

# SUSTAINABILITY BOARD REPORT

October 2020



**THE STUDENTS'  
UNION**  
AT UWE

## SOS-UK/NUS GREEN IMPACT ACCREDITATION

The Students' Union at UWE is delighted to announce we have been awarded 'Excellent' in our Green Impact submission for the 2019/20 academic year. This is the highest rating that can be achieved. In addition, we were awarded the 'Highest Scoring Students' Union' for the fourth year in a row.

Green Impact is a sustainability and social responsibility programme run by Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK).

We'd like to say thank you to all the students and staff involved in sustainability that have made this happen. It would not be possible to achieve Excellent without all their hard work and passion for change!

Here are some of the highlights and achievements of our Green Impact submission:

- Shampoo bars now account for 1/3 of shampoo products purchased in The Students' Union's Frenchay shops.
- As part of The Students' Union's 'Own Mug Discount' scheme, 19,501 single-use plastic cups have been diverted from the waste stream. At a height of 9.5cm per single-use cup, this equates to saving 1929 Big Ben's worth of single-use plastic.
- Over the last three years, The Students' Union has saved 17.88 Tonnes of CO2 equivalent through our electricity usage. These energy savings are enough to charge 2,280,276 mobile phones or power three homes with electricity for one year.
- At our Farmers Market, organised by the Sustainability Committee, we found 44% of people in attendance were 'very likely' and 33% 'somewhat likely' to eat more vegan food after attending.
- Raising and Giving (RAG) raised £97,461 for charity. This is £13,000 more than the previous year.
- 1 in 5 student ideas submitted, were related to sustainability.

## 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.

We are contracting Minds of POC to run a workshop for our student leaders, committee members and staff to support us on our journey.

[Intersectional Environmentalism | Sustainability 101 – Watch Our Video](#)

# BLOCK 0

## Creating Change: Climate Action for 2030

In collaboration with the UWE Sustainability Team, we ran [Creating Change: Climate Action for 2030](#). At this, over 100 students learnt about their carbon footprint and what they can do to create change and make a positive difference. It was a great opportunity to build sustainability into Block 0 and reach students with sustainability messages about UWE's carbon/sustainability commitments and getting involved with the Green Team and The Students' Union to make a difference. Thank you to Abbie Basketter, Jim Longhurst, Paul Roberts, Vicki Harris and Fiona Shadbolt for working with The Students' Union on this.

## Education for Sustainable Development: Meet Up Session

As part of the second week of Block 0, under the theme Community and Change, there was a sustainability themed 'Meet Up' session. A 'Meet Up' session is a group of 10 students working through tasks together and discussing work. In this, students worked through activities on the SDGs, practical ways to be sustainable and relating these to their studies. 2490 students viewed the session which is a fantastic engagement level. Thank you to Georgie Gough, Vicki Harris for their input into the content for this.

# THE GREEN TEAM VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

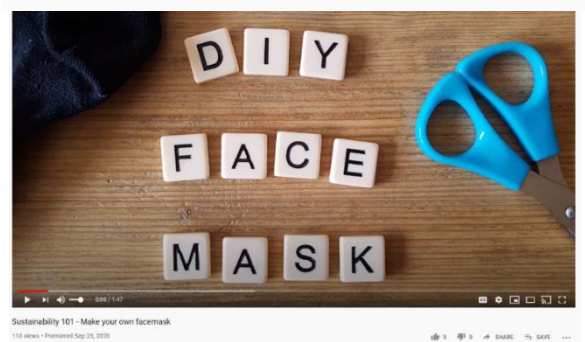
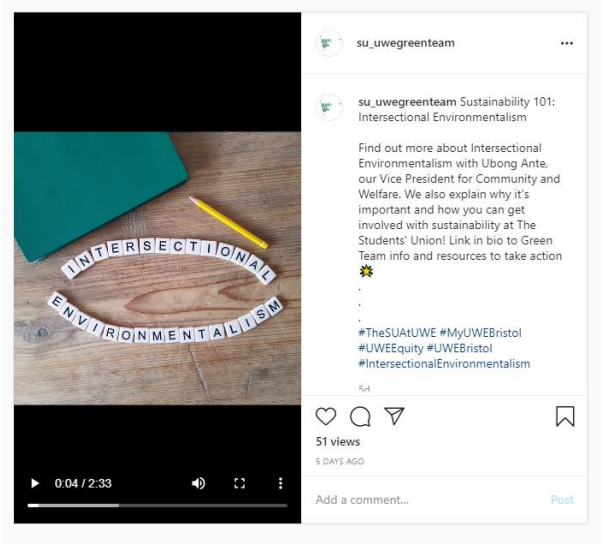
During Block 0 and Welcome 2020, the Green Team organised and ran several virtual events. A summary of these is below.

## Welcome Sustainability 101 Series

Sustainability 101 is a series of short videos about sustainable living/topics. These have had great engagement during the Welcome period.

We released the following videos:

- DIY Face Mask
- Intersectional Environmentalism
- 10 Ways to Live Consciously in Bristol
- You can watch these on our [YouTube playlist](#). Our aim is that over time this will become increasingly student-led with students submitting ideas for content or making their own. They can submit ideas on [this webpage](#).



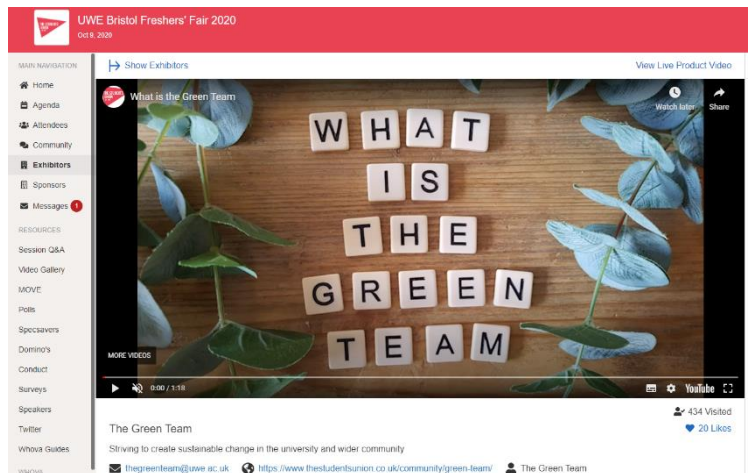
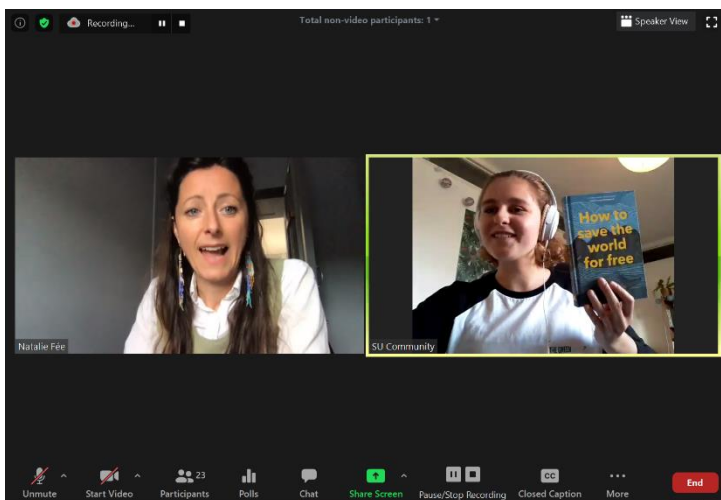
## Chai and Chat

During the second week of Block 0 we ran a virtual [Chai and Chat](#). At this, we had a group of great, engaged students bring along a cup of a tea and chat with us on MS Teams about sustainability. Conversation included everything from good vegan cafes in Bristol, how the zero waste shop on campus works and even debating whether we'd eat insects to be more sustainable! Thank you to Vicki Harris for supporting this event.

## Freshers' Fair

On the Friday 9 October, The Students' Union ran our virtual Freshers' Fair. We had over 400 students visit the Green Team booth and many chatted to us on MS Teams to find out more and ask questions.

Leah, our Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, also hosted a live Q+A with Natalie Fee from City to Sea as part of a series of Speaker Sessions throughout the day. At this we answered students' questions about sustainability. This covered everything from living with less waste and fast fashion to sustainability 'craftivism' and making sustainability inclusive.



## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY

To find out more about students' priorities this year we are running a student sustainability survey. This is open until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Please share this link and suggested text through any channels you have.

[https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dhDJahzfmM1D7x3](https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhDJahzfmM1D7x3)

'The Students' Union at UWE want to find out about your priorities and concerns surrounding sustainability this year. Complete this short survey by 16<sup>th</sup> October for a chance to win an £100 Ethical Superstore voucher! If you have any questions please email [thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk)'

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Community Garden

In collaboration with the Grounds team, we will be running in-person Community Garden sessions this year. Our first session is on Wednesday 21 October. In this session we will be doing a variety of activities including: weeding the patio area, pruning the hedges, cutting shrubs back and planting new pots.

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/ents/event/10178/>

### Green Week

Leah Bromley, The Students' Union Student Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, is working closely with Vicki Harris to plan Green Week. This will run from 9 – 13 November. The main event for the week will be a virtual climate justice panel event. We are working with The Students' Union's Presidents to tie this event into their year-long campaign, [Celebrating Black Excellence](#).



### Sustainability Officer

The Students' Union held its By Elections for the vacant Part-Time Officer roles Monday 12 October - Thursday 15 October, with two students run for the position of Sustainability Officer. We were delighted to announce the role holder in the Board meeting and look forward to working with our elected student representation, who will lead and chair the Sustainability Committee.

### Sustainability Committee

There has been a substantial interest from students in the sustainability committee for 2020/21. Leah will be reviewing applications and putting the new committee together this week. We will then run an induction with them, alongside the new officer. All students will have the opportunity to meet sustainability members of staff at UWE to learn from their expertise/experience. If you would be interested in talking to any students please email [thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:thegreenteam@uwe.ac.uk).

## ZERO WASTE SHOP

To build on the success of our zero waste section in the Block Shop on Frenchay Campus, we are launching a zero waste section at Bower Ashton. The Bower Ashton shop opens on Monday 19 October, with the Zero Waste element launching on Monday 2 November. In the first two weeks we plan to take student ideas and requests from customers visiting the shop. The student volunteers involved in the enterprise will then take these on board and use them to make decisions on the range available – we want ideas from all students and staff at City Campus!



## **BIKE LOAN SCHEME**

The Bike Loan scheme is re-launching from Monday 19 October, with an updated Covid secure process – students will email our new SU Bike Loan email address, and they will be able to fill in the request form electronically prior to reserving a bike. They will then be given a collection time for a hassle free process of paying for and collecting their bike, which will be secured outside ready for them. Whilst the price has increased this year to £70 hire charge for the year, and a refundable £40 deposit, we believe this still represents great value for a bike rental for the year, and demand has already been high.