

The University of Manchester Student Initiatives and Campaigns Your Halls Green Fund

Section 1 About the project

Summary

There are 19 Resident Associations at the University of Manchester, which comprise of current students in halls who are elected by their peers to represent the needs of 34 halls of residence. The "Your Halls Green Fund" has been created to provide Resident Associations within the University's 9200 residential bedrooms with the opportunity to bid for funding associated with sustainability projects. The fund is created by directing ~£1 per week from every residents' accommodation fees into a separate fund. The fund is then available for environmental initiatives that students believe their halls could benefit from, such as energy efficiency schemes (e.g. LED lighting and insulation projects), cycle shelters and biodiversity projects.

Project Partners

Groups involved with the fund: Student Hall Residents Associations, Student Environmental Reps, Residential Services Management (making up the Halls Green Fund Panel).

Section 2 The results

The problem

Residents who were engaged with Sustainability through the Residential Services Halls Energy Saving Campaign, who didn't win the campaign had nothing to show for their hard work. The Halls Green Fund was implemented to counteract this by allowing halls who actively campaigned to bid for funding of sustainability projects to help improve their halls. The projects put forward were decided by the students who lived in each of the halls working with the halls Environmental reps (with the support of the Residences senior management team) to create a bid.

The approach

The halls green fund is promoted from when students arrive in hall in September and details of the fund are included in the environmental pack provided to all residents. Applications for project funds are launched at the end of the first semester and judged by a panel including members of the Residences Senior Management Team, Estates and Pastoral Team. Once bids are received by halls who are actively engaging their residents about sustainability through events and campaigns, the panel decides which halls get the funding for projects.



Profile

- HEI
- 40 000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 10 000 staff
- Urban



Category sponsored by

Our goals

Engaging more halls to get involved with sustainability and energy saving campaigns through promoting the projects that other halls have bid for and have been successful in implementing. Through this we have seen more halls actively organizing more initiatives in order to get access to funding to help make environmental improvements to their halls.

Obstacles and solutions

Obstacles	Solutions
Limited Sustainability Investment in Halls	Halls Green Fund set up to support Sustainability projects across all halls.
Issues with private halls leased back to the University	Ensuring the panel has a member of the Pastoral team based in a private hall to help work with students so they know what they can bid for and what cannot be accepted.
Funding for longer term projects such as windows, building management systems and insulation	The fund has an additional amount designed specifically for longer term investment projects. This part of the fund allows for additional support for larger more costly schemes.

Section 3 The future

Lessons learned

Although the University did not win this category it has taken on board the judges' comments. We shall work more closely with students to ensure that students can get more involved with the halls green fund in future years.

Sharing your project

This is been done through a number of means, such as start of term Green Guides given to all residents to regular meetings with the Halls Environmental Reps. It is also posted through online media to engage more students in halls to support the residents associations and in particular volunteer to help their nominated hall environmental rep.

In addition to this, the project has been passed on to other Universities through the University's Residential Services Management Team meeting staff from other Universities, where best practice is discussed.

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

This has been a great boost for the project, which will help us to further work at supporting both the student energy saving campaign and the halls green fund to continue to expand the initiatives.

Further information

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