



EAUC Annual Conference University of Leeds 23 – 25 March 2015

# CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

Incorporating the Student Sustainability Summit, Further Education Sustainability Summit and Transformational Leadership Summit

## Workshop 22: Building Momentum from the Students' Green Fund and beyond: where next for student-led action on sustainability?

*Emily Thompson-Bell, Students' Green Fund Programme Manager, NUS; Teresa Sheppard, Roehampton University Students' Union; Anna-Marie Vickerstaff, Leeds University Union and Rachel Purdon, Gloucestershire University Students' Union*



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# CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

Building momentum from the  
Students' Green Fund and beyond:  
where next for student-led  
action on sustainability?

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national union of **students**

Partnership and  
Engagement







  
**STUDENTS'  
GREEN UNIT**  
UoE STUDENTS' GUILD















# THE HIVE CAFE

HOME OF GROWHAMPTON TV







Special Brew and Orange chutney - made with organic produce and harvested by members of the University of Leeds Student Bee Society. The chutney is made with organic produce for all the bees and children using produce for sale at our Green Markets, an allotment and the University Bistro.

hefce



These two products come from student-led social enterprises based within the University of Leeds. The Student Bee Society and The Chutney Club Company use their profits to promote local and seasonal food to students and the local community. The chutney was made using produce grown on campus by students and the beer was made from local ales by the local West Yorkshire Press.

hefce



Community made by Worme Blackstock, Students' Union Manager

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The Sustainability Action Group (SAG) is a staff/student group based at the University of Leeds, comprised of people who have an interest in sustainability issues broadly. We decided that having beehives on campus would be an excellent way of raising awareness about the plight of bees and pollinators in general, as well as taking some action ourselves towards the bees. We currently have 3 hives, which are checked weekly between approx. April and September, when it's warm enough. We have only harvested a small amount of honey in our first couple of years as we are keen to ensure our bees have enough to last them through the winter. The honey we have harvested has been used to make cakes, soaps, lip balms and body butters for sale at the University and the funds are put back into training more beekeepers and buying equipment for the hives. We would recommend beekeeping to anyone who loves nature.

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Preparing students for  
the work of the world not  
just the world of work.

Sir Jonathon Porritt, Environmentalist







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# CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

## Case Study: Green Exchange, Leeds University Union

DEVELOP  
FUND &  
TRANSFORM

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# Green Exchange Student Fund



Partnership and  
Engagement



Judged by a partnership panel of UoL, LUU staff and students.

Available to any student in Leeds: Leeds Met, Leeds College of Art, Leeds College of Music, City College, Leeds Trinity

Mass engagement with students and community members in Leeds.

150 tonnes of carbon saved through student funding initiatives.

Enhancing employability and provide volunteering opportunities.

Facilitating a network of sustainability across the city.

Creating projects with a legacy of sustainability.





# Our Projects:



Partnership and  
Engagement



Engineers without borders

STAR Bikes

Real Junk Food Project

Bedford Fields and  
The Conservation Volunteers

Sustainability Hub











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# CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

**Case Study: Growhampton, Roehampton SU**

# GROWHAMPTON

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# GROWHAMPTON



Partnership and  
Engagement



Growing  
spaces

Market  
day

Veggie  
bag  
scheme

Thrift  
shop





# GROWHAMPTON



Partnership and  
Engagement



Local

Organic

Ethical



Sponsored by  
**CISCO** **BT**  
Working together





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# CHALLENGING CONNECTIONS

## Case Study: Greener Gloucestershire

university of gloucestershire students' union  
**teamgreen**



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# University of Gloucestershire SU – Greener Gloucestershire



Partnership and  
Engagement



**green**impact



Timeline

About

Photo



university of gloucestershire students' union  
**teamgreen**



- Empower students to become change agents of the future
- Offer students the opportunities to gain skills and experiences through our variety of strands
- Develop employability, enthusiasm and entrepreneurship



Green Gown  
*Awards 2014*

AWARDING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE FOR 10 YEARS

# UoG Students' Union Social Enterprise



Partnership and  
Engagement



- Aim to generate their income by selling goods and services, rather than through grants and donations
- Set up to specifically make a difference
- Reinvest the profits they make in their social mission



Green Gown  
Awards 2014

AWARDING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE FOR 10 YEARS



# Social Enterprise – Student Opportunities



Partnership and  
Engagement



## Student opportunities:

- Marketing
- Design
- Sales
- Leading a team
- Recruiting volunteers
- Financial management and budgeting
- Business planning
- Research



**students' union**  
university of gloucestershire



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*Awards 2014*

AWARDING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE FOR 10 YEARS

# Students gain confidence, skills & experience to become leaders for change



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Engagement



- Knowledge and understanding
  - Broader understanding of sustainability
  - Enterprise as a vehicle for positive change
- Skills and competencies
  - Confidence
  - Business Acumen
  - Interpersonal skills
  - Reflection and growth
- Experiences
  - Fun
  - Meeting people + building relationships
  - Real responsibility
  - Failure





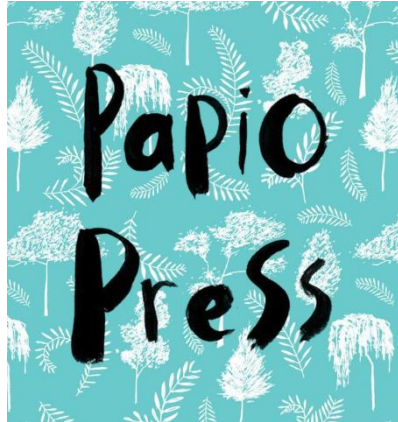
# Student Led Social Enterprises



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Engagement



gd apparel



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# Social Enterprise – Student Opportunities



“For some years I have wanted to keep bees, but now I am heading a project that will provide so much more than a few pots of honey.

It has enabled me to **get involved in a community** that I am new to, **learn about sustainability** beyond an environmental perspective and **learn skills** that I never expected to learn as part of my course.

While I came to University to put my head down and get a degree, I realise now the fun to be had by getting involved with a social enterprise scheme such as this. I would strongly encourage anyone with even a glimmer of an idea to give it a go.”



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# Lessons learned...



Partnership and  
Engagement



- Important to set out a clear mentoring path
  - Students often put off by uncertainty, or too much responsibility too quickly
  - Gradually hand over responsibility and give ownership
- Ideas and enthusiasm will spread slowly but surely
- Clearly define and publicise support available for developing ideas



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*Awards 2014*

AWARDING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE FOR 10 YEARS



# Social Enterprise – Legacy



Partnership and  
Engagement



Continuing opportunities + growth



Social Enterprise  
Support and Advice

THE GROWTH HUB

gfirst LEP  
growing gloucestershire

Crowdfunding for Social Enterprise

GLOSFUND

nus

national union of **students**



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- How can students govern sustainability in your institution currently? What more could be done?
- What positive action does your institution or SU currently take to support student-led action on sustainability. What more could be done?
- How can UK-wide organisations like NUS, P&P or EAUC support your efforts nationally?