



Partnership and Engagement



18th EAUC
**Annual
Conference**
7-9 May 2014



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**Students'
Green Fund**

Emily Thompson-Bell
Programme Manager
National Union of Students



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Our vision

1. Students' unions as hubs of sustainability within their communities
2. Students leaving tertiary education as part of the solution to our environmental challenges rather than part of the problem



Students' Green Fund

£5m pilot fund from HEFCE for **student-led sustainability projects** to be run by students' unions in partnership with their parent institutions

Four key themes:

- **Student engagement**
- **Partnership**
- **Impact**
- **Legacy**



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Students'
Green Fund

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LATEST NEWS...



Students' Green Fund creates 300 paid sustainability roles



New sustainability focused jobs in students' unions



NUS vice president Dom Anderson on Stud Green Fund



**Sustainable Food
 Production on Campus**
 University of Leicester



Cycling 4 All
 University of Bradford Students' Union



**Green Guerrilla
 Gardeners**
 Newcastle University



Green Ladder
 UCLan Students' Union





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UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Teresa Kennard
Sustainability Manager
University of Southampton Students' Union



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NTU

What is BEES?



- Students audit Southampton organisations
- Students implement solutions to improve ethical and environmental practices



Engagement



Doing: Project Manager; Project Assistant; Sabbatical Officer; University Project Support; Interns

Deciding: SUSU Chief Executive; Chair of UoS Sustainability Action; NUS SGF Programme Manager; Southampton City Council

Consulting: Student volunteers; organisations being audited; UoS academics; business representatives

Informing: University of Southampton; SUSU; local community; HEIs



Issues covered include:



Carbon emissions

Investment

Resource management

Employee wellbeing

Transport

Supply chain



Benefits



For Organisations:

- Free business support
- Employee satisfaction
- Reputation
- Financial Performance
- Innovation

For Students:

- Employability
- Training
- Skill development
- Making an impact



Highlights

- Project Development
- Audit Methodology
- Training
- Volunteer interest and sign-up
- Business interest



Challenges



- Logistics – volunteers and audits
- Communication with stakeholders
- Embedding sustainability within SUSU



Legacy



- Future of BEES
- Engaging with businesses and organisations
- Developing SUSUs Sustainability Zone
- University-wide module on Business Ethics and Environmental Responsibility
- Adopting sustainability behaviours and habits





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Christina Donovan

Students' Union Coordinator

Wigan & Leigh College Students' Union



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Institutional Partnership

- The challenge of Learner Voice at Wigan & Leigh College
- Creating a vehicle for Learner Voice from scratch
- Students engaging with senior management for the first time



Community Partnership: *Working Together for Social Justice*

- Our Six Key Principles of Sustainability
- Establishing relationships with the groups in the wider community
- Dragon's Den
- A commitment to sustainable development that has a positive impact upon the community at large



Partner Institutions

- Putting 'partnership' back into our Partner Institutions
- In particular working with UCLan SU
- Building bridges, sharing skills & strengthening bonds



Lessons learnt

- Empower your students
- Engaging Teacher Education students to help with curriculum-based projects





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**STUDENTS'
GREEN UNIT**

UoE STUDENTS' GUILD

Norrie Blackeby

Students' Green Unit Manager
University of Exeter Students' Guild



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The journey so far...



What we aim to achieve

- Awareness
- Engagement
- Behavioural change

Project strands

- Research
- Employability
- Education
- Student & Community Engagement
- Operations

Vital Interaction with Stakeholders

University Sustainability Team
VC Executive Group
Sustainability Advisory Group
Project Review Board
Academics and researchers
Educational Enhancement





Highs

- Building a team of five interns
- Stakeholder engagement
- SGU launch
- First and second tranche of funding
- Student led projects kick off



Vital Interaction with Stakeholders

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VC Executive Group
Sustainability Advisory Group
Project Review Board
Academics and researchers
Educational Enhancement

Challenges

Good understanding of Internal politics
Finding the right communications tool for effective engagement
Overcome people's natural reticence to anything new
Engage with the right people





YES you can make a difference!

What to remember

- Know your audience
- Listen to what they have to say
- Ask for help and directions
- Be realistic with expectations
- Look for alternatives
- Be patient but persistent



Mapping exercise

- Form groups of three with people from other institutions.
- Each identify one key environmental issue on your campus that you're tackling at the moment.
- Each take 5 minutes to map your team's key strengths on this issue, and then move on to find where collaboration would strengthen your work – this could be other departments, HE/FE institutions, student groups, academics, local community organisations and beyond...
- We'll call out when to move onto the next issue



‘Aha’ moment

What we’ve found so far...

Before starting any new project, do a mapping exercise to find out who can help you make this happen.

Forming genuine partnerships takes time and willingness on both sides – but we’ve found it invaluable.

Top-down strategies delivered from managers are less likely to inspire change than genuine enthusiasm from students. Engage your students.

