

## Liverpool Guild of Students Student Engagement Students Lead with a Buzz

### About the project

#### Summary

We aimed to put students at the heart of sustainable development across the Guild and University by providing a range of ways in which they could participate, catering for a wide range of interests from curriculum research to beekeeping. Stretch targets were set and we smashed them!

#### Project partners

NUS – Students' Green Fund, University of Liverpool Centre for Lifelong Learning and Academic Development, University of Liverpool Facilities Department.

### The results

#### The problem

To extend engagement beyond institutional operations such as recycling and energy saving to engage with more diverse interests and embrace innovation, entrepreneurship and more volunteering opportunities including curriculum development.

#### The approach

Driven by three members of full time staff it includes student leadership at every stage. The total number of students engaged has now exceeded **5000** out of an initial target of 2000.

30 student ambassadors supported curriculum research through surveys and focus groups on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Working with academic colleagues to plan the ESD strategy the Guild Officers then presented the research findings to the Senior Executive Group of the University last year. A cross-institutional working group was established to formulate recommendations on the implementation of ESD. The group reported to the Student Experience Committee (now Learning Committee) and the recommendations were approved to be implemented through a wider representative body. Eleven student teams submitted projects to the 'green seed fund'. There are around 40 team members plus and at least one staff mentor for each team. The FarmUrban team now run an aquaponics business with installations across Liverpool. LivCycle rent bikes to students on an annual basis and the Solar Thermal Pasteurisation project team has been invited for evaluation by the World Health Organisation. 59 students trained to champion energy, water saving and recycling in halls through Student Switch Off. In 2013-14 and 671 students signed up to take part in Switch Off. This rose to 914 last year and has already exceeded 1000 this year. 'Green volunteering' with the roof garden and beekeeping have become the most popular volunteering options this

Liverpool  
Guild of  
Students

#### Profile

- Students' Union
- 18,000 members
- 50 FTE staff
- Green Guild team of three
- City Campus

Category supported by



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# Finalist's case study

year with 45 signed up for the weekly roof garden sessions, including 6 student leaders, and 28 signed up for the beekeeping course. This led to accredited qualification for 28 students and 6 staff.

14 students trained to audit the Guild enterprises including retail outlets. The concept has also been for used with Guild societies who can now take part in a 'Green Flag' award scheme developed in-house. Students also carried out an audit of 37 stands at the 'Welcome Fair' scoring each on a range of criteria they had agreed.

There was also participation in a wide range of events throughout the year including a full 'Love Your Planet Festival' green week in February an additional 350 students.

We worked with the geography and planning curriculum area to deliver their Environmental Sustainability module with an inter-disciplinary cohort of 180 students becoming a best practice workshop at the annual Learning and Teaching Conference.

## Our goals

We are seeking to build on these successes and expand student engagement across all strands. We have already established a permanent team to take this forward and recorded increased recruitment across those areas launched so far.

## Obstacles and solutions

Senior Management 'buy-in'	Approach key staff directly through the elected officers
Managing a comprehensive offer	Detailed forward planning
Communication of the offer	Not relying on ICT/social media but face to face engagement
Engagement with other staff	Involving key staff directly from the start

## Performance and results

As reported we have exceeded all KPI's set at the start of the project.

## The future

### Lessons learned

Collaboration with colleagues from Facilities and academic departments is crucial for successful student engagement.

### Sharing your project

Reporting through the Students' Green Fund and to University staff. This has already led to new curriculum and enterprise initiatives as well as additional grant funding!

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

"We're really proud of what the project has achieved in two years, particularly the breadth and depth of activities and the collaborations realised throughout the institution from supporting social enterprises to conducting research into the curriculum. We reached a diverse group of creative and innovative students from traditional volunteers to academics exploring what sustainable development means with them."

**Harry Anderson, President, Liverpool Guild of Students**

## Further information

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