

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

January 2020

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

Vanique Kruger, is The Students' Union at UWE's 2020/21 Sustainability Officer. She is a second year Education student.

Recently Vanique has been working on:

- Meeting with The Students' Union's Finance Manager (Michael Blades) and Jim Longhurst to understand sustainable banking and divestment further. Vanique will be working with them, and William Liew (UWE's Chief Financial Officer) to produce a statement detailing UWE's current position on divestment to students. Given UWE currently do not have any direct investment in fossil fuel companies, there are positives which, at present are not communicated to students.
- Creating a recipe card for students living on campus, with all the ingredients being found in The Students' Union shop on campus. She plans to use the recipe card to also promote our zero waste shop, and encourage students to buy their rice/pasta package-free.

Environmental Racism Workshop

The Sustainability Committee, Sustainability Department Reps, Part-Time Officers and our Presidents took part in an Environmental Racism workshop in December. We commissioned Minds of POC, an external organisation, to run this as part of our ongoing commitment to intersectional sustainability and embedding sustainability into our Liberation campaigns.

The committee and sustainability reps are receiving campaign training in January, run by SOS-UK/NUS (Students Organising for Sustainability), to equip them with the knowledge and skills to run their own campaign in March.

Postgraduate Sustainability Committee

For new students starting this January, we have the opportunity for them to [join the sustainability committee](#). We will work to integrate the new students as much as possible with the existing committee. Please promote this opportunity to any new students you have contact with.

Veganuary

Currently the committee are working on some social media content for Veganuary. This includes easy recipe ideas and a competition with the opportunity to win a voucher for a vegan product of their choice. They are also discussing a collaboration with the Geography Society and the Veg Society to produce short recipe videos also.

Our Residences Communities Coordinator has also been running and Veganuary cooking competition for those living in halls through the HallsLife programme, and our Marketing Department have also [written a Veganuary blog](#).



GREENER FUTURES

Greener Futures is our sustainability competition for sports clubs and societies. Students submit evidence of completing sustainability challenges to a Facebook group. The group who gets the most points over the year, receives £200 in funding.

We are currently running a mid-year competition, with extra funding for the group who gets the most points within the next month. This has already seen a lot of success, with students submitting fantastic sustainability actions (pictures below, including someone who is making their own vegan leather in the photo of the left!).



SEMESTER 2 PLANS

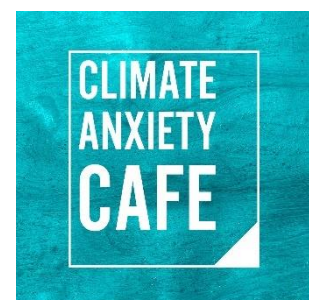
Green Gatherings

The Green Team will run regular Green Gatherings throughout the semester. These will give students the opportunity to chat to others in relaxed online space.

Feel Good February

The Green Team will be contributing to Feel Good February with the following events.

- [Climate Anxiety café](#) (for Relax theme)
 - Student session: Thursday 4th February, 16:30 – 17:30
 - Staff session: Thursday 11th February, 12:00 -13:00
 - These sessions will be jointly run by Leah Bromley (Students' Union Student Sustainability Coordinator) and Vicki Harris (UWE Sustainability)
- Sustainable Period Product workshop (for Try Something New Theme)
 - W/c 8 February
 - Alongside this workshop, we are also giving Part-Time Officers, members of the Sustainability Committee, as well as other involved students the chance to try a sustainable period product of their choice. Those who try one will produce blogs and vlogs about their experience, which we can communicate back to students. This way students can read honest reviews from peers.



THE STUDENTS' UNION SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Focus groups/Strategic Plan

Rachel Colley (Community Manager) and Leah Bromley are working closely with the Presidents and student groups to create a Students' Union sustainability strategic plan this semester. Please see our December board report for details on this.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be running focus groups with the Sustainability Committee, Sustainability Department Reps, our Presidents and Part-Time Officers, as well as with groups from the wider student body. We will ensure to reach out to our liberation groups to ensure we have a diverse range of students shaping the vision.

We welcome comments from the Sustainability Board on this as we plan and draft this work. We will also aim to map our work both against the SDGs and UWE Bristol's 2030 strategy.

Sustainability Pledge

At the beginning of the 2020/21 academic year we ran a student sustainability survey. In this, we asked students to make a pledge about how they were going to live more sustainably this year. We recently sent them a follow-up email to see how they've been getting on. Overall, the responses have been really positive, with many students make sustainable changes. Here's a flavour of the responses we've received:

"I am making a lot of my own meals from fresh produce and refrain from buying fruits and vegetables wrapped in plastic. My red meat intake is greatly reduced to roughly once every two weeks at most. Before it was multiple times a week."

"I have only made small changes towards this pledge, primarily in the form of having a weekly veg box delivered from a farm south of Bristol and making sure to use it all (also topping up on more veg when it runs out) and in turn reducing the amount of meat and dairy I have been eating."

"I have enjoyed nature more and have gone for walks more often! I have only shopped ethically or on Depop/Ebay for clothes, and I've not bought as much makeup and when I have it's been vegan and cruelty-free!"