

# Leeds Beckett Procurement and Urban Planters grow their own!



In 2018 Leeds Beckett Procurement Team joined the University's Green Impact Scheme. Run by the NUS, it's an environmental accreditation scheme promoting sustainability in universities. Simple, rewarding and fun, the scheme brings staff together to play an active role in making the workplace more sustainable. Teams are formed and implement changes to achieve awards up to Gold level.

*'Green Impact is a great way to bring the whole team together and engage in sustainability' - Sarah Coll, Head of Procurement*



At Leeds Beckett there are 17 teams, 61 staff and students completing over 190 actions. In their first year the Procurement Team achieved Gold level and a staff award of 'Environmental Hero'. Procurement actions included recycling, reducing energy consumption, increasing their use of public transport, cycling between campuses, promoting environmental awareness, participating in charity initiatives and even going vegan for the day!

Spurred on by their initial success, in 2019 the team was keen to engage in a Green Impact Project that had both environmental and social benefits. The team liked the idea of growing their own produce, with the help of an expert. They used the NETpositive sustainability tool to identify local supplier Urban Planters (the designated expert!) who was delighted to come on board and sponsor the project.

*We are always raising awareness of the importance of plants. When Sarah and her team approached us, we were happy to jump on board, guide so many people to success and we even made our own organic plant food along the way. It has been a pleasure to assist and we look forward to future projects - Joseph Potts, Urban Planters Director*



Staff from across the Finance Department were encouraged to take part resulting in 27 individuals growing their own! Urban Planters advised the team to start with basil - in season and easy to grow. An online portal was created to share experiences and 3 months on everyone had grown healthy plants, used the produce in home cooking and even made their own pesto!



Great feedback was received including 'an easy activity to be involved in', 'a common goal across the teams', 'enjoyable', 'successful' and there was overwhelming support for future projects. The basil pots and plants are now being recycled into other Green Impact Projects and staff can't wait to get stuck in again next year!