

PILLAR: University Life

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Laura Carruthers/ Student Life team

EXEC LEAD: Beverley Knights



Teaching Intensive Research Informed

INTENT: Everyone is empowered to be a leader of Environmental Sustainability and is encouraged to be innovative in their 'green' solutions. To encourage partnerships and collaboration across the sector to maximise ideas, resources and expertise to achieve more effective outcomes.

University Life action plan – Overview.

The Student Life team plan to consider Environmental Sustainability in every event and project we work with, it will be a theme that runs through all initiatives. Cross departmental collaboration is essential in order to develop and deliver an effective Environmental Sustainability initiative. This plan outlines the ways in which the University of Bolton will work in collaboration internally and with external partners such as Group Partners, Bolton Council and Orlando Village. Internal departments who we will work with in supporting Environmental Sustainability are the Students' Union, Library, Sport and Wellness, Life Lounge and Facilities (grounds keepers and gardeners).

Increased Student Engagement

Engaging students with large initiatives are often the most successful when student participation is at its core. With Environmental Sustainability at the forefront of agendas across the sector, it is important that the University invites students to work as collaborators and partners, to deliver a powerful change-making campaigns. To do this, this plan recommends the development of an Environmental Sustainability student task and finish group. Students on this group will be informed and supported by the Student Life team, but will exist to create and deliver student led projects and campaigns. This plan also recommends a Student-Led Campaign change fund, which will allow students to bid for funding to deliver impactful projects. This fund will be run in conjunction with the student task and finish group. The Students Union are experts in student engagement and enhancing student voices, therefore they will play an integral role within both the task and finish group and the student-led change fund.

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Academic year 2021/2022

Objective	Action/s	Progress
Sustainable Futures week	Promotion of UoB green initiatives, educating students on ES and green actions. 5 days of activities, each day themed. Number of externals in attendance such as the RSPB, RSPCA and local Fairtrade and sustainable business, Justicia.	Completed
Veganuary	Promoted Veganuary and the positive impacts a plant-based diet has on the environment	Completed
Fairtrade Fortnight	Justicia Shop TikTok Video	Completed
Global Recycling Day	Raising awareness of the importance of recycling	Completed

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Futures week - Employability and Sustainability event	Linking Employability with sustainability - Working Wardrobe, Workwear swap shop, PGCE workshop for sewing skills, Justicia)	Completed
Green Leadership Programme – UoB Students recruitment to be leaders	Promotion of 2022 Green Leadership Programme for students via @uobunilife channels	Completed
Oceans Conference	Promotion of event to students in person and virtually.	Completed
World Environment Day	Showcasing herb garden initiatives, competition for students to win a sponsored WWF animal pack, raising awareness of previous university projects	Completed

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Bike Week	UoB sport advertising the bike scheme and ran a competition to win a free bike	Completed
University Garden	Create a garden on Deane campus for students and staff to learn about growing	Working on it
Plastic-free July	Plastic free DIY workshops. Student involvement from PGCE students	Postponed

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Academic year 2022/2023

Objective	Action/s	Progress
Student task and finish group	Creation of the Student Sustainability Panel Student Sustainability Panel - Member application 2022-2023 (office.com)	Completed
Student-led campaign change fund	Students to bid into funding pot to create and deliver sustainability projects throughout the year	In-progress
Welcome Week	ES embedded into welcome week by promoting ES student working group, encouraging students to adopt sustainable practices, and making personal pledges to be more sustainable.	Completed

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Reusable Keep-Cup scheme	Student life provided students with reusable keep-cups for hot drinks, to encourage less single use plastics. Catering team are offering 30 pence off a medium hot drink across campus (large if used in Eagle Bistro)	Completed
Sustainable Futures 2022	Promotion of UoB green initiatives, educating students on ES and green actions. 5 days of activities, each day themed. Number of externals in attendance such as the RSPB, RSPCA and local Fairtrade and sustainable business, Justicia.	Completed
Entrepreneurship week	Linking jobs and sustainability – displayed green jobs board	Completed
Planting fruit trees	Students supporting facilities in planting fruit trees on campus (Deane Road)	Completed

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Environmental Sustainability Policy review	The Student Sustainability panel, with input from the wider student body, will review plans to update the ES draft policy	Completed
Fairtrade fortnight 2023	Student Life team plan to host online activities, highlighting Fairtrade organisations and products	Completed
World Wildlife Day 2023	Online interactive quiz about animals' natural habitats, extinction and the impact of climate change on the environment	Completed
International Day of Forests 2023	Shared three local woodland walks in Bolton	Completed

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Earth Day 2023	Trip to Dunham Massey Park and Gardens. 10 places available.	Completed.
National Gardening Week	'Let's Grow' – Delphinium planting, tied into the Kings coronation free for students to take away and grow at home. RHS gardening guides shared on social media. Students encouraged to share pictures of their gardens in bloom	Completed
Mental Health awareness week - Sustainability and Wellbeing	Student Life will be hosting a gardening session and workshop to help students explore the connection between nature, environmental sustainability and wellbeing.	Completed
World Environment Day	Social media post and small group of 5 students to the Kingfisher trail seven acres nature reserve	Completed

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World Oceans Day	Social media post link to United Nations online conference	Completed
National Clean Air Day	Social media post and stories	Completed
Clean Beaches Day	Social media post – top tips on how to keep beaches tidy	Completed
National Marine Week	TBC	In-progress

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Love Parks Week	Wellness Walk to Queens park with Sport	In-progress
Cycle to Work Day	Social media competition to win a UoB bike – TBD	In-progress

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Academic year 2023/2024

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Welcome Week	TBC	In progress
Recycle Week	TBC	TBC
World Car Free day	TBC	TBC

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FSC Forest Week – integrated into Welcome	TBC	TBC
World Food Day	Bistro to serve at least one meal a day that produces low carbon emissions/ is vegan etc	TBC
Sustainable Futures 2023/ COP-27	TBC	TBC
Fairtrade fortnight 2023	TBC	TBC

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World Wildlife Day 2023	TBC	TBC
International Day of Forests 2023	TBC	TBC

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Our Partners

Students Union

The Students Union run a 'Green Wedge' scheme for SU societies, the wedge is awarded to societies that demonstrate a clear passion for the environment and sustainability. Once they demonstrate they have achieved the criteria; displaying recycle me badge on promotional material, recycle anything used, volunteer in the community to partake in environmentally friendly activity or campaign over a semester they receive the Green Wedge. This can be used on their promotional materials to show they are an environmentally friendly society. Collectively the wedges can be used to gain rewards such as merchandise, catering, graphics design support and more. The Student Life team and the Students' Union work in collaboration on the annual Sustainable Futures event.

Orlando Village

Working with staff and students in the Halls we hope to promote that students participate in national initiatives such as encouraging a greater awareness of appliance electrical usage, through campaigns such as SOS-UK Student Switch-off. There is an opportunity to teach students living in Halls of Residence about overconsumption, fast fashion and reducing the amount of fabric waste by offering a clothes swap and recycling.

Bolton Council

The University will continue to collaborate with Bolton Council on their yearly Environmental Sustainability initiatives, where possible. There are already strong links to our partners in Bolton Council, and we only aim to strengthen these by supporting their program.