

# 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 AT UWE' in red, uppercase letters.

THE STUDENTS'  
UNION  
AT UWE

## THE GREEN TEAM

The Students' Union's Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, Lauren McLeron, will be leaving her role this Friday 17 January and has accepted a role at The University of Edinburgh. Recruitment is now open for a replacement and we hope to have a new coordinator in place by mid-end February.

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/thesuatuwe/Green-Goals-Smart-resolutions-for-a-sustainable-2020/>

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Students' Union at UWE have successfully inducted the 2019-2020 Sustainability Committee, members include: Curzio Potenza (Sustainability Officer, Committee Chair) Alejandro Valencia Perez (Biodiversity), Emma Kenyon (Education), Jessie Wilson (Engagement), Jacob French (IT), Ceri Middleton (Transport), Hannah Carr (Waste), Cara Lewis (Food and Health), Fenna Leake (Procurement), Tom Batten (Procurement), Christof Huegel (Procurement).

### Sustainability Committee - Staff Contacts

The Sustainability Committee is keen to meet UWE Staff Sustainability Contacts. They would like a meet and greet to be informal, perhaps a catered lunch framed like a "Green Mingle". If this is something you would like to take part in, please let us know by email with [thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk) and we will send through a doodle poll with dates.

### Upcoming Event: Farmer's Market

Students from The Sustainability Committee are organising a Farmer's Market on Thursday, 27 February from 11:00-15:00, as part of East Well Week in Feel Good February. The market will take place in the X Block Plaza and have stalls inside The Students' Union. The market will include a vintage clothing sale, plant sale, fresh produce and baked goods, hot vegan and vegetarian food, and zero waste products (e.g. shampoo bars, bamboo products, etc.) Please encourage your courses to come down and visit the market.

### Sustainability Committee Lead Campaign (16-20 March)

The committee will be running a consumerism solutions-based campaign focusing primarily on food, fashion, and waste. The main campaign week of events will take place 16-20 March. In January and February, the committee will be sorting out the logistical details to support this campaign and associated events. Please find key messaging and supporting details in the sections below.

#### Food

Key Messages: Demonstrate ethical ways of shopping (local, seasonal – reducing food miles)

Key Actions/Events: Students to run a farmers market on campus during Feel Good February on 27 February, and use the outcome as evidence to implement a more vigorous procurement policy for goods and products on campus.

## Fashion

Key Messages: The negative impact of fast fashion, how to upcycle your clothes (take something old and make it something new), purchasing second hand clothing items, etc.

Key Actions/Events: Include local upcycling vendors at the Refreshers Fair (or other event) and provide vouchers to students to promote upcycling. Apply for funding to purchase second hand clothing and run a few action-day swap shops at The Students' Union. Green Team and RAG will collaborate for a fashion show using clothes purchased in the on campus swap shop.

## Waste

Key Messages: Shop only for what you need (save, money, reduce plastics and landfill waste), promote reusable resources e.g. reusable coffee cups

Key Actions/Events: Lobby The Students' Union and UWE to use the fruit and vegetable stand in Q block to be the lead produce supplier. Encourage students to buy loose fruit and veg e.g. apples and potatoes from local vendors. Challenge students/committee to go zero waste for a week/month and document it on social media channels. Talk by Instagram influencer about zero waste living. Meal-prep workshop with HallsLife. Create video about correct recycling for students moving into halls (2020/2021).

## Beef at UWE – Survey and Campaign

Members of the Sustainability Committee recently ran a survey outside One Zone, gathering information about beef consumption and student's motivation which menu items they order.

### Survey Highlights

231 students and staff were surveyed over a Monday lunchtime in December about their objective attitudes and habits around their beef consumption. Here's what we found.

#### Frequency



1 in 3 surveyed **never buy meals with beef**, and 2 in 10 only eat it monthly.

#### Availability



8 of 10 would still eat at the SU Bar/Onezone **if Beef was not on the menu**.

#### Awareness



The committee will be using this data to further explore how we can tailor menus at UWE and The Students' Union to be more ethical and sustainable.

## STUDENT BIKE LOAN SCHEME

The Students' Union is now operating the Student Bike Loan Scheme. We launched this at GreenFest, in September 2019. We have 19 remaining bikes (out of 91) and will be taking them to Bower during 'Get Active Week' in Feel Good February to engage City Campus students further in the scheme. We will also be offering free breakfast for all students and staff who cycle to campus that week.

## ZERO WASTE SHOP

The Students' Union have launched our zero waste section to the U Block Shop on Frenchay.





As a result of setting up this zone, we have stopped selling certain products in plastic e.g. pasta. We are still adding items to the zone (e.g. refillable hand soap, plastic free applicator tampons and reusable coffee cups) and working on branding to push forward hard launch of the products.

Just from the dispenser items in the shop, The Students' Union have taken £59.97 before Christmas (2 months) and £24.73 in the first week of January. Interestingly in the first semester, we increased the range of shampoo bars and their sales make up 1/3 of shampoo products purchased across both SU Frenchay shops.

## NUS RESPONSIBLE FUTURES ACCREDITATION

December 2019, The Students' Union hosted the first Responsible Futures Hot partnership Support Day. Responsible Futures support days are designed by the host partnerships to increase knowledge exchange and shared learning across our cohort of RF partnerships nationally. These are great opportunities to hear from others and find opportunities to collaborate on aligned work.

We welcomed partnership representatives from Kent, Coventry, Manchester Met, De Montfort, and University College of Estate Management and respective Student Unions. Together we explored changes to accreditation criteria and student engagement as a topic of interest. The participants were taken on a tour of UWE, highlighting key green achievements and invited to participate in the student workshop on zero waste DIY Body Scrubs (which had 60 attendees).



## SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

UWE Sustainability, UWE events and The Students' union are working together on a sustainable events project. The Students' Union have drafted a guide/checklist to support event organised to consider the environmental impact of their events in a holistic way. On Thursday 9 January Samantha Rowe, CEO of Ignition, came to talk to UWE and SU colleagues about putting on sustainable events, giving some tips for us to adopt more sustainable practices.

<https://www.ignitiondg.com/team> We plan to pull all these elements together and discuss a shared route forward for event planning.

## SUSTAINABILITY COURSE REPS

15 Department Student Representatives (portfolio reps for sustainability) were elected from their department cohort of student reps in the first semester. The Students' Union Representation Team in collaboration with Lauren McLeron and Dr Georgie Gough delivered a training and induction session to the reps to educate and inform on the current sustainability agenda, within The Students' Union and at UWE Bristol.

Departmental Student Representatives met with their staff counterparts from the KESE (Knowledge Exchange for Sustainable Education) Group to collaborate on priorities for their departments.

Student reps were asked to set 1-2 priorities for their tenure, resulting in many innovative ideas! These ranged from implementing sustainable and reusable materials in Nursing and Midwifery, including cross department working designing reusable fabric aprons for NAM simulations, to investigating sustainable materials within the Engineering Department.

Student Reps heard about the work of The Green Team does and how they can get involved and as the meeting was set near the end of term, helpful tips on having a sustainable festive period were shared.

KESE staff representatives shared recent developments from within their departments and most had completed a full mapping of courses and modules to SDGS.

Moving forward the Representation Team will be supporting reps monthly with guidance in regards to priorities and projects.