenda. From this workshop, we will create an events toolkit/checklist for all staff members to consider when planning events to enable more conscientious decision-making.

EAUC CONFERENCE – INFLUENCE!

Amy Staff, current Community Assistant (Green team) will be presenting alongside Prof. Jim Longhurst at EAUC Conference in June on Palm Oil. Rachel Colley (Community Manager) is also presenting on creating evidence based behaviour change interventions, based on our Green Gown Student Engagement award.

The Students' Union was invited to participate in an EAUC webinar event on "Working with Your Students' Union". Rachel presented on behalf of the SU our journey to date and shared our experience of building successful partnerships. The webinar was receive very positively, with good feedback and many Universities getting in touch afterwards to keep the dialogue going.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN - #PlantBasedPlanet

The Students; Union are keenly aware that meat and dairy production come along with a high carbon footprint. Studies carried out at The University of Oxford indicate that by switching to a plant-based diet, an individual can reduce their carbon footprint from food by more than 70%. In response to this global concern, students on The Sustainability Committee at The Students' Union at UWE decided to do something about it. Between January 2019 to March 2019, the committee researched, planned, organised, and ran our campaign called #PlantBasedPlanet all whilst engaging fellow students and embedding changes across the university, starting right at The Students' Union.

- The Sustainability Committee carried out a campaign called #PlantBasedPlanet in March 2019, engaging approximately 650 students across a series of events and raising enough funds to plant more than 60 trees for charity of choice, The Converging World
- The campaign was selected in response to need/want/desire to reduce carbon footprint from food at UWE
- University of Manchester Students' Union contacted by Sustainability Officer to gather sales data for their Meatless Monday promotion in order to assess feasibility of carrying it out at UWE

- At University of Manchester, food transactions increase by anywhere from 150% - 300% during their Meatless Monday promotion, in which vegan and vegetarian menu items are offered half price
 - Overall profit increases by 20% on Mondays
- The Sustainability Committee conducts market research at The Vegan and Vegetarian Fair during Feel Good February and at Bring Your Own Bowl to assess if there is a student demand for more accessible vegan and vegetarian food on campus– engaging nearly 200 students
- 90% of students who took our market research survey stated that they would take part in Meatless Monday on campus
- When asked about priorities for deciding on meals, 71% said that cost played a factor.
- The Students' Union bar manager Paul Dingley agrees to collaborate with the Sustainability Committee by supporting two pilot Meatless Monday offers at the Students' Union Bar by offering select vegan and vegetarian menu items at a 50% discount.
 - This allows The Students' Union to bring down the price, making these foods more accessible and inclusive for all students
- A fortnight of events is created by the Sustainability Committee and spans from 18 March to 30 March.
 - 18 March: Meatless Monday at The Students' Union Bar
 - 24 March: Pub Quiz for the Planet at The Students' Union Bar
 - 25 March: Meatless Monday at The Students' Union Bar
 - 25 March: Debating Society Vegan vs Meat diet debate
 - 27 March: VegWay Sandwich Giveaway outside X Block
 - 30 March: Lock-In at The Students' Union Bar
- Meatless Monday promotion at the bar is retweeted by Meat Free Monday organisation, Paul McCartney's charity.



- Meat Free Monday charity to be running an article on The Students' Union describing the campaign
- Outcomes of campaign include
 - raising the first £200 on the £22,500 goal to go towards replanting a tree the size of UWE for The Converging World
 - Establishing a connection with Meat Free Monday charity
 - Sustainability Committee eager to persuade the continuation of Meatless Mondays on campus at any capacity.

THE CONVERGING WORLD PARTNERSHIP (TCW)

TCW is a Bristol based charity that supports reforestation to offset carbon, renewable energies, empowerment and education of women in India, and environmental restoration.

[The Forest the Size of Anywhere](#) was designed by two UWE students in 2018. The campaign aims to Support UWE to be the first UK university to go carbon neutral by planting a 'Forest the Size of UWE' and to lead the way for other universities to go carbon neutral by planting trees in the tropics. The Students' Union are excited to be co-creating an additional campaign with UWE and TCW. We are delighted that The Wallscourt Foundation has agreed to provide an initial campaign budget and match fund donations made up to £22,500

To "plant a forest the size of UWE" each staff member and student would need to contribute £6.54 (Each sapling costs £3.27 to plant. We are aiming to reach this target in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Campaign Plan:

- CEO of The Converging World, Wendy Stephenson to speak at The Green Team's next Green Gathering on to provide background information and gather student feedback/interest
- Students to come up with key aims and ideas of how to maximise student engagement at UWE for the campaign
- A stall for the TFTSOA to be set up at UWE Welcome Fair 2019 which will provide background information. Campaign to begin taking donations for trees at this point in order for incoming students to offset carbon footprint.
- TCW to put together a "sustainability welcome pack" at Welcome Fair and provide an option to offset carbon footprint for the year by accepting donations
- Digital marketing with content on how to reduce carbon footprint to be developed to be displayed on screens around campus
- A large scale event to be developed during The Green Team's "Big Green Week" in October 2019.
- UWE to twin with a University in India on this campaign to promote the global importance of carbon offsetting and promote idea sharing
- Campaign will aim to offer an optional "tree tax" on select POS items at The SU and UWE.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACT PANEL

The Students' Union at Uwe is working with NUS to coordinate a panel discussion on the upcoming Environmental Act.

- The National Union of Students (NUS) is hosting a series of talks around the country to discuss the upcoming Environmental Act, the first piece of environmental legislation that plans to go beyond the status quo of addressing harm reduction to the environment by setting objectives for regeneration.
- The Students' Union at UWE will be hosting a panel to discuss the Environmental Act on Thursday 16 May from 18:30-20:30.

- Panellists will include a local politician, a speaker from WWF or The Wildlife Trust, the Student Sustainability Officer at The Students' Union at UWE, and a local stakeholder and/or academic from UWE.

EXTINCTION REBELLION

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is an international social movement that aims to drive radical change through nonviolent resistance, in order to avert climate breakdown, halt biodiversity loss and minimise the risk of human extinction an ecological collapse. Associate Lecturer Stephen Haynes and MA Radio Documentary student Phil Sansom have hosted three talks at both Frenchay and Bower Ashton campuses, signposting ways to get involved in taking action in reversing effects of climate change.

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/15570/Five-Tips-for-Getting-Involved-in-Climate-Action/>

PERIOD POVERTY

Two Students' Union staff members took part in No More Taboo's half day Period Poverty Training. The training allowed staff to develop their knowledge of menstrual poverty and how to tackle this major issue within the SU as a workplace. The training highlighted the major sustainability issue of single use menstrual products and the associated costs for menstruating people. It opened my eyes to the need for inclusive language i.e. people who menstruate versus women who menstruate and the need to provide sanitary bins in male or gender neutral toilets to ensure everyone can use our facilities.

Following on from the training we are currently carrying out a Period Friendly Workplace Assessment which will investigate the areas we as an organisation need to work on. The assessment will look at and rate our efforts to become a period friendly and sustainable workplace and will see us examine our HR policies and induction relating to raising awareness to new starters and current staff on menstrual waste. As a department we would like to examine and discuss how we can improve access to cost friendly sustainably friendly reusable menstruation products to both staff and students. We aim to include non-menstruating people by training and empowering them to feel comfortable and confident in discussing periods to both fellow staff and students specifically around more sustainable reusable menstrual products.

CUT ENERGY WASTE AND POCKET THE SAVINGS

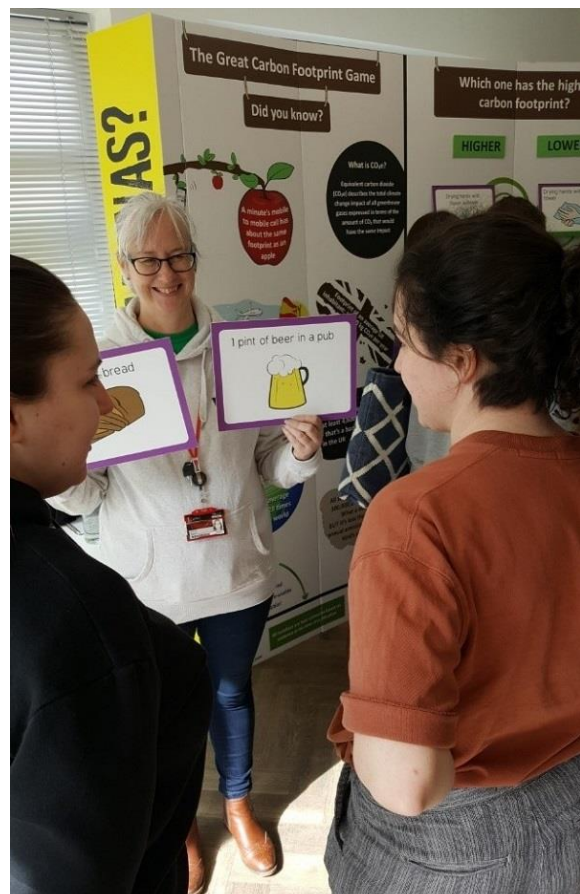
100 students attended the Accommodation Energy Event on Wednesday 3 April, a new event brought to you by HallsLife and UWE Accommodation. The event taking place in Wallscourt Common Room helped to showcase everyday environmentally friendly practices and sustainable energy usage for our students getting ready to move into rented accommodation

It can be easy to lose sight of how our day to day habits impact the environment, and even harder to change these practices into more sustainable ones if we don't know how! That is why HallsLife and UWE Accommodation put together fun and interactive ways to educate attendees how to be the most eco-friendly versions of themselves.

When asked why being sustainable was important, Accounting and Finance Student Min Min Koh said, "It is important to me to reduce my carbon impact because I want to limit damage to the environment."

Interactive activities included the famous "How Bad Are Bananas Game" in which everyday items, like 1 pint of beer vs 1 loaf of bread, are measured up against one another in terms of carbon footprint. This game is a great informational tool that uncovers some surprising facts about the carbon impact of frequently encountered items in our everyday lives. Plus, the expert team of students facilitating the game passed on some great tips for sustainable alternatives to the carbon-heavier things featured in the game.

Students were also given the opportunity to learn about the benefits of a plant-based diet and make delicious smoothies on The Green Team's smoothie bike! Did you know that you can reduce your food-based carbon footprint by up to 70% if you switch to a plant-based diet? #themoreyouknow! When asked why thinking twice about sustainability was important, student Valle Borjabad said, "Energy efficiency is important, because it benefits the environment - It is where you live, so it is important to take care of."



Appendix:

What will UWE in 2030 Look Like?

Our Vision for UWE by The Students' Union Sustainability Committee and Students' Union at UWE Executive

In a decades time Bristol Council's target to reach carbon neutral will be reaching maturity and in alignment with this we believe that UWE should aim to be carbon neutral by this time. While the means of calculating carbon footprints may vary, the effort of reducing carbon emission is always a positive, and the University should strive to pioneer the higher education sector into new ways of working, living and educating.

Below are a few key areas of importance with associated targets and ideas for implementation in the movement towards a more circular university.

Food

- As the impact of meat consumption becomes more readily understood, the **intake of meat will decrease** in the years to come. By **2030 all meat sourced for preparation and sale across campuses will be locally, ethically sourced, organic and pasture-fed**. The same ethic will be held for fish, dairy and organic vegetables. 70% of the food sold on campus will be vegan or vegetarian.
- An onsite **zero-waste shop** for halls students to buy a variety of products to be transported in reusable packaging. Ideal for both staples such as pasta, rice and oats, as well as soaps, shampoos and detergents and more.

Community/Social

- We envision a student culture, which is embedded in **conscious use of resources** and materials, guided by both the **student's introduction to university life and their education here**. Before and upon arrival they will be aware of the sustainable practices and features of UWE and any promotional giveaways will be consistent with sustainable lifestyle expectations (e.g. Re-useable bags, water bottles and mugs).
- Throughout their time here **course programs will have been integrated into a wider understanding of what sustainability is for that topic** and sustainability will be embedded into the informal curriculum such as that offered by clubs and societies.
- Creation of an on campus "milkman" system where students in halls can pay to get staples such as milk and cereals delivered in reusable containers weekly, with empty containers being swapped for full containers.
- A **sustainable independent living module/workshop/induction for all first years**, to help them learn and understand how to reduce energy consumption and water wastage (and save money), while again creating a level, raised field of knowledge among the students regarding sustainable living, creating an aware, conscious use of resources.
- **More active outdoor areas**; covered, sheltered spaces that encourage interaction with the outdoors and the **biodiversity that will have flourished** over the coming

decade. And active community garden as a place to connect with the earth and learn how to grow and nurture plants

Energy/Technology

- By 2030 all rooms throughout campuses will have been fitted with **motion sensors and low energy bulbs**, 100% recycled paper used for printing across all campuses.
- IT Services to monitor sustainability, continuously make, and meet commitments following a model based on the UK HM Greening Government Model.
- UWE could be producing more of its own energy and biogas through an onsite bio-digester. The university produce tonnes of waste daily that could be transformed into energy for both a learning case study and showcase technology.
- Monthly statements (or bills) of energy and water consumption in university accommodation will be provided at household/flat level, to make their resource consumption more visible and nudge them towards more efficient habits as they transition to fully independent and responsible citizens.

Water

- Whilst it is vital to take the necessary steps to be carbon neutral to mitigate for the worst impacts of a changing climate, our staff and students will also need to adapt to life with inevitable weather extremes, resulting in more floods and droughts.
- **Improved signage** (on the back of toilet closet doors) will be used to raise awareness and educate through subliminal messaging, how to identify and report leaking taps and toilets to efficient fixes.
- **Onsite rainwater and greywater systems for flushing toilets or recycling and filtration**, and water efficient fixtures (taps, toilets and showers) will be fitted as standard across the UWE estate.
- At university owned residential accommodation welcome events and continuing advice will make residents aware that fixtures are only part of the solution to water shortages, and how they consume resources is just as important.

Finance

- As fossil fuels are phased out in the next ten years, their reliance upon become a greater burden. They are a stranded asset and as such a complete divestment from the 3 big 'dirty' banks who invest millions in fossil fuels is advocated. A **transition to more transparent, ethical and positively impactful banks should be favoured** such as Triodos.
- An **ethical finance policy** to guide the process of divestment and for future-proofing UWEs finances would help divert money in banks from negative industries to investment into renewable technologies and projects.
- **Direct investment into local renewable/alternative energy projects** for both research and capital. A budget allowance to contribute to reforestation programs, in aid of both the communities there, the air we breathe, and the emission offset in the past and present.

These are but a few of the possibilities, and we hope that they are all considered seriously, as the matter at hand is the most serious of them all.

As a university we stand as a model of society and by growing into a resilient organism that has adapted to its changing environment by minimising its impact and emissions we can pioneer the way for the students, the staff, other universities, Bristol and the wider world alike.

Signed,

Ciaran Gutteridge - *Chair*

Curzio Potenza - *Vice Chair*

Jacob French - *IT*

Karen Simpson - *Water*

Bennita Ciu - *Waste*

Richard Emerson - *Campus Development*

Julianna Munoz - *Portfolio*

Alfie Dickens - *Portfolio*

Anna Heywood - *Education*

Sarah Parker - *Energy*

Maya Loaiza - *Engagement*

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