



Green Gown
Awards 2016



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Finalist's case study

Bangor University Facilities and Services

#LoveHalls

About the project

Summary

Almost 3000 students pass through Bangor University Halls of Residence each year. Bangor's Residential Life team, in partnership with The Sustainability Lab, recognised that during their time in Halls, students learn to live independently. This was identified as a valuable opportunity to develop not only the students' social skills but to develop them into globally responsible citizens. Greater understanding of the waste hierarchy gives students skills for living and budgeting. A number of programmes have been rolled out over the past 12 months and continue to be developed. We adopt a Kaizen approach and see this as a journey of continual improvement.

Project partners

Bangor's Residential Life team and The Sustainability Lab worked in partnership with British Heart Foundation (BHF) on Pack for Good and the refurbishment initiative, Dŵr Cymru on the shower head refit, the NUS on Student Switch Off, and Bangor Students' Union on the Big Give food Initiative, in addition to our 3000 students.

The results

The problem

Student populations are transient and often young, and it is well recognised that these factors present a number of challenges to implementing any schemes. Ultimately, Residential Life in partnership with The Sustainability Lab aims to develop and embed real life skills and knowledge required by students during their time in halls.

The approach

This initiative has facilitated the rollout of a number of programmes over the past year through our existing Campus Life programme, and these continue to be developed, including waste prevention, reuse and recycling, and energy and water conservation. These skills will support continual sustainable changes to all aspects of students' lives, enabling them to become responsible global citizens. The Halls, Properties and Campus offices lead by example, reducing waste from the running, maintenance and re-fitting of halls, maximising the social return on resource re-use, and contributing to the National Well-being Goals by maximising re-use.

Our goals

As part of Bangor University's aim to be 'The Sustainable University', the project uses information, campaigns and events to educate and raise awareness among students in Halls of Residence about resource efficiency, in a bid to positively change behaviour. The focus is to increase reuse and recycling rates and reduce energy consumption. The team adopts a Kaizen approach and see this project as an example of a journey of continual improvement.



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Profile

- Higher Education
- 11,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 2000 staff
- Rural



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Obstacles and solutions

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| Students unlikely to take shorter showers but still needed to save energy/costs | Retrofitting of more energy and water efficient shower heads throughout halls has led to a substantial reduction in both water and energy use. Encouraged participation in the NUS Student Switch Off. |
| Lack of engagement with reuse activities | Ensured student participation in our #LoveYourClothesBangor campaign, joined the BHF Pack for Good scheme and increased awareness of using leftovers in our Love Food Hate Waste workshops and encouraged students to donate to the Big Give – a food donation initiative. |
| Wide diversity of residents including international students | Made communications easy to understand, worked with Recycle4Wales to design custom posters to encourage recycling. |
| No-one on the ground | Employment of a Sustainability Campus Life coordinator. |

Performance and results

- Students: Better budgeting skills and awareness of how to make food go further
- £24,965 generated so far for BHF from reuse of furniture and a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 7 tonnes (7,000 kg)
- Approximately £40,000 savings to the University in skip costs
- Student Switch Off saved approximately £8,605 in electricity expenditure and over 46 tonnes of CO₂.
- Shower retrofitting generates an annual cost saving of £58,000 and a carbon reduction of 390 tonnes of CO₂
- Greater awareness of reuse and its benefits e.g. income for social enterprises/charities among residents
- Greater participation levels of reuse and purchasing of reused items.
- Campus Life coordinators emphasised these activities as being one of the highlights of their year
- Greater awareness and levels of dry recyclables and food recycling
- The furniture re-use meant that 16.38 tonnes (16,380kg) of items were diverted from the waste stream
- By week 2, Pack for Good collected 2.4 tonnes (300 bags) for re-use (final figures still coming in)

The future

Lessons learned

1. A partnership approach between students and University plus active engagement of experts, be they internal or external, are key to success
2. Student engagement has to be fun and rewarding
3. The University has to lead by example and demonstrate its actions

Sharing your project

The campaign has been and will continue to be widely disseminated through the press, newsletters, and partners' social media and websites, and via WRAP Cymru, BHF and other partners. We are currently working



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with the Recycle4Wales team at WRAP Cymru to develop a campaign aimed at students during the 2016/17 year and have jointly designed posters to be put up in all the Halls' bedrooms and kitchens in the University.

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

Bangor University prides itself on excellent student experience and student involvement. Our #LoveHalls project is a fine example of us leading by example and making savings. Being a finalist is validation that we are leaders in improving students' independent living skills and encouraging sustainable habits.

Further information

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)