

Green Impact Students' Unions

The Students' Union at UWE

Feedback Report 2018

Well done and thank you for participating in the 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 2018, [70 universities](#) have committed to fossil fuel divestment. Bringing us near to half of all UK universities having made a divest-invest commitment!
- In 2017/2018, [Student Switch Off](#), our energy saving programme for student halls accommodation, reached 120,000 students, saving 846 tonnes of carbon and £222,000 for the sector.
- Student Eats have supported over 60 local and sustainable food enterprises. In June this year 40 members of the student-led projects got together to share good practice. To date over [£100,000 of funding](#) has been provided to support local food enterprises.
- The 4th NUS [Student Sustainability Summit](#) held in November 2017 brought together over 150 student leaders from across the UK to learn more about key sustainability issues and campaigns.

- NUS' [Dissertations for Good](#) and [Placements for Good](#) programme is going from strength to strength, offering students the chance to partner with organisations working for social good to conduct research and projects.
- 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 February we held our first [SDG Teach In](#) to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. Over 250 teaching staff pledged their support across 31 institutions.
- Over 12,000 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.
- [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.



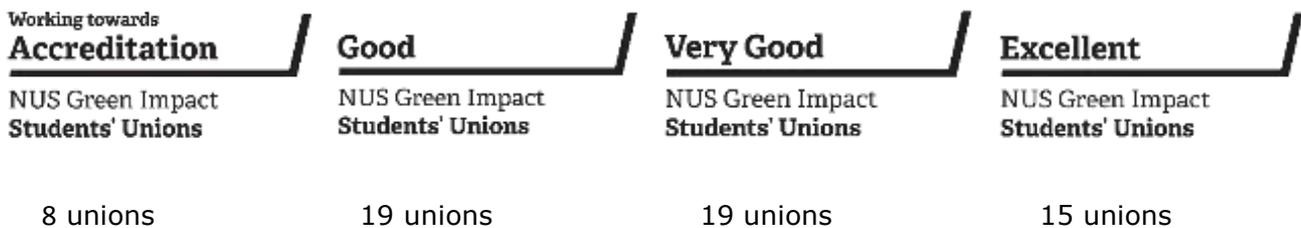
NUS staff with Melantha Chittenden LGBT Officer, Simon Blake NUS Chief Executive and Shakira Martin, accepting ESD award at UNESCO HQ Nov 2016

Programme impact

2017/18 has marked the 11th year of GISU, and to ensure the programme continues to meet the sustainability challenges and opportunities faced by students union, the toolkit is in its second year of focusing on 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.

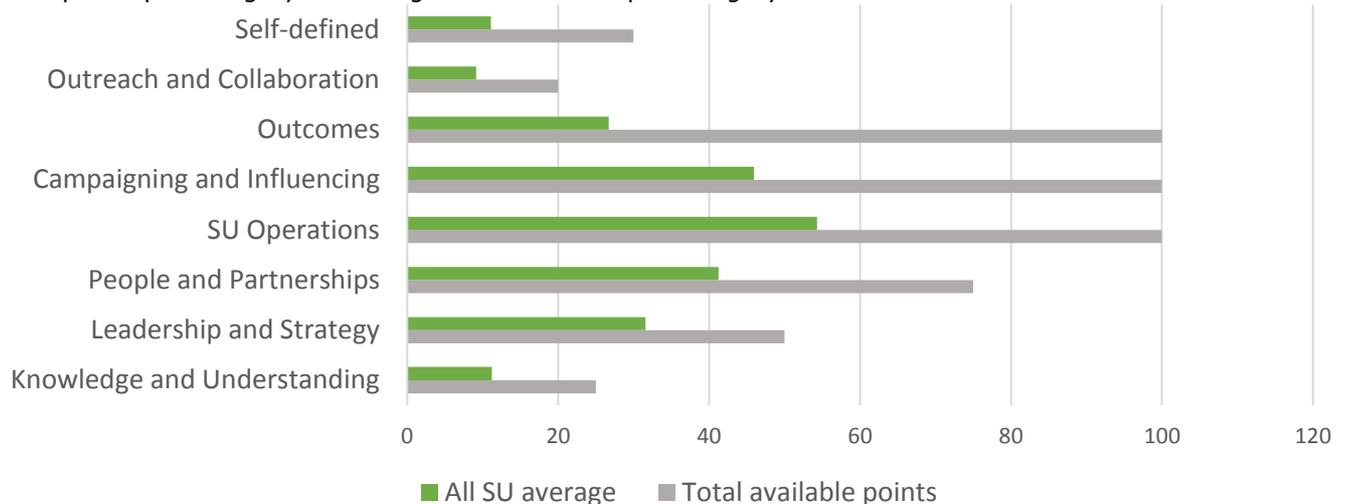
The auditing process this year has been particularly thorough to ensure we have consistent and fair scoring across all unions. To ensure transparency of the scaled scoring, you will have been provided a copy of your completed audit report which outlines the final auditor's scores as well as detailed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

70 unions have engaged with the programme this year, with **61 reaching the audit stage**. A total of **14,099 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 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	25	100	11
Leadership & Strategy	50	100	32
Partnership & Policy	73	97	41
SU Operations	85	85	54
Campaigning & Influencing	97	97	46
Outcomes	80	80	27
Outreach & Collaboration	20	100	9
Self defined criteria	25	83	11

This year you have scored a total of 455 points which is 97% difference from the average score of 231 across all participants in Green Impact Students' Unions this year.

Auditor Feedback

Here is some feedback from your NUS Green Impact auditor:

"The Students' Union at UWE are making a phenomenal difference to sustainability in their community - it has been wonderful to see the range of campaigns and initiatives in place and how well embedded these are throughout the whole organisation. In particular, how active and supported student officers and volunteers are at making change happen.

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Next Steps

On behalf of NUS's Department for Sustainability, thank you for taking part in the Green Impact Students' Union programme for 2017/18. 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 2018/19.

We will be conducting an annual review of the toolkit over the next few weeks, 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.

