

University of Leeds Community Innovation Being a Positive Partner in Society

About the project

Summary

There are over forty thousand staff and students at the University of Leeds, and every one of us has a part to play in building a sustainable future. The aim here is to develop a partnership approach that demonstrates we recognise our impact on the local Leeds community, and strive to have a positive impact on society with the multiple projects we work on.

The University of Leeds and Leeds University Union work closely to develop projects we then work on together, in order to create mutual benefit and positive impacts for the wider community.

Project partners

Communities and community groups across the Leeds City Region; Leeds University Union

The results

The problem

In addition to the staff and students at the University, ours is one of the largest urban campus-based universities in the country which means our impact on the community and environment is significant. As part of the local community, we recognize our responsibility to have a positive impact. We also recognize that some community groups might have limited resources or capacity to develop sustainability projects.

The approach

We build and maintain our external engagement and partnership approach and support the wider community in their initiatives to become more sustainable. The University also supports our students and staff members to be responsible citizens and creates a welcoming campus where visitors and the local community can explore and get involved with.

Our goals

To equip all staff and students with sustainability skills and encourage them to be an active part of the community. The aim of this partnership approach developed here, is that we provide support for projects and volunteering experiences related to sustainability within and beyond the University, this also means we widen opportunities for staff and students to develop their skills and capacity.



Profile

- University of Leeds
- 31,906 students (includes full and part time students)
- 7517 staff
- Urban

Category supported by



Finalist's case study

Obstacles and solutions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with partners with different goals and agendas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with partner groups in order to develop an understanding of their aims and working practices. Agreeing on common ground and target setting. Representatives from different organizations on steering groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some staff and students need guidance on and increased awareness of their impact on society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved communication with staff and students via community guides to students, community newsletter 'Get to Know Your Neighbour' campaign, Develop and advertise volunteering opportunities Engagement events held throughout the project.

Performance and results

The partnership approach between the University and Leeds University Union working alongside community groups lead to higher than expected levels of engagement with positive results across a programme of over 40 sustainability related projects.

The future

Lessons learned

Partnership working provides mutual benefits. We will continue to create new projects as part of the University of Leeds Sustainability Strategy because our commitment to being a positive partner in society certainly meets its targets and helps us create great relationships between the University and the wider community.

Sharing your project

We continually promote our projects via social media and website. We are currently mapping out initiatives taking place around the city to find projects where we can share best practice. The Sustainability Service also produces a 'Community Newsletter' which is distributed to 1400+ people and organisations around Leeds and a monthly 'Sustainability Newsletter' for 400+ people within the University to inform them about our work and ways in which they can get involved. We continue to recruit many volunteers for our projects and our events meet with great responses.

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

It is really great to be recognized by the sector for our continuing efforts to create a more sustainable university and support our students and staff in becoming involved with our initiatives. We also know the importance of sharing best practice, as a two way process, with other Higher and Further Education Institutions.

Further information

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Organisation's website: <http://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/>

Organisation's social media links:

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/UoL_Sus
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UoLSustainability>
- Instagram: UoL_Sus