

University of Worcester Sustainability Professional Award Katy Boom

About the project

Summary

Under Katy's leadership the University of Worcester has risen to second place in the People and Planet university league, the first English university to get EcoCampus platinum, and a finalist for 6 Green Gown awards last year. This is an amazing achievement and demonstrates the depth and breadth of her work.

The results

The problem

The University of Worcester works to increase social responsibility and sustainability awareness of staff and students and contributes to sustainable development through curriculum, research and consultancy, estates and facilities management, governance and interaction with the wider community.

It is understood that higher education institutions have an exciting opportunity to inspire, educate and develop generations of students and staff who will take their experiences of sustainable behaviour into their everyday lives and the university works to make the most of this opportunity. The University has been one of the fastest growing universities in Britain this period of sustained growth has the inevitable consequence of additional impact on its communities. Students trained as student advocates raising awareness of sustainability issues have acted as the public 'face' of many initiatives.

The approach

Some reflections from people who have worked with Katy to demonstrate her approach and impact.

"Working with Katy has been a great experience for me. She is extremely supportive and approachable which made working with her very easy. At the same time she gives students the opportunity to work independently which has helped me improve skills I can now transfer in my placement. The best thing about working with Katy is that she is a natural leader and at the same time is sensitive towards the concerns and needs of others. Katy is a person who truly believes in what she works for and her enthusiasm and passion spreads to everyone she works with. She has definitely influenced me in a way that has changed my views of



Profile

Example:

- HEI
- 11,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 1,100 staff
- Urban

Category supported by



sustainability completely. I am extremely happy to have worked with her as just a few months working with susthingsout.com and Katy have made an impact on me which will last my whole life." -3rd year accounting student currently on yearlong placement

"Katy gave me the opportunity and the insight into the world of sustainability, something I had a slight interest in at first. Now my mind has been opened and my passions have grown for sustainability. I am glad to have had the opportunity. I have learnt an incredible amount, and truly this is where my heart is now. Katy was the one who opened the door to my passion, giving me the key. Thanks to Katy I hope my future will be a green one as this field is something I strive to now take an active part in. – 1st yr Drama and Psychology student

"Katy has extended herself and her influence across both learning and teaching and research in the more conventional academic sense in her drive to move the sustainability agenda towards longer term, change among the young adults the University of Worcester educates. She was personally instrumental in data collection from potential students, friends and parents to support the case for curriculum innovation which produced the sector-leading cross-faculty elective model introduced to Worcester." Associate Head of Worcester Business School

"Katy has the passion and political nous to make things happen. Her thoughtful and inclusive thinking contributes to successful, sustainable solutions."- Roger Bond Director of Estates UEA and Chair of AUDE Sustainability Advisory Group

"Katy and the student lead innovative programs I've experienced, are far reaching and have significant impact within the City of Worcester. Her open style, commitment, and collaborative working, together with her vision, makes Katy a delight to work with and we know that her projects and ideas will get results."- Cllr Roger Knight Mayor of Worcester

"Authenticity, commitment, confidence, creativity and a very positive attitude are all skills I've seen Katy bring to her national roles. What stands out for me is her humility and ability to inspire others- so necessary in our work." Jamie Agombar Head of Sustainability NUS.

Our goals

Katy has led the University of Worcester and helped it achieve considerable strides in developing a sector-leading, rounded institutional profile:

- environmental benchmarks
- more recently this has been augmented by greater community engagement
- and over the last three years in the area of curriculum

The core focus has been to extend student engagement; extend curriculum development; reinforce campus and community; and seek to build integration across these. Research collaborations on preliminary framework for building and assessing university sustainability culture, and in student housing and energy as well as innovative teaching models are emerging cross disciplinary themes.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

This award provides independent recognition of Katy's work. She is known for creating opportunities for students and actively seeking out projects that can give benefit to others, be a catalyst for change or enhance sustainability in the Higher Education sector. Being a finalist helps in galvanizing support for her work.

Further information

Katy Boom

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<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/sustainability.html>

www.susthingsout.com