

Leeds Beckett University

Green Impact - Impact Report

2019

Thank you for everything you've put into Green Impact this year. We're really proud of what the programme's achieved, and hope you are too.

This document showcases the combined impact of teams at LBU and updates you on what's going on with Green Impact nationally.

National picture

Green Impact is a change and engagement programme – it helps people understand sustainability and social responsibility, shows them what they can do to make a difference, and supports them in achieving these actions.

It has been developed over the last ten years, using social change theory and NUS' expertise to produce a model that works in all environments and workplaces year-after-year. It covers the whole sustainability spectrum and is based on the themes of continual improvement, collaboration and meaningful change to establish new social norms and inspire people with the skills and passion needed to make a difference.

Over the last decade, Green Impact has helped engage thousands of staff and students to create a more sustainable education system. It's enabled sustainability staff to find likeminded champions to help transform campuses, and the amazing work of Green Impact teams has led to positive results off-campus and in the curriculum too.

Green Impact was NUS' first sustainability project. Its success provided a springboard for NUS to develop other innovative sustainability projects, and in October 2019 to create **Students Organising for Sustainability UK** – NUS' sustainability charity under which all its sustainability projects & campaigns will now be run. Because of NUS' leadership role in the students' union movement, students' unions have stepped up in terms of sustainability, and now collectively employ more than 30 staff in sustainability roles, up from none just six years ago. This has had a knock-on effect, with hundreds of staff across the tertiary education sector now working on sustainability engagement. Green Impact is increasingly talked about as having been one of the most transformational things to have happened in the UK students' union movement for a generation.

We're delighted that over the years:

- 84% of participants find the programme either excellent or good;
- 72% of people said that after being involved with Green Impact they know more about how to use their knowledge to make changes to their daily life;
- 72% of people said that after being involved with Green Impact they're also more likely to encourage others in the sustainability agenda too;
- And 88% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt good about themselves as a result of taking part in Green Impact.

Our total impact for 2019 can be seen below, which encompasses our breadth of work in education, healthcare, and the private sector.

Green Impact 2019

Our impact is now international achieved in partnership with ACTS and SOS International



128 organisations took part in Europe and Australasia from universities, hospitals, local councils and more!



1,367 teams were made up of **8,202** people working together on implementing sustainable actions



47,845 people were reached through Green Impact teams projects, actions and initiatives



1,405 students were trained to support teams through becoming Green Impact Project Assistants and conducting environmental audits



45,118 actions were taken by teams and **30,437** of these were as a direct result of Green Impact

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The programme at LBU – 2019 overview

2019 has been another great year for Green Impact at Leeds Beckett, seeing an increase in teams and a large number of teams receiving the prestigious new platinum award. It is also the first year that we have introduced a project element, so teams can design and implement their own project to tackle a sustainability challenge within their department. See an overview of the year in numbers and award levels below:



16 teams took part, with
14 teams receiving
awards



1 Bronze Award
4 Silver Awards
2 Gold Awards
7 Platinum Awards



685 actions completed
by teams, **472** as a
direct result of Green
Impact



8 innovative sustainability
projects designed and
implemented by teams



An estimated **92** people
in Green Impact teams,
reaching **416** colleagues
through their Green
Impact activities



Estimated to have saved a
potential **56,014 kgCO₂**



Estimated to have saved
a potential **£21,688**



Provided 12 students with
training and development
opportunities in their roles
as auditors



530 more actions
completed in 2019
compared to 2016, and
336 more people being
reached

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Tangible cost and carbon savings

Every team is at different starting points before they start Green Impact and implements actions & projects in a different way. Therefore, it's difficult to know exactly what the collective impact of the actions are. We can make simple calculations to estimate the impact that combined actions may have had on both carbon reductions and financial savings. We look at how many teams have implemented certain actions as a result of Green Impact, and use calculations based on the Carbon Trust's Empower tool:

- Approximately 192 people have been reached to ensure they are not using personal heaters and are turning off all personal and communal electrical items at the end of the day. This could potentially save an estimated 19,187 kg CO₂ and £3,007.
- Some 256 people have been reached in the promotion of video-conferencing, potentially saving 14,522 kg CO₂ and £12,660 as well as improving team efficiency and individual work-life balance.
- 9 teams have worked on increasing recycling awareness, leading to a potential saving of 5,878 kg CO₂
- It's estimated that 288 people have been engaged in reducing paper waste, potentially saving £5,760 and 15,552 kg CO₂.
- Increasing awareness on water saving, in particular reporting dripping taps, has been implemented by 8 teams, potentially saving £261 and 875 kg CO₂.

Therefore, total identified potential carbon savings are **56,014 kg CO₂** and cost savings of **£21,688**. These are just some of the criteria that we have available data for, and all calculations are estimates of the potential savings. There are many other criteria that are harder to measure impact for, as well as all the team projects that have been happening this year. However, these calculations do show that across the whole university, Green Impact can create some pretty significant changes to carbon emissions and financial cost.

Special Awards

On top of the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards we award each year, we recognise teams and individuals that went above and beyond to make an impact in the Special Awards. In 2019, the below winners were recognised at LBU as Special Awards winners. All local winners will be put forward for national consideration in the National Green Impact Awards, announced in the Autumn.

Student Leadership Award – Alicia Jassner: Alicia won the Student Leadership award for their commitment, passion and leadership which has been instrumental in the recent success of the LBU allotments. Alicia have helped the growth and development of the space and inspired other students to get involved.

Innovation for Engagement – Lesley Carden (Procurement): Lesley won the Innovation for Engagement award for implementing the 'growing your own' project in the Procurement team. This was an excellent and innovative idea boosting staff engagement and social time in the office. Congratulations on receiving your special award!

Sustainable Improvement – Kay Addison: Kay won the Sustainable Improvement award for implementing a crisp packet recycling scheme, which will have a lasting impact on the team and encourage members to recycle waste effectively.

Sustainability Hero – Laura Torenbeek (Green Filmmakers): Laura won the Sustainability Hero award for inspiring many students and staff to produce quality work whilst being environmentally aware in the Film School. Laura has introduced revolutionary practices within the department, and we hope that this inspires other academic departments to do the same.

Power Week winners – Estate Services: Estate Services came in first place for their activities in Power Week. Power Weeks are held throughout the Green Impact year to help teams focus their activities and complete actions on the toolkit. Power Week points are awarded for teams that get involved in Power Week, separate to their toolkit points, and an overall winner is announced each year.



Historical Impact

Green Impact has been running at Leeds Beckett since 2016. In that time, the programme has grown each year with veteran teams continuing to push themselves year-on-year, and new teams forming across both campuses. Collectively we have had a huge impact so far:



Created **22**
teams



Been led by
nearly **200**
people



Provided **47**
students with
training and
development
opportunities



Engaged more
than **1,548**
people in
sustainability
and social
justice issues



Seen **1,618**
actions
completed, **965**
as a direct
result of the
programme

And estimated savings of **£62,396** &
179 tonnes CO₂



Next steps

Once again, on behalf of the whole Green Impact team, many thanks for helping to make the programme a success this year, and congratulations to all teams on their achievements. The 2020 programme has just launched and we look forward to another year working with students & staff at Leeds Beckett on Green Impact!

Green Impact continues to grow, with new programmes launching at a wide range of organisations both on- and off-campuses, many of which are at the very beginning of their sustainability journey. If you know of an organisation who might benefit from taking part, get in touch. For more information, news, case studies and information about SOS-UK's other sustainability programmes, visit <http://greenimpact.nus.org.uk/> or contact joanna.romanowicz@sos-uk.org

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