

# SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

May 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

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## Farmers Market

The Sustainability Committee organised a Farmers Market on Thursday 27 February, as part of Eat Well Week in Feel Good February. The market took place in the X Block Plaza and included a vintage clothing sale, plant sale, fresh produce and baked goods, local vegan and vegetarian food vendors, and zero waste products from small Bristol-based businesses (e.g. shampoo bars, bamboo products).

- The survey results from the Farmer's Market demonstrated that the event had a positive impact on attendees' and their day. 84.72% felt uplifted, 73.61% felt relaxed, and 72.46% felt calm as a result of the event. As a result of our ongoing partnership with Bristol Eats in delivering this event and in addition to the positive feedback and impact, we are planning to run this event next year.
- The Farmers Market survey showed the event had a positive impact on students' behaviour change, with 44% very likely to eat more vegan food after the event.



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

### Changing Consumerism

On the week commencing the 16 March, the committee was due to be running a consumerism solutions-based campaign focusing primarily on food, fashion and waste. Due to Covid-19, the week had to be postponed and we hope to tie this into Big Green Week in the first semester of 2020-2021 academic year.

## 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. In collaboration with Hallslife, The Green Team hosted a live sustainable period product workshop on Wednesday 13 May, this session was recorded to be realised as future video content.

Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, Leah, will be recording a series of Sustainability 101 sessions which will show fun and easy ways to be sustainable, sessions include, DIY body scrub and potato peel crisps. These will feature weekly across all Students' Union channels.

**Leah Bromley**  
Admin · May 11 at 4:00 PM

Being more sustainable starts with small actions! We are launching an online Sustainability 101 series bringing you easy and fun eco-hacks!

First up are these No-Sew DIY Reusable Make Up Pads! They are easy to make, cute, and sustainable! 🌍

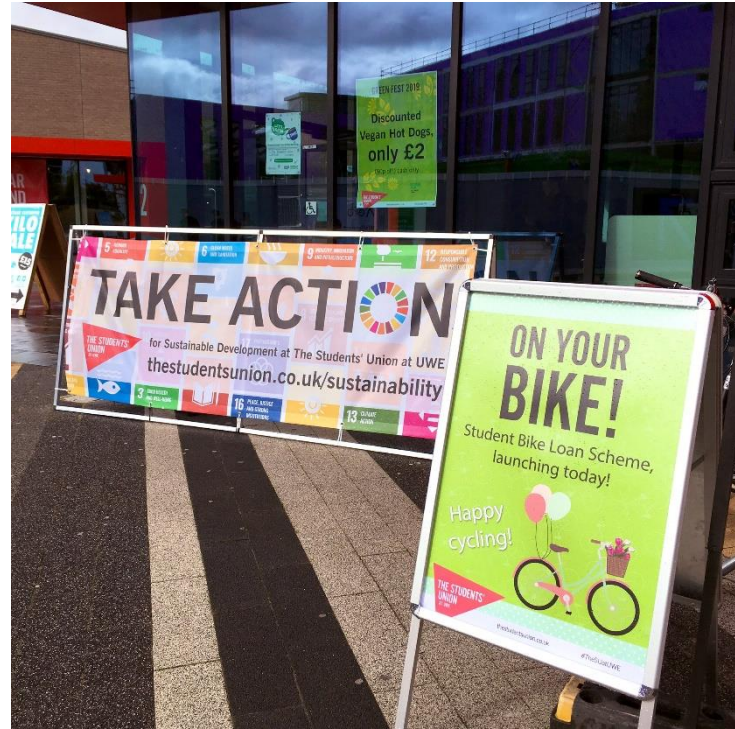
Let us know how you get on and share your photos with us at [thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk)

You, Bec Rengel Uwe, Evan Botwood and 8 others

1 Comment

## STUDENT BIKE LOAN SCHEME

The Students' Union is now operating a Student Bike Loan Scheme. We launched this at our GreenFest event in September 2019, and in its first academic year it has been a success.



The Students' Union at UWE Bike Loan scheme is an initiative aimed at supporting students to take up cycling and improve their university experience here in Bristol. Students can hire a bike to use for the academic year, and the bike must then be returned to The Students' Union at the end of each academic year. The bike loan includes a D lock for the student to keep their bike secured, and a set of lights to make sure they are safe and visible on the roads.

Students pay the sum of £50 as a hire payment (non-refundable) for the academic year and the sum of £40 as a deposit (refundable), before collecting the bicycle. We have 86 bikes available through the scheme this year, including five bikes available free of charge for short term use (up to two weeks) from the UWE Centre for Sport.

Students are able to complete a hire form and collect their bike from The Students' Union U Block Shop on Frenchay Campus, on any day of the week, between 08:00 and 22:00, allowing great accessibility for the scheme. We also reserve 10 bikes throughout the year to be available for students as nominated by the UWE Hardship fund, who receive free bike hire for the year and are only asked to pay the deposit fee.

They complete a hire form that details all the terms and conditions that is also emailed to them shortly after their agreed hire. This offers them more details including a cycling safety video to watch, an instructional video on how to secure their bike using the D-lock provided, and also links to information about cycle safety and the Highway Code. We also advise them to purchase a cycling helmet and high visibility clothing to keep safe whilst cycling.

The scheme had previously been run by the university, but they were no longer in a position to continue.

Out of 86 bikes, up until March 17 2020, we have loaned out 75 bikes, including:

- Five to the UWE Centre for Sport
- Four from our City Campus
- Three to the UWE Hardship Fund
- Two to Students' Union at UWE staff.

This is over 2.5 times the amount of bikes loaned out by UWE Bristol during the previous academic year, showing there is a real demand for this service.

The Bike Loan Scheme was initially launched at Frenchay Campus. At the start of January 2020, we had 19 remaining bikes (out of 86). We took them to City Campus as part of "Get Active Week" in Feel Good February to engage students further in the scheme. We also offered free breakfasts for all students and staff who cycled to campus that week.

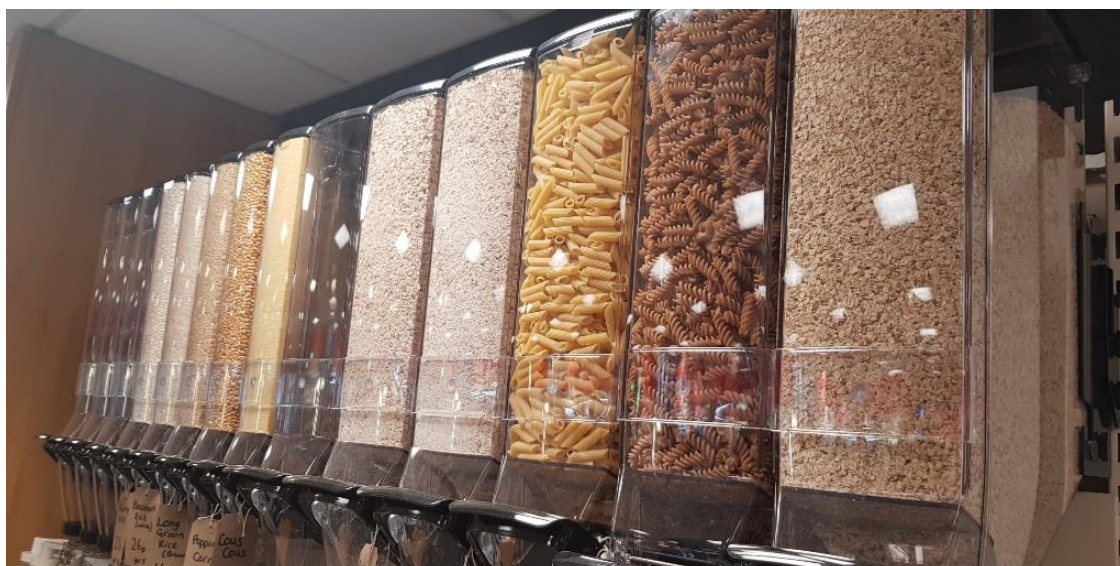
We offered a reduction in the cost of the bike hire from Term 2 onwards, so the actual hire charge was only £30, with the refundable deposit remaining at £40. This proved popular and four further bike loans were issued at City Campus in February 2020. The students we spoke to were very impressed with the scheme, stating that it's a great way to explore Bristol, and that they felt it was very affordable.

As the scheme is new to us at The Students' Union at UWE, we are keen to get feedback from those who have hired bikes this year to help us develop and improve the scheme.

We have sent an end of year survey to all bike loan scheme users. The survey response rate is incentivised with a voucher for the Ethical Superstore and a return date of 15 May.

## 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.



## **UK GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION**

The Students' Union completed our Green Impact submission at the end of April 2020. We await our virtual audit, at which point we will bring our results and outcomes to The Sustainability Board. Thank you to many UWE Bristol Colleagues for their support, including but not limited to; Georgie Gough, Paul Roberts, Kirsti Norris, Jennifer Fawcett-Thorne and Vicki Harris.

## **NUS RESPONSIBLE FUTURES ACCREDITATION**

As part of our commitment to being a Host Partnership for NUS' Responsible Futures Programme, we are undertaking a review of the first five years of the Responsible Futures programme, in order to understand its impact and to inform the next five years! We have created a survey for all current cohorts to complete.

## **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/>