

# SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

May 2022

The logo for The Students' Union at UWE is a white triangle pointing downwards, containing the text 'THE STUDENTS' UNION' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'AT UWE' in a smaller font below it.

**THE STUDENTS'  
UNION**  
AT UWE

## GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION

The Students' Union at UWE has submitted its SOS-UK/NUS Green Impact Accreditation for 2021/2022, covering 50 criteria. Our audit will take place at the end of June and we look forward to sharing our impact report and outcome in due course.

## PEOPLE AND PLANET FOSSIL FUEL DECLARATION

The Students' Union President Evan has been working with the UWE Bristol Directorate on signing the People and Planet's fossil-fuel free declaration. This is a declaration from the University that they hold no investments/holdings in fossil fuel extractor companies, and a commitment to not invest in future.

UWE Bristol cemented its commitment to becoming carbon net zero by 2030 when Vice-Chancellor Steve West signed a declaration pledging to hold no investments in fossil fuel extractor companies now and in the future.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steve West, signed the document, saying: "We are pleased to be signing this pledge and our ambition is to ensure we not only take steps as a university but educate staff and students to be more sustainable and environmentally aware as we take a massive leap forward at work and at home."



thesuatuwe Following successful lobbying from The Students' Union, it is with great pleasure that we announce that yesterday, UWE Vice-Chancellor Steve West signed a declaration pledging to hold no investments in fossil fuel extractor companies now and in the future 🌱

President Evan Botwood said:

'The student campaigning journey that started years ago has culminated in the commitment that UWE Bristol will never invest in fossil fuel extractor companies. This commitment sends a clear message to our partners, suppliers, students and staff that UWE Bristol has high expectations that funds are being invested sustainably, and for our journey towards net-zero'



Liked by citycampusuwe and 232 others

JANUARY 27

## NUS SKILLS SURVEY

273 students responded (70% studying Bachelor's courses, 17% studying Master's level courses) to the annual NUS/SOS-UK Skills Survey, with the key findings:

- 89% of UWE students think that sustainable development is something Universities should actively incorporate and promote
- 88% of students think all University courses should actively incorporate sustainable development
- 81% of respondents agree that Universities should be obliged to develop students' social and environmental skills as part of their degree courses

- 80% of respondents would take a £1000 lower salary in an organisation with a strong environmental and social record (with 82% of you telling us a good starting salary in your job after Uni being important to you.)
- 67% of students agree UWE acts to limit the effect it has on the environment and 64% think the same of their Students' Union. It is clear the partnership has more to do to make our students aware of our 2030 targets.

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/news/article/thesuatuwe/Did-you-know-that-around-80-of-students-in-the-UK-want-their-university-to-be-doing-more-on-sustain/>. Please find the full presentation attached.

## PERIOD POVERTY

The Students' Union is working with the EDI Team, Faculty and Library staff to roll out further access to free, plastic-free menstrual products in bathrooms across all campus sites. We are creating a student brief to create boxes to hold products that communicate information on period poverty, support and sustainable menstrual product options.

### Sustainable Period Product trials

In order to make sustainable period products more accessible we set up a sustainable period product stall on each campus As part of UWE's Feel Good February 'Try Something New' week. These were a way to reach out to students and offer them the opportunity to sign up to trial a sustainable period product of their choice for free (menstrual cups, period underwear, reusable pads, reusable tampon applicator).

We had 103 students from the stalls sign up to be part of the trial. After reaching out to all students who signed up to take part to have them confirm their preference 85 students came back to us with the following preference

We have now in the process of handing products out to students and will be asked to complete a survey and provide us feedback.



# THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## 'Action on Sustainability' campaign week 21 - 25 March

The Sustainability Committee ran their annual student-led campaign week, we ran 9 events across the week all geared towards engaging students in a breadth of topics to do with sustainability in a fun and inclusive way:

- Sustainable fashion
- Racial equality in the climate movement
- Sustainable consumption and sustainability projects on campus
- Sustainable food
- Climate activism
- Fossil Fuel Free Careers Campaign

We successfully collaborated with: Neurodiversity Society, Photography Society, Art Society, UWE XR, History Society, Islamic Society, Christian Union, The Women's Officer, Veg Society, Sustainable Fashion Week and The Black Seeds Network. We engaged an estimated 924 students and 43 staff.

**Please find highlights below, we would be happy to share the full report.**

### Clothes Mending Session at Bower

This fantastic event was run by two of the Fashion Technicians at Bower who are very skilled at mending, some sustainability committee members were there to help out and engage other students in conversations around sustainable fashion. They also got a list of interested Bower students who want to get involved with sustainable fashion at Bower, such as setting up a clothes swap.



### Sustainable Fashion Talk (& free vegan pizza!), with Sustainable Fashion Week

This was a really fun and educational talk and discussion about the impacts of the fast fashion industry and sustainable fashion with Amelia Twine from Sustainable Fashion Week. Maria, the Women's Officer, introduced the event and the talk spoke about women's rights in the context of fast fashion in honour of Women's History Month. We provided everyone who attended with free vegan pizza.



### Interfaith Café: Sustainability

This was a safe space for students to talk freely and respectfully initiate conversations about their own faith or other faiths that they would like to learn more about. This was a unique opportunity to bring together our five faith societies together to talk about how sustainability is embedded within different faiths, spiritualities and religions.



### Seminar: Growing Racial Equality Within the UK Environmental Movement - The Black Seeds Environmental Social Justice Network

This seminar was an interesting talk and discussion about the importance of decolonising and diversifying the environmental sector, as well as giving students and staff a great overview of how The Black Seeds Environmental Justice Network are doing this in Bristol and beyond.



### Swap Shop, Clothes Mending and Free Vegan Food (Frenchay)

We were really excited to expand the clothes swap to include a book swap. The clothes mending session was run by Verity Jones, she engaged many students in conversations around the importance of clothes mending and sustainable fashion. We collaborated with Veg Society who gave out free vegan food and used some information cards from The Carbon Footprint Game to engage students with conversations around the carbon footprint of meat vs vegetarian food. These were a great visual aid! We had this event out in the sunshine which meant we engaged far more students than we ever hoped, due to higher footfall outside which was amazing. The clothes swap was run by the Sustainability Committee, and History Society helped to run the book swap.





### Trip to the Climate Strike

This was a really educational and joyful day, it was great to be part of this Global Climate Strike at the local strike that was happening in Bristol to protest against the Bristol airport expansion. We went with some members of UWE Photography Society as well as students and staff from the UWE XR group.



### Foraging Walk

This was a really informative and nourishing walk around and near campus run by Will from the Grounds Team. Will is very knowledgeable about foraging and edible plants. It was really lovely to collaborate with Photography Society and they took some amazing photos for us, it was a very wholesome and fun way to officially finish the campaign week.



## Fairtrade

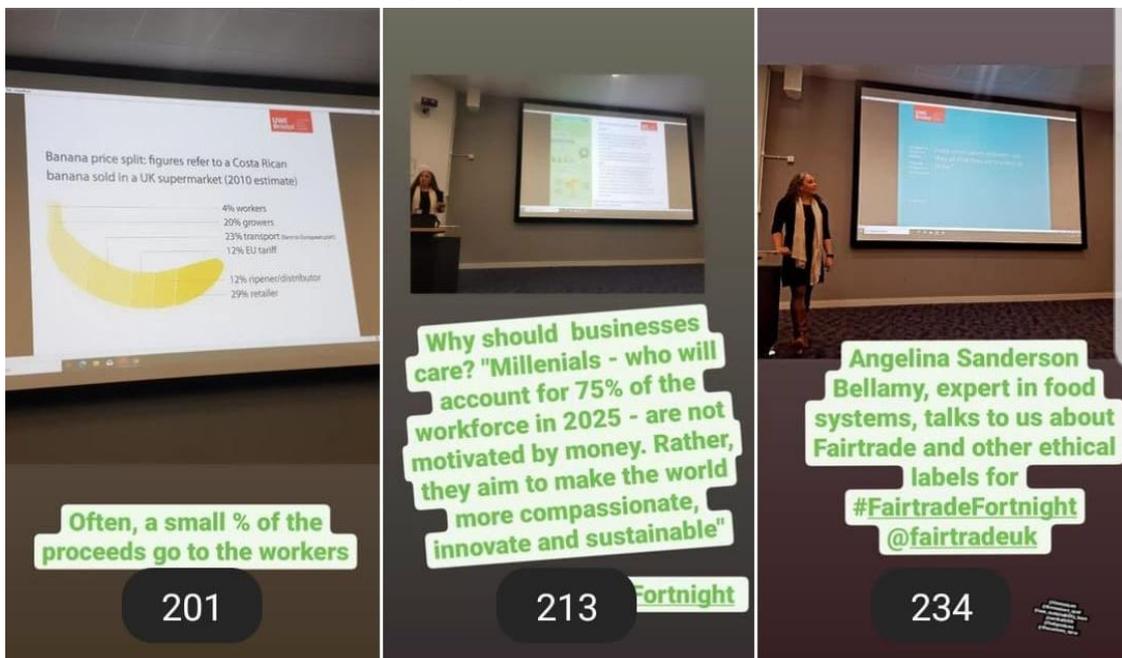
For Fairtrade Fortnight, The Students' Union collaborated with UWE Bristol to run an awareness campaign about Fairtrade, and put on a whole range of events, talks, promotions and discounts to encourage students to learn about and look for Fairtrade labels when buying products and groceries.

We had a 10% off deal on selected Fairtrade items sold in campus shops, making these products more financially accessible and highlighting which products are Fairtrade for future reference. There were discounts on products such as Ben and Jerry's ice cream, coffee, sugar and Starbucks cold drinks, saving students around £130.

We had some graphics made and this was shared on The Green Team social media as well as The Students' Union's main social media channels:



We ran a talk on 'Fairtrade and Other Ethical Trade Labels', which covered lots of information on Fairtrade as well as information on labels such as the Rainforest Alliance and Organic. We had an expert in the field give the talk, Angelina Sanderson Bellamy, UWE Associate Professor in Food Systems. She talked about what each of these labels means, as well as a critical look at the pros and cons of different labels. We also provided information on what UWE does to support Fairtrade to educate students about the university's commitment to Fairtrade practices and trading. This talk was embedded into the curriculum of a Sustainable Business module, as well as being open to all interested staff and students, about 60 people attended.



### Fairtrade 'Cook Off' Event:

The Students' Union Green Team partners with the SU HallsLife Programme to run a Fairtrade edition of our regular 'Cook Off' event, which was also a collaboration with LGBT+ Society for LGBT+ History Month. This was a team activity in which groups of students worked to cook a recipe using Fairtrade and vegan ingredients. The best team won a voucher to The Ethical Superstore, promoting eco-friendly alternatives to mainstream supermarkets.



### Fairtrade Pancake Day with UWE Global

We also ran a Fairtrade Pancake Day Celebration in collaborating with UWE Global, this was a Fairtrade edition of their Global Café events in which we used Fairtrade chocolate, sugar, bananas and more to top the pancakes we made. We also engaged students in discussion about the importance of buying Fairtrade in helping workers earn a living wage and children to get clean water, food and education.



## Student Blogs

A student wrote this sustainable food blog post called 'Fourteen Ways You Can Create Change on Sustainable Food' for The Students' Union website, which was inspired by the Sustainable Food Guide created by SOS-UK. Amongst other things, this blog post mentions the benefits of buying Fairtrade for workers and the environment.

Another student also wrote [this](#) blog specifically about Fairtrade and Fairtrade Fortnight, this covered what Fairtrade actually means and the pros and cons, as well as how students can get involved in Fairtrade Fortnight events.

These two blogs were also promoted on social media as well as on The Students' Union website.

