

Sustainability Board – June 2017

The Students' Union Report



NUS Green Impact Accreditation – Staff and students greening campuses, curriculums and communities.

Tentative Result – The Students' Union at UWE gains 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.”

We submitted our full workbook on 5 May and have since been audited by NUS; the new grading is a ranked system of: working towards accreditation, Good, Very Good, and Excellent (replacing Bronze, Silver and Gold.)

The awards ceremony for Green Impact will take place at the NUS SU2017 Conference, 5 July, with an overall award for Green Impact.

Our initial NUS Green Impact response from our audit team said: “UWE have achieved a significant amount on the sustainability agenda this year and have a clear focus on how to continue this progress. Their relationship with the institution is well established and they have utilised it to advance a multitude of sustainable projects - from setting up a new sustainability committee to intersecting food waste reduction initiatives with alcohol interventions. The clear leadership there is from students and officers is fantastic :) AWESOME WORK!”

The scores this year are based on the following criteria:

	Working towards accreditation	Good	Very good	Excellent
Cumulative number of mandatory criteria required	0	7	14	21
Commercial SU	Less than 100	100 to 249	250 to 299	300 or more
Non-commercial SU	Less than 100	100 to 224	225 to 274	275 or more

The SU at UWE's score is: 406

Our award level is: Excellent

This result is still sensitive information until all SU results have been published and logos circulated. We are thrilled with our result, especially as this is the first year of new criteria and marking method. We are working with NUS on improving the scheme for next year and look forward to planning internally and with colleague in the institution for a successful 2017.2018. Whilst it is extremely exciting to receive the top level, we are using it as fuel to push forward in improving our practises and raising awareness amongst all SU staff. We are planning a number of sessions in August for the new officers and staff to explore the meaning of sustainability and how it interlinks with their job role and then mapping the SU activities to the SDGs.

We would like to thank UWER colleagues for all their support and help in completing the submission. We look forward to hosting a thank you event in due course.

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Welcome and Sustainability Planning

Thank you to colleagues from the University for providing additional ideas for us to improve our environmental impact during Welcome 2017. Meetings have been held internally with Marketing and Bars/Events to consider how we can improve our practices and out monitoring processes to understand our impact and see how we can make improvements year on year. Any additional ideas are still very welcome.

UWE Big Give Campaign

Through the months of May and June, The Green Team and Hallslife collaborated to promote the Bristol Big Give to UWE students. This involved 3 campaigning days where staff visited student halls around Frenchay and Glenside campuses to door-knock and raise awareness of the campaign. Overall, students were very receptive to the messages and gladly took British Heart Foundation donation bags to clear out their unwanted items. These 3 campaign days were supplemented by online marketing materials and a social media competition to drive engagement.



Sustainability Committee

During mid-May The Students' Union had its first ever get together for the SU Sustainability Committee – a very exciting occasion! The students met up to mind-map some barriers and focus issues for the next academic year. Although some of the committee had already left UWE for the summer, the meeting was extremely productive, with the remaining committee members giving the Students' Union a great insight into 'student barriers to sustainability'. Through the meeting, it

became very apparent that students require better sustainability communications with more awareness raising, alongside focussed activities that enhance their skill set to create positive change. We will hold a by-election for the remaining positions in October.

Solarnest & Bristol Green Capital Partnership - Better Bristol Match Funding:

The Student's Union have been very excited to support Solarnest through Change for Change funding. This student-led project has applied to be part of Bristol Green Capital's Better Bristol match funding to build their environmentally friendly, smart home design at the University of West of England. <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/solarnest>

Bristol Green Capital Partnership & UWE Roundtable, 15/6/17

The event occurred with several stakeholders within UWE & BGCP, with a view from the SU side to interlink projects, relative to the SU Student Ideas platform both on an academic and placement perspective.

The Students' Union at UWE also attended a meeting with Bristol City Council to discuss the future of student capital tackling city wide issues moving forward. We believe there could be an exciting link made between this group and a new student Change for Change idea to organise a UWE Bristol and University of Bristol student "Sustainability Jam".

Student Matters: TB to present:

1. Sustainability Jam Event – linking to the recent Bristol City Council meeting
2. Degree Tree – student printing credit ideas from VP Community and Welfare