

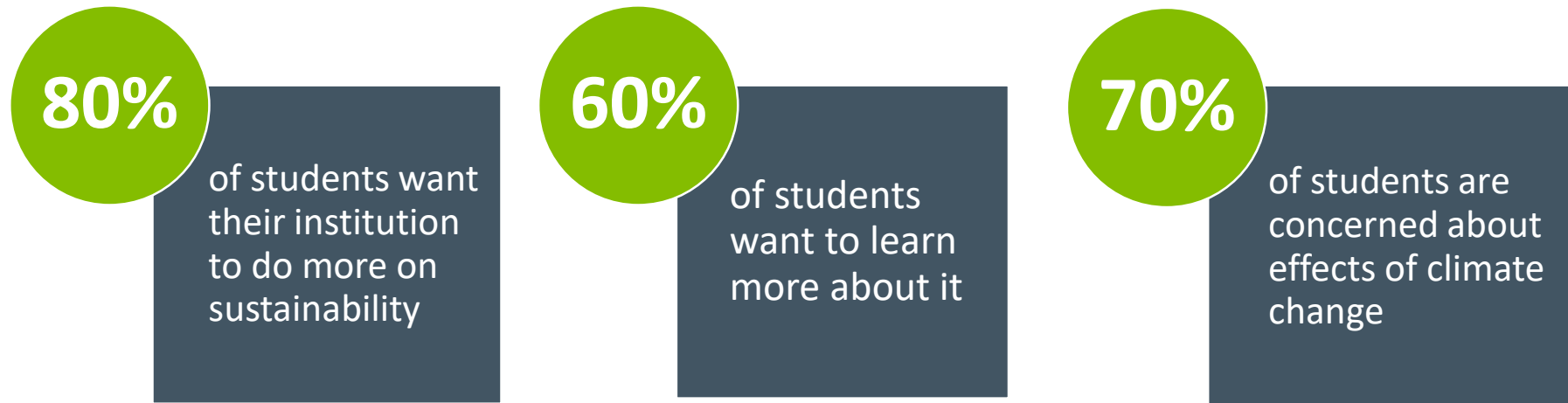
# Best practice with SA sustainability initiatives

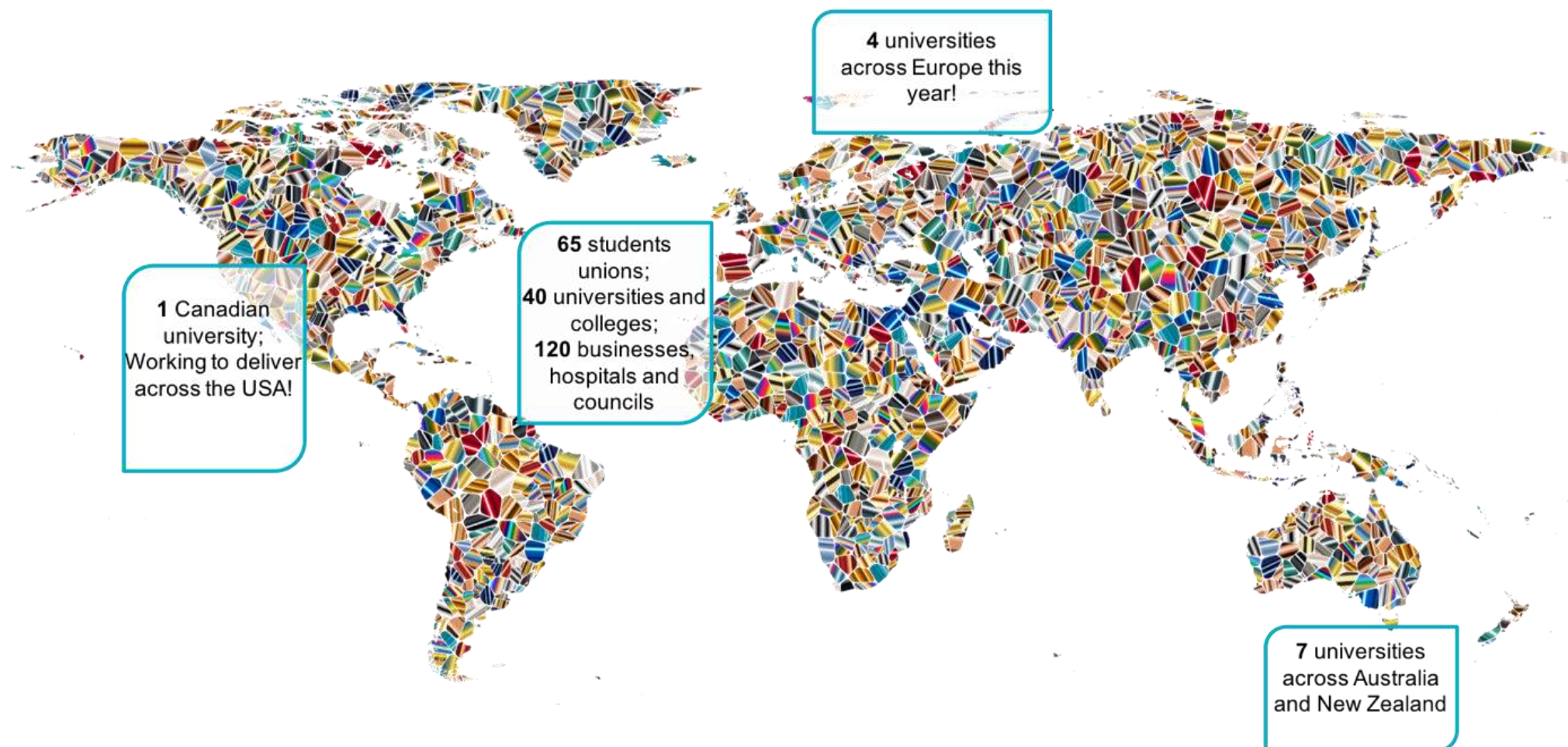
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2019

**NUS** is a democratic organisation, championing students to shape the future of education – and create a better world.

**SOS-UK** is the NUS' environmental charity.





# Case study: Working with your local SA

University of Central Lancashire

# The Story

- Up to 2012 – some joint initiatives between the SU and the University but limited.
- 2013 – University and Union wrote a joint bid for NUS Green Fund. University Green Team helped write the bid.
- Oct 2013 – Green Ladder Project created. Green Team sit on the Steering Group.
- 2013 to 2015 – Student Green Fund Project.



# The Story



2015- present:

- Union helped with the recruitment of Green Impact Student Auditors and Assistants
- Creation of a new student staff role – working with UCLan and Wigan & Leigh College
- Green Week Student Bursary – allowed students to lead on their own sustainability projects
- Micro allotments in Union gardens used as an incentive for staff to get involved in Green Impact

# Who do collaborations benefit?



# 1. The University

- The SA has expertise in engaging students
- Tap into effective and relevant SA communications such as social media
- Gives easier access for students to develop leadership skills
- Allows the university to connect with the democratic process of the Students' Association





## 2. The Students

- Estates & University can make things happen on the ground.
- The University has better access to resources (financial, staff expertise, long-term planning).
- Access to departments, e.g. Accommodation, Grounds Team, and academics. Allows for joined up working in the campus.



# The activity

Pick 1 change you want to make happen at your college or University around environmental or social impact (e.g. reduce the use disposable coffee cups, freebies in plastic bags or miles from study / work related travel)

In small groups reflect on the potential barriers.

Then think of how:

- A) The SA's involvement could help solve them
- B) The institution's involvement could solve them
- C) End up with a 2 action points of how you intend to start the change

5 minutes

# Our advice

- Learn who the key players within the University or SA & work at a strategic level with them
- Realise that University & SA systems, language, and structure will be different (learn each others lingo)
- Involve the Sabbatical Officers – they are the democratic leaders
- Try and see stuff from the others' perspective at every point, put yourself in their shoes

# Our advice

- Be prepared to take risks
- Resources fluctuate for the SA and University so a relationship matters – communicate often and share resources
- Change can also mean new opportunities. Be ready to pounce!
- Stay **ahead of the game** – recognize the growing demand and changing narrative around sustainability



STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

# The future

## TEACH THE FUTURE

Our first SOS-UK Campaign; in partnership with UKSCN

If young people learn about the climate emergency and ecological crisis we can prevent the mistakes of the past and change the course of history.

As young people, we call on government to take immediate action to reform the education system.

**Note: not yet launched in Scotland**



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# The future

## SDG Teach In – February 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> year running

Last year, **206 educators** at **19 institutions** reached **17,521 students**. This included embedding the SDGs in modules from taxation to sport; textiles to gastronomy; and Greek political thought to dentistry.





## The future

### STUDENTS FOR TREES

- Our partnership with the Woodland Trust
- Student-led campaign for reforestation and celebrating the importance of woodlands, especially as carbon sinks
- Supporting the **Big Climate Fightback** campaign on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November

# Questions please 😊

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