

Green Impact Students' Unions

The Students' Union at UWE

Feedback report 2017

Well done and thank you for participating in the new Green Impact Students' Unions programme. This report outlines your sustainability achievements in the programme and also highlights success from across the movement.

National sustainability achievements

In a challenging political and global climate, it is unions, universities, colleges and communities leading the way on sustainability. Students' unions have excelled, implementing and embedding good environmental practices, while expanding their engagement with sustainability to integrate social, political and economic factors. Here are some highlights from the exciting and progressive achievements from across the movement:



Student Green Impact auditors at University of Melbourne, Australia

- In 2016, £36 million of the £100 million-worth of university funds that NUS found in fossil fuel companies has been committed to divestment, [with £27 million ring-fenced for reinvestment into renewables](#).
- In 2016/2017, [Student Switch Off](#), our energy saving programme for student halls accommodation, reached 130,000 students, saving 1,089 tonnes of carbon and £200,000 for the sector.
- In February this year, almost 100 students and students' union delegates, from tens of universities, got together in Leeds for the Student Eats conference on sustainable food. Many

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have [already started food growing community projects at their institutions](#), and the day provided a valuable opportunity to learn even more.

- The 3rd NUS Student Sustainability Summit held in November 2016 brought together student leaders from across the UK to learn more about key sustainability issues and campaigns.
- NUS' [Dissertations for Good](#) programme is going from strength to strength, offering students the chance to partner with organisations working for social good to conduct research.
- NUS' [Responsible Futures](#) programme now has 26 partnerships in place with students' unions and their institution working together to embed education for sustainable development across campus.
- In line with this commitment, NUS' clothing company, Epona, is the first UK business to announce its backing for the pioneering Fairtrade Textile Programme.
- Over 10,000 student responses were received for the annual NUS sustainability attitudes and skills survey to add a 7th year of data that has illustrated the overwhelming student support for sustainability initiatives and education.
- NUS National Conference voted in favour of a motion to renew the drive for student action against climate change. It also passed a [motion resolving to push for work placements and apprenticeships incorporating sustainability](#).
- [Green Impact](#), our pioneering environmental and social sustainability behaviour change programme, turned ten in 2016 - and won a UNESCO award for international leadership in Education for Sustainable Development. We've worked with hundreds of organisations to transform campuses, curriculums and communities - and it's thanks to everyone's commitment that we've received this accolade. To date Green Impact has been run in over 450 organisations, including, community organisations, NHS Trusts, local councils, and fire brigades. Within these programmes, over 3,500 teams have reached 125,000 staff members and have implemented over 190,000 sustainability actions as a result of the scheme. Across all these programmes students are integral to the process and to date we've provided Green Impact volunteering opportunities to over 4,000 students developing their knowledge of and skills in sustainability.



NUS staff with Melantha Chittenden LGBT Officer, Simon Blake NUS Chief Executive and Shakira Martin Vice-President for Further Education, accepting ESD award at UNESCO HQ Nov 2016

"From our support for students' unions campaigning for their institutions to divest from dangerous fossil fuels, to our work with behaviour change in curriculums and communities, NUS is committed to sustainability. A wholehearted thanks to all the partnerships involved in Green Impact this year for working hard to make sure students' unions are leading the way on environmentally and socially sound practices!" Robbiie Young, NUS Vice President Society and Citizenship

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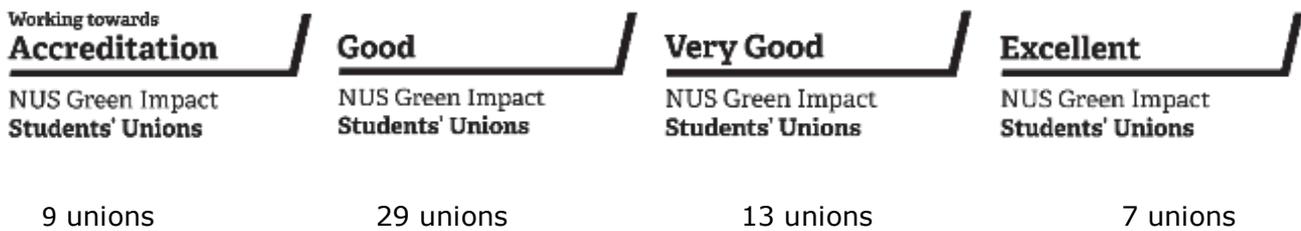
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Programme impact

2016/17 has marked the 10th year of GISU, and to ensure the programme continues to meet the sustainability challenges and opportunities faced by students union, the toolkit has been stripped back to fewer, more meaningful actions to best equip students unions' to properly embed sustainability. This renewal has led to a year of learning, navigating new issues and better critical reflection as we've asked all participants to self-score for the first time.

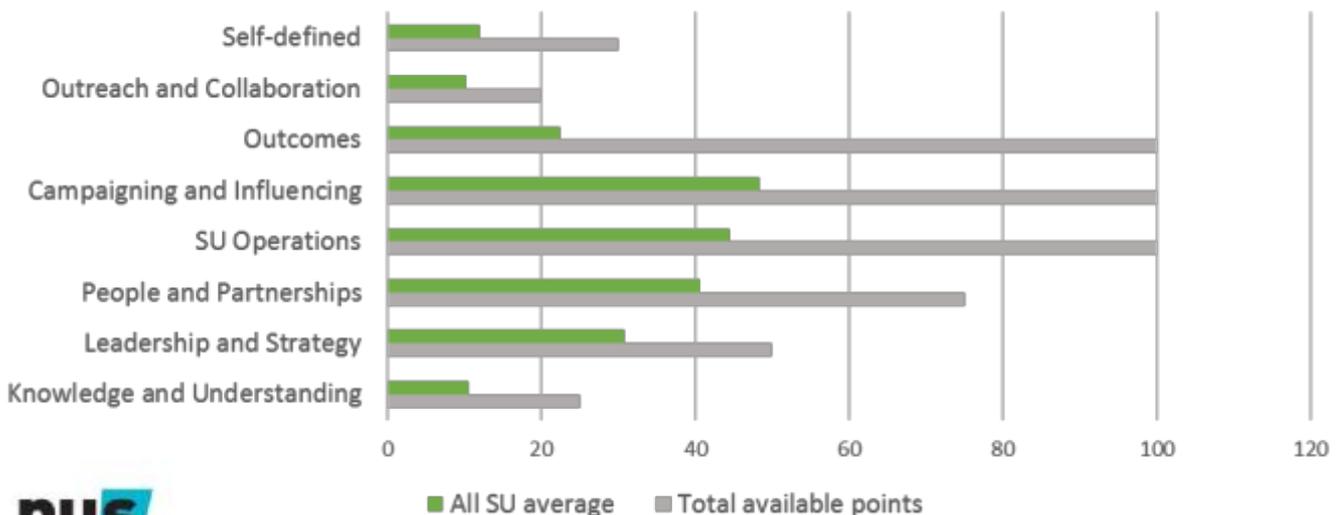
The auditing process this year has been particularly thorough to ensure we have consistent and fair scoring across all unions. To ensure transparency of the scaled scoring, you will have been provided a copy of your completed audit report which outlines the final auditor's scores as well as detailed feedback on particular actions.

81 unions have engaged with the programme this year, with **58 reaching the audit stage**. A total of **12,238 points** were awarded across the 50 sustainability actions each union could complete through the Green Impact toolkit. This is a significant achievement encompassing a breadth of activities from campaigning and influencing to conducting sustainability research and inducting and training student and staff members. These results are the collective achievement of all the students, officers and staff members involved in your local Green Impact committees or working groups.



Total GISU toolkit points achieved

Total points per category vs average auditor scores per category



Team Impact

Well done, this year your union has received an Excellent accreditation.

The table below outlines how many points your union scored for each sustainability category and how this compares to the total amount available as well as the average for your union type.

	The Students' Union at UWE	% of total Points	Student Union Average points
Knowledge & Understanding	19	76	10
Leadership & Strategy	46	92	31
Partnership & Policy	67	89	41
SU Operations	79	79	46
Campaigning & Influencing	78	78	48
Outcomes	71	71	22
Outreach & Collaboration	16	80	10
Self defined criteria	30	100	12

This year you have scored a total of 406 points which is 92% difference from the average score of 211 across all participants in Green Impact Students' Unions' Unions this year.

Auditor Feedback

Here is some feedback from your NUS Green Impact auditor:

"UWE have achieved a significant amount on the sustainability agenda this year and have a clear focus on how to continue this progress. Their relationship with the institution is well established and they have utilised it to advance a multitude of sustainable projects - from setting up a new sustainability committee to intersecting food waste reduction initiatives with alcohol interventions. The clear leadership there is from students and officers is fantastic :) AWESOME WORK!"

Next Steps

On behalf of NUS's Department for Sustainability, thank you for taking part in this revived and more rigorous Green Impact Students' Union programme for 2016/17. We will be digesting all your feedback from the online programme survey, as well as reviewing thoughts and ideas from throughout the year, to provide learning and guidance to support you in 2017/18.

We look forward to seeing you on 5th July 2017 at SU2017 where we will be presenting the top 2 GISU unions (highest scoring commercial and non-commercial) at the NUS Awards, as well as providing certificates and relevant prizes for all participating unions. If you aren't able to attend we will ensure certificates/awards are sent to you over the summer.

We will be conducting an annual review of the toolkit over the next few weeks and months, however with such significant changes in 2016/17, there will only be minor changes so do consider how you may want to induct new staff or officers, as well as incorporating some of your audit feedback into your work plans for the year ahead.

For more information, news, case studies and information about NUS' other sustainability programmes, visit www.nus.org.uk/sustainability or contact gisu@nus.org.uk.