

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

July 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. The background of the entire page is a red geometric pattern of overlapping triangles.

**THE STUDENTS'
UNION**
AT UWE

THE GREEN TEAM VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

The Students' Union's Green Team are continuing to reach students with light-touch sustainability messaging and online workshops. We are pleased to continue embedding sustainability into all that we do, especially in forming more sustainable behaviours in our student community.

Our Sustainability 101 videos were well received on our social media platforms. These featured easy, simple ways to be sustainable, such as making your own deodorant/body scrub and potato peel crisps. During 'Block 0' we plan to do more of these in addition to live workshops. Students will be given the opportunity to feature in these and we are currently working with the Course Representative for Adult Nursing to produce sustainability content for Glenside.

Our Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, Leah Bromley, is collaborating with the HallsLife programme to embed sustainability into Welcome events for students moving onto campus. This will include videos about how students can decorate a new room sustainably and on a small budget.



NUS/SOS-UK GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION

The Students' Union completed our Green Impact submission at the end of April 2020. We undertook our virtual audit on 1 July. We await the outcome to share with the Board, alongside our impact report.

NUS RESPONSIBLE FUTURES ACCREDITATION / ESD

The Students' Union Representation Team, who manage course rep work, are working with Georgie Gough and SOS-UK (Students Organising for Sustainability), to present a webinar at the end of July. This will focus on student rep sustainability work and decolonising the curriculum.

The partnership are leading a five year review of the Responsible Futures Programme, as part of our commitment to being a Host Partnership. The survey has gone out to the sector.

2020/20201 is our new audit year for the Responsible Futures Re-Accreditation.

BLOCK 0 & CARBON LITERACY TRAINING

The Students' Union at UWE have been working very closely with UWE Bristol's Carbon Action Team (thank you to Abbie and Kirsti) to investigate and deliver Carbon Literacy Training, based on Manchester's model. Initially focussing on staff training, to support our roadmap to net carbon neutral 2030, we will then work on student focused messaging and sessions as part of the virtual induction for the Autumn Term 2020. <https://carbonliteracy.com/>.

Recently, the 'Block 0' concept has been signed off by UWE Bristol: "Block 0 will enable our students to be a UWE Bristol student through online teaching and coaching; focusing on academic readiness, personal development and developing their growth mind-set."

"Block 0 will develop a student's learner identity through coaching. By the deliberate creation of small teams within cohorts, students will be able to practice skills and provide peer-to-peer support and feedback. Planning the academic calendar for 2020/21 is complex in light of Covid-19. There will be a key focus on building momentum and academic readiness; what studying at university is like; and what skills they need to succeed. We hope this will encourage and develop their student identity within the context of their programme of study and the UWE Bristol community."

The Students' Union are passionate about ensuring that UWE Bristol's Sustainability and ESD commitments are showcased to students during Block 0 and that every student has sight of the UN's SDGs and potentially carbon literacy training.

Student Matters: Discussion Sustainability in Block 0: The Students' Union developing a template for programme leaders with examples and ideas to ensure sustainability is covered.

COMMITMENT TO INTERSECTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Our priority for the Green Team 2020/21 programme is to ensure it is truly intersectional in its approach. We will be exploring with students related issues such as inequalities (of gender, race, income, health) and social justice. Through working collaboratively, we will also work to embed sustainability into our Liberation Campaigns (Black Lives Matter, Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, International Women's Week and Disability Awareness) and will create collaborative events that address these intersections. We are also mindful of the importance of confronting our own privileges and being reflective in order to create activity that is inclusive, accessible and relevant.

FURLOUGH

Leah has returned from furlough and will be working part-time during July and August. During her time on furlough she has been working with Dr. Georgie Gough to publish her master's dissertation in an academic journal. This research focussed on students' experiences of reusable menstrual products. We are very proud of Leah to furthering her academic career.

ZERO WASTE SHOP

We launched our zero waste section in our U Block Shop on Frenchay Campus in October 2019. We are delighted to announce that the UWE Bristol Student Experience Fund has supported its expansion to the Bower Ashton Students' Union Shop, we hope this will be installed ready for October/November 2020. We are planning to launch the Bike Loan Scheme and Zero Waste Shop initiative during move in week, which commences the week of 12 October. The Students' Union is also delighted to announce that we successfully applied for £3,000 from the SOS-UK/NUS Student Eats Fund to establish the zero waste shop at Bower.

We have been fortunate to work with a MA student to undertake evaluation of the Frenchay Zero Waste Shop. Chiara was undertaken a survey of students about their consumer habits and opinions. We look forward to receiving the analysis of the survey and taking recommendations forward.

