

London Metropolitan University

Student Engagement

You Heard it Through the Green Vine

About the project

Summary

London Metropolitan University implemented a fun programme of events that got people talking about Green London Met. The activities covered a wide range of key sustainability projects including waste, water, biodiversity, food and energy. Events were easy to participate in and linked up to courses wherever possible. The activities used the NUS's Green Impact scheme to form a structure of events to encourage both staff and students to become more environmentally aware. Events ranged from growing strawberries and tending to our bees to designing windows.

The results

The problem

We implemented an extensive programme of carbon reduction and had achieved great results but students weren't aware of the work that had been undertaken. We wanted to ensure that we involved students in all of our projects to help them gain work experience.

The approach

We use the NUS's Green Impact scheme as a framework to ensure that a continuous programme of events were held in addition to our annual Green Week. This created spotlight months which focused on specific environmental issues.

Our goals

To raise environmental awareness amongst our students.

Obstacles and solutions

Awareness events were previously ad-hoc	Green Impact was used as a framework to create events throughout the term using spotlight months
Three campuses meaning difficult to ensure students were aware of events	Events were targeted, for example, if the building houses business students then events such as Sustainable Entrepreneurship were held.



LONDON
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

Profile

- Higher Education
- 12,000 students
- 1,500 staff
- 3 campuses
- Urban



Green Gown
Awards 2017



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Finalist's case study



Performance and results

10 student auditors were trained to be Green Impact assessors, which gives them experience for their CVs and is included on their University transcript. Through Green Impact, 415 sustainability actions were completed, 80 staff were involved in the scheme through 11 teams covering a wide section of the University which we aim to grow next year. We ran 49 awareness events in 2016/17.

It is very difficult as with many staff and student engagement programmes savings are difficult to monitor as they are undertaken with many other projects such as energy reduction, changes to building opening hours etc. It has been estimated using previous Green Impact examples that we will save £14,000 through increased energy efficiency behaviours. Our recycling rate has increased by 2% since the Green Impact scheme was launched.

The future

Top 3 learnings from implementing your project

- Some events might not work- don't give up!
- Try and link events to lectures – topics like sustainable entrepreneurship are popular
- Accept any opportunities to take part in other events so obtain a different audience]

Sharing your project

Communication of the project has greatly improved as PR, Marketing and Internal Communications took part in the Green Impact scheme and were able to share their experiences. This has led to an increase in internal communications and sustainability is included in the monthly staff and student newsletters.

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

We have animated the way in which London Met engages with its students and staff. We launch two new courses on CSR and Sustainability this autumn using the University as a 'living laboratory,' further mobilising students' involvement with this work. We are proud to be a finalist in the Green Gown Awards.

Further information

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www.londonmet.ac.uk/sustainability

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @GreenLondonMet