

# SUSTAINABILITY EXECUTIVE REPORT

November 2024

The logo for The Students' Union at UWE is a white triangle pointing downwards, containing the text 'THE STUDENTS' UNION AT UWE' in red. The background of the entire page is a red geometric pattern of overlapping triangles.

**THE STUDENTS'  
UNION**  
AT UWE

## GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION

New criteria has been released for our 2024/25 annual Green Impact Students' Unions (GISU) accreditation and we have started our planning sessions. Please note that the submission deadline has moved a month earlier and is now 04/04/2025. We look forward to involving all key stakeholders in this work as it progresses and will update in due course.

## RESPONSIBLE FUTURES ACCREDITATION

The partnership will be going out for the biannual Responsible Futures accreditation with SOS-UK to be audited 2024/25.

[Responsible Futures | SOS-UK](#)

Responsible Futures is a whole-institution approach to embedding social responsibility and sustainability across the formal and informal curriculum across both HE and FE. It is a supported change programme and accreditation mark that works to put sustainability at the heart of education.

This year we will also be a host partnership for a student online conference in April 2025.



## SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

The new Sustainability Officer, Ashlynn, has been elected in the By-Elections October 2024.

Manifesto:

Future Should Thrive, Not Just Survive!

Hey UWE! I'm Ashlynn, the proud winner of the Sustainability Scholarship, and I'm excited to run for your Sustainability Officer! Here's my plan to make our campus greener and more fun for everyone:

- **Let's Chat!**: I'll hold casual GOATing sessions where you can share your thoughts on sustainability. Your ideas will help shape our green initiatives!
- **Team Up for Fun**: I'll team up with The Green Team and cool societies to organize awesome events like recycling competitions, quizzes, lucky draws, fairs, and fun workshops on living sustainably.
- **Build Our Green Community**: I'll work to create a fun, inclusive group of sustainability advocates. We'll inspire each other through tips, events, challenges, and social media campaigns.
- **Make Sustainable Choices Easy**: I'll push for more locally sourced food options in the cafes and affordable yet sustainable products in the SU shop.

- **Get Involved!**: I'll encourage all of you to participate in The Students' Union's activities and decision-making. Your voice matters! Like really!

We are looking forward to working with Ashlynn alongside the new elected Student Sustainability Committee on their campaign.

## GREEN FORTNIGHT 2024



Our Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator has been working with UWE's Sustainability Team, in particular, Vicki Harris, to celebrate a fortnight of green action and sustainability across the University. Green Fortnight will run from 28 October - 10 November 2024.

This year's highlights of Green Fortnight are a planet-friendly Bat Decoration Craft Session on Frenchay Campus, Climate Convos and Crafts at Bower Ashton Campus as well as a Sustainable Paper Making Class and a Charity Shop Crawl introducing students to the benefits of local sustainable fashion.

Please see the full list of events and activity here [Green Fortnight](#)

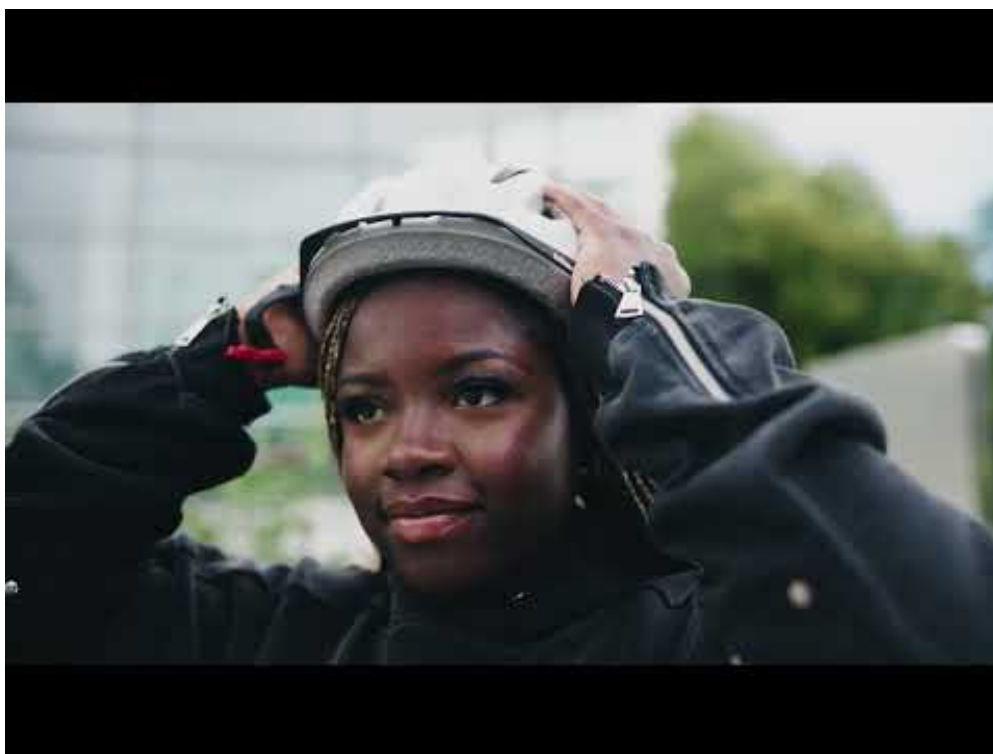
## WELCOME 2024

The Students' Union had an incredibly successful welcome period with a wide range of sustainability-themed events in the programme. The Green team had a smoothie bike and stall at all three Welcome Fairs, where students could learn how they can get involved with sustainable activity at UWE. The smoothie bike worked well in attracting students to the stall. Successful events from last year ran again, such as a charity shop crawl, our community garden sessions and our bulb planting sessions. A PhD student, Jelena, has started up an environmental film series where she facilitates discussion after the film, and we showcased her event during the welcome, with the aim to encourage attendance throughout the year. The Sustainability Committee hosted a BBQ in the Community Garden at Frenchay Campus to turn on the fairy lights they added to the space to make it feel more welcoming and inclusive. We also had our Sustainable Periods Stall at our Welcome Fairs, as well as pop ups throughout welcome to advertise the sustainable periods trial to ensure

new students know they can get a free reusable menstrual product from their Students' Union. Around 572 students got involved with our Green Team Welcome events this year.

## SUSTAINABILITY INDUCTION VIDEO 2024

The [new introduction to sustainability video](#) has been released for 2024/25 to introduce new and returning students to sustainability here at UWE Bristol. This video was disseminated to Programme Leaders via the Starting Block design guide and through social media.



## SUSTAINABLE STUDENT UNION'S CHARTER

In line with our commitment to sustainability, The Students' Union's Commercial Services Team have signed up to the [Sustainable SU's Charter](#), a collaboration between several Students' Unions, NUS and SOS-UK.

The aim of the Charter is to unite Students' Union's in fostering sustainable practices aligned with an ambition to deliver choice, nutrition and affordable food service and retail solutions within a modelled Net Zero plan, promoting education and awareness, adopting sustainable practices, offering sustainable food and beverage options and measuring and reporting on progress.

The Charter is underpinned by 12 commitments, some of which have been completed or progressed already through our sustainability work over the last couple of years, including promotion of vegetarian and vegan options, equal pricing for plant-based alternatives, reduction of single-use packaging, and supporting a transition to sustainable clothing supply.

Work has also started on several other commitments. We have pledged to accurately measure and publish our scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions and recently completed the initial data gathering as part of the project with Energise, a net zero consultant. We have our first meeting as a group next week, to discuss the findings and start to formulate an agreed carbon reduction strategy.

Work is also underway on our commitment to publish carbon labelling information on our menu in Union 2, having recently met with Klimato for on-boarding to their online toolkit for recipe creation. Once work is complete, students will be able to make informed choices based on a simple labelling system.

## STUDENTS' UNION BIKE LOAN SCHEME

The Bike Loan Scheme, an initiative led by the Commercial Services Team at The Students' Union, continues to provide a sustainable and affordable transport solution for students and staff. Now in its 2024/2025 cycle, the scheme has evolved from previous years, offering participants a free, year-long bike loan in exchange for a refundable deposit.

### Current Status:

- **Total Bikes Available:** 65
- **Bikes Currently Loaned:** 53
- **Remaining Bikes Available:** 12
- **Loan Period:** Full academic year, ending on 23 May 2025
- **Deposit:** £100 (refundable upon return of the bike in good condition)
- **Non-refundable Booking Fee:** £2.75 (introduced for 2024/2025)

This academic year has seen an increase in the total number of bikes available, rising to 65 from 59 in the previous year. The range includes both unisex and step-through frame styles to cater to various needs, ensuring a wider demographic can participate. These bikes come in a variety of sizes to accommodate different users, demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

The scheme also introduced an improved online booking system via FIXR. This has streamlined the process of securing a bike, allowing participants to easily reserve their bikes in advance.

### Feedback & Evaluation

To ensure the scheme evolves in line with participant needs, a feedback system has been implemented. Students are encouraged to provide their input on the program, with the incentive of entering a draw for a £50 Etsy voucher. Feedback has been largely positive, especially regarding the booking process and the quality of the bikes provided. However, there is room for improvement in increasing awareness of maintenance support and expanding capacity to meet ongoing demand.

### Future Outlook

The 2024/2025 UWE Bike Loan Scheme has been a success thus far, with 81.5% of available bikes currently on loan. The introduction of an online booking system, alongside the increase in bike availability, has enabled more students to benefit from the scheme. As demand continues to grow, there are opportunities for further expansion, particularly in providing additional bikes and improving maintenance support.

This initiative continues to align with UWE's sustainability goals and the Students' Union's commitment to enhancing student well-being and promoting cost-effective, eco-friendly transport options. We look forward to working to build on these successes and further improve the scheme in future years.