



Sound Impact Awards

Showcase Booklet 2007/08

Sharing best practice

Be enlightened, be the expert



www.yourenvironmentalguide.com

Office Depot is delighted to sponsor the Sound Impact Awards and aims to deliver a carbon neutral relationship.

Since launching in August 2006, the Office Depot UK's Carbon Neutral Initiative has achieved great success. Rewarding the individual shops and Unions who make a positive change in their trading relationship, in order to reduce the levels of carbon produced in the transaction process, it focuses on four key areas:

- Utilising Office Depot online to place orders, reducing use of natural resources and improving order and delivery accuracy
- Consolidating orders to reduce the use of energy in their Distribution Centre network
- Scheduling delivery days to reduce levels of carbon emitted by delivery vehicles
- Consolidating suppliers by taking up the one stop option to reduce number of companies used and different vehicles making deliveries

Office Depot will match all reductions in the carbon footprint, with carbon off-setting through both a 'plant a tree' scheme and carbon credits, using Pure, the clean planet trust. Utilising Office Depot's carbon calculator, they will monitor and measure all reductions and target reductions for each Union. By the end of 2008, the aim is to have delivered a carbon neutral relationship between NUS Service Ltd and Office Depot UK Ltd.

To further encourage your Union to work towards this aim, Office Depot have offered a generous reward mechanism, whereby your Union can earn up to 4% of your spend with Office Depot by way of a rebate cheque, simply by working in partnership

with Office Depot to achieve your carbon targets.

On launching the initiative David Murphy, Office Depot Strategic Business Development Manager, stated "The Sound Impact Awards, was my first experience of working with NUS Services Limited. I was astounded and motivated by the levels of enthusiasm and passion on display, from not only the winning Unions, but all those at the event. This led to us developing and delivering the new carbon neutral initiative, which we are delighted to launch to NUS Services. We believe and hope that this demonstrates our commitment to work in partnership with you, to deliver a better future."

To find out more information regarding the carbon neutral initiative, please contact Office Depot at nuscarbonneutral@officedepot.com

Office DEPOT.
Taking Care of Business

Welcome



Stephen Dowson

Student Chair,
Ethical & Environmental Committee
NUS Services
www.soundimpact.org.uk
soundimpactawards@nussl.co.uk

Welcome to the official showcase for the Sound Impact Awards 2007/08. Now in its second year, this accreditation scheme continues to encourage, reward and celebrate environmental best-practice in Students' Unions through an independent benchmarking process with an awards element.

Inspirational & Innovative

This booklet highlights the collective achievements of Students' Unions across the UK who have signed up to the Sound Impact Awards and demonstrated their commitment to making a less negative impact on the environment.

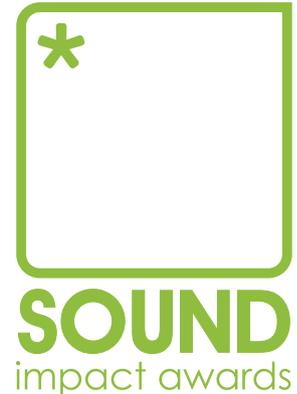
The scheme prompts Unions to take immediate steps towards reducing their carbon emissions, but the real incentive comes from within Unions – where many are being pushed by their staff and officers to take action to combat climate change.

Reducing the amount of utilities used, saving money for the Union and/or institution, and making it a more attractive place to be for environmentally-conscious staff and students are just three reasons that encourage our member Unions to sign up.

80% of our member Unions are not metered for utilities, an obstacle to measuring continual improvement. The Sound Impact Awards provides a means of year on year bench marking and a bespoke action plan for improvements.

Designed by Materialise/Manchester
Printed by Seacourt/Oxford

Printed on recycled paper using vegetable inks through waterless offset process by Seacourt, winners of The Queen's Award for Enterprise – Sustainable Development 2007. We have attempted to mitigate this impact of our travel for this scheme by planting a tree through the Loughborough University carbon offsetting scheme.



After 50 Unions registered for the Sound Impact Awards 2006/07, we were delighted to see this number increase to 67 Unions for 2007/08. We hope that this showcase will encourage further members to get on board with this fantastic scheme as well as sharing the best environmental practice and novel greening initiatives found in our member Unions within and beyond the Students' Union movement.

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Benchmarking and Feedback

The process for assessment and validation

The Sound Impact Awards scheme is based on a self-assessment digital workbook; Unions simply mark which of the 21 essential criteria and 154 bonus criteria they do or do not meet.

Each criterion relates to a specific practical action and is worth a score of between 1 and 5, depending on how important the action is. Bigger issues are broken down into manageable chunks, and the process of self-completion allows each Union to identify what they should be doing.

The Sound Impact Awards focus not only on best practice in resource management, but also cover virtually every environmental issue relevant to Students' Unions. Unlike many other accreditation schemes, our criteria relate to specific practical actions – actually changing light bulbs, installing recycling bins, selling Fairtrade. This delivers an action plan for becoming a greener organisation.

Once Unions completed their workbooks, our Ethical and Environmental Coordinator began the process of validating them and performing site audits – including all of the top ten scorers. An independent adjudicator also verified the bonus section scores, and we then provided final marks and constructive feedback to all participating Unions.

Twenty-one essential criteria

The 21 essentials are what we would expect to find as standard practice and procedure in an environmentally sound Union no matter what their size; incorporating campaigning and awareness schemes that Unions do so well.

Environmental impacts

- C.001 An environmental audit in the last three years
- C.002 Identified and prioritised most significant environmental aspects and impacts

Baselines, monitoring and results

- C.013 Monthly monitoring numbers of photocopies

Environmental legislation and duty of care

- C.017 Segregated disposal of hazardous wastes and used catering oils

Reusing refuse

- C.034 Collecting used printer and toner cartridges internally and from students

Recycling refuse

- C.042 Scheme in place/working towards recycling glass bottles from bars
- C.045 Scheme in place for recycling mixed paper

Electricity – Awareness

- C.054 Awareness raising stickers by all light switches in communal areas
- C.056 Labelling banks of 6+ light switches to identify functions

Electricity - Switching off

- C.059 Written plan showing responsibility for switching off lighting and equipment

Electricity - Lighting equipment

- C.067 Scheme in place/working towards reducing tungsten filament bulbs

Water

- C.104 Scheme in place/working towards water saving devices on urinals

Raising awareness

- C.122 Induct all new staff on relevant environmental issues within role
- C.123 Actively lobbying university on environmental issues
- C.124 Completed at least one of *The Ecologist* community challenges
- C.129 Environmental information and advice on the Union's website

Policy, commitment and plan

- C.133 Active environmental policy and commitment to improvement of performance
- C.142 Commitment to environmental best-practice from senior management
- C.145 Environmental issues referenced in long-term operating plan

Procurement

- C.152 All tea and coffee served is Fairtrade
- C.155 All white copier paper bought is made from 100% recycled paper or from certified sustainable sources

About the Awards

The awards element

The Sound Impact Awards 2007/08 culminated with a presentation at our Annual Dinner in March 2008, where this year's winners were announced in front of over 200 delegates from Students' Unions.

Joint founders of Coolaworld, Richard Kilgariff and Julian Knight did a fantastic job of hosting the Awards dinner. Coolaworld is a planet saving shopping portal and carbon coaching services.

Three new special achievement awards were introduced this year: *The Ecologist* Community Challenge Award, The Office Depot Innovation Award, and The Co-operative Bank Most Improved Union Award. These Awards were added to the scheme to recognise continuous improvement and exceptional achievements.

The top three scoring Unions were then presented with the Gold Award, the highest scoring was named overall winner of the 2007/08 scheme. The next six highest scoring Unions received the Silver Award.

All other Unions that met all 21 essential criteria were awarded the Bronze Standard, with those who did not meet all 21 essential criteria collecting a certificate for 'Working Towards' Accreditation.

While Unions are aware that their final score will be tallied against those of other participants, the scheme isn't all about winning. Unions that are just starting to think about the environment can benefit most by taking part in the scheme. The workbook provides a ready made framework for improvement.

Sound Impact Awards 2008/09

Celebrating and sharing best environmental practice is fundamental to this scheme's success. This showcase provides examples of how Unions meet the criteria, giving you a flavour of what the Sound Impact Awards are all about, and inspiring you to take action within your own organisation. Visit www.soundimpact.org.uk to find out more.

Following a 33% increase in sign ups to the 2007/08 scheme, we are looking forward to another surge of interest from member Unions when we launch the 2008/09 scheme. Sign up will open in Summer 2008.

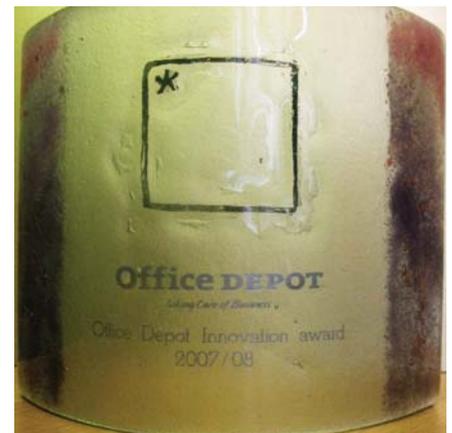
Each year we increase our list of essential criteria by one, and we will continue to raise the standards to ensure Students' Unions are encouraged to keep up the momentum of striving to make improvements.



Co-operative Bank Most Improved Union Award



The Ecologist Community Challenge Award



The Office Depot Innovation Award

2007/08 Rankings

The Sound Impact Awards were beautifully made from recycled window glass by artist Adele Billingham.

"I use recycled window glass within my work, both for environmental and aesthetic reasons. Although bottles and jars are now regularly recycled, plate glass is still difficult to process and often dumped into landfill sites."

"However, whilst it is time consuming to re-use and temperamental to work with, I still feel it is worth the effort and it brings me the original and surprising results I enjoy. Whether I am creating a bowl, award, sculpture or wall art, the nature of hand crafting recycled materials ensures each item is as unique as its origins."

Co-operative Bank Most Improved Award

Cardiff University Students' Union

The Ecologist Community Challenge Award

University of Bradford Students' Union

Office Depot Innovation Award

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU)

Special thanks go to Anna Heywood, founder of the Sound Impact Awards. Anna was heavily involved with campaigning at university, and then sat on the NUS National Executive Committee. When she returned to study, Anna noticed her environmental best practice campaigns were long forgotten and came up with a practical scheme to incentivise Unions. She presented her idea to NUS and NUS Services and the Sound Impact scheme was born.

Anna was short-listed for the Observer Ethical Awards 2007 Campaigner of the Year for her efforts with Sound Impact, and has re-entered this year on behalf of the scheme. Winning would give Sound Impact national coverage and help us share what we have collectively achieved.

Gold Award

Loughborough Students' Union
(Overall Winner)

Edinburgh University
Students' Association

Leeds University Union

Silver Award

University of Central Lancashire
Students' Union

Sheffield Hallam University
Union of Students

Northumbria Students' Union

University of Sheffield
Union of Students

Kent Union

York St John Students' Union



Gold Award



Silver Award

2007/08 Rankings

Bronze Standard

Anglia Ruskin Students' Union
 Bucks Students' Union
 Cardiff University Students' Union
 Durham Students' Union
 Goldsmiths Students' Union
 Keele University Students' Union
 Kingston University Students' Union
 Liverpool Guild of Students
 London School of Economics &
 Political Science Students' Union
 National Union of Students

Newcastle University Union Society
 Nottingham Trent Students Union
 Oxford Brookes Students' Union
 Queen Mary Students' Union,
 University of London
 Reading University Students' Union
 The University of Manchester
 Students' Union
 Union of UEA Students
 Universities at Medway
 Students' Association
 University of Bath Students' Union
 University of Birmingham
 Guild of Students

University of Bradford
 Students' Union
 University of Leicester
 Students' Union
 University of London Union
 University of Sussex Students' Union
 University of Wales, Aberystwyth
 Guild of Students
 University of Westminster
 Students' Union
 University of York Students' Union
 Winchester Students' Union

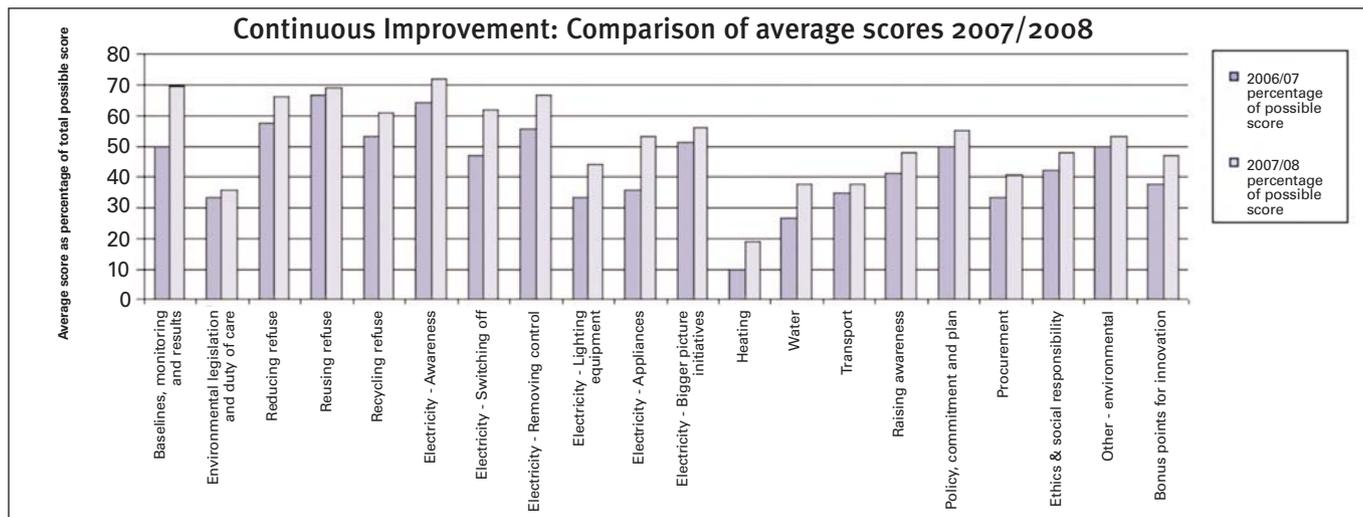
Working Towards Accreditation

City College Norwich Students' Union
 De Montfort University
 Students' Union
 Derby College Students' Union
 Heriot-Watt University
 Students' Association
 Hull University Union
 Lancaster University Students' Union
 Leeds Metropolitan University
 Students' Union
 Liverpool Students' Union (LJMU)
 Manchester Metropolitan
 Students' Union
 School of Oriental and African
 Studies Students' Union (SOAS)

Students' Union Royal Holloway,
 University of London
 Trinity College Students' Union,
 Carmarthen
 University College London
 Students' Union
 University of Abertay Dundee
 Students Association
 University of Bristol Union
 University of Derby Students' Union
 University of Essex Students' Union
 University of Exeter Students' Guild
 University of Gloucestershire
 Students' Union
 University of Hertfordshire
 Students' Union
 University of Nottingham
 Students' Union

University of Plymouth
 Students' Union
 University of Portsmouth
 Students' Union
 University of Salford Students' Union
 University of Teesside
 Students' Union
 University of the Arts London
 University of Wales, Lampeter
 Students' Union
 University of Wales, Newport
 Students' Union
 University of Wales, Swansea
 Students' Union
 University of West of England
 Students' Union

An overview of the movement



Of the 67 Unions taking part . . .

- 92.5%** have lobbied their institution on one or more environmental issue within the last 12 months
- 90%** monitor photocopies monthly
- 88%** have a Raising and Giving society and raised over £300 for a charitable cause in the last academic year
- 82%** have an active environmental policy
- 81%** have less than 5% tungsten filament bulbs throughout the Union or a strategy to replace bulbs
- 79%** buy only copier paper made from 100% recycled paper or from certified sustainable sources

- 75%** have an active student environmental society
- 70%** of those Unions with bars recycle the majority of their waste glass
- 63%** have a non-sabbatical environmental officer
- 60%** have been awarded Fairtrade University status
- 58%** do not have any air conditioned offices
- 57%** have a recycling scheme in place for aluminium and/or steel drinks cans
- 52%** have a recycling scheme in place for plastic bottles
- 42%** have a register of applicable environmental legislation
- 31%** are supplied with at least 50% renewable energy
- 30%** use wooden disposable cutlery
- 22%** instead of plastic
- 22%** have set minimum efficiency specifications for lighting, heating and refrigeration equipment
- 21%** have SMART targets in place to reduce environmental impacts
- 18%** have produced a publicly accessible environmental report within the last 12 months
- 13.5%** have fitted some form of rainwater harvesting
- 10%** have waterless urinals
- 9%** review 30 minute electricity data every 3 months or more
- 1%** have installed a solar water heater/ solar panels/urban wind turbine.

Co-operative Bank Most Improved Award

Cardiff University Students' Union

Auditor comments:

“A Union that has made an impressive number of changes to raise their score by over 250 points from last year! The Union has moved from Working Towards accreditation to Bronze Standard as a result of the changes put in place over the last 12 months.”



Cardiff SU aluminium can collection

Introducing initiatives

Cardiff University Students' Union has a range of positive environmental, ethical and community initiatives currently in place. From installing bird boxes on areas of the building to collecting unwanted mobile phones for local charities, they have made a truly conscious effort to reduce their environmental impact.

New facilities encourage staff to cycle into work as they provide the opportunity to use showers, lockers and secure bike storage.

Reducing their consumption

The Union has had its carbon budget calculated by the Carbon Trust, which involves calculating how many tonnes of carbon dioxide an organisation emits over a year from electricity, heating and transport. They have now demonstrated a 2% decrease in their consumption of electricity, and the University – from whom they buy their power – already uses green suppliers.

However, the Union believe they can do better than this, and are actively petitioning the University to change its energy supplier from a green provider to a renewable source provider. These improvements have helped contribute to a significant score increase which makes them winners of our Co-operative Bank Most Improved Union Award.

Ecologist Community Challenge Award

University of Bradford Students' Union

Auditor comments:
“One of a handful of Unions to enter four categories for *The Ecologist* Community Challenge Award; this is a Union known for volunteering commitment and has shown exceptional drive to complete the four challenges with high scores in all four.”



Uboutique second hand shop stockroom

Exceptional consideration for communities

Five challenges were set out by our media partners, *The Ecologist* magazine. The Award recognises the key role that Students' Unions play in campaigning and awareness raising in local communities as well as within the student community.

The University of Bradford Students' Union gained the highest total score in the four categories they entered: Drinking Water, Volunteering, Campaigning, and Reusing. They introduced new initiatives across the board – from promoting and selling One Water, profits of which contribute to the building of PlayPumps in Africa, to producing a 'Green Volunteering' Handbook.

Second hand store on campus

While some people take their old clothing and other recyclable items to a local charity shop, students at the University of Bradford benefit from being able to donate to the Students' Union's own second hand store, UBoutique. Run by student volunteers, even used electrical items can be sold on, thanks to a Union staff member being qualified in PAT Testing. When an organised clean up of the Halls of Residence took place last year, unwanted items were collected to aid others in finding those student essentials at student-friendly prices.

Office Depot Innovation Award

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU)

Auditor comments

“Office Depot judging panel were impressed by the focus on raising standards using innovative technology and processes. The Academy Nightclub refurbishment is a highly commended and exciting project.”



Rainwater harvesting tank being delivered

Instead of being an “add on” at the end stage, the Union’s positive engagement with environmental and accessibility issues forms the starting point in the planning and design stages of any of their renovation or rebuild projects. This can be evidenced in two recent building projects.

The Union Foyer

Dave Stott, Union Facilities Manager, planned out a novel solution to replace door heaters with the recirculation of rising heat by using a duct system, and introduced it to create a constant flow back down from the roof of the Atrium through the building and into the internal lobby.

The Manchester Academy

This project was carried out with a deliberate view towards showing what environmental ambitions can be achieved when an organisation pushes the envelope of their aspirations. With this £3.5 million project, a significant element of costs were utilised to produce a model of environmental sustainability unheard of in entertainment and music venues.

A 30,000 litre rainwater harvesting underground storage tank was installed to gather rainwater from the roof, reused for cleaning purposes and toilet water. Four 100-meter deep bores were cut into the ground to tap into the latent heat below ground surface, and this ground source heat recovery system supplies the under floor heating used in the changing block.

Gold overall winner

Loughborough Students' Union **421**

Auditor comments:

“A Union to inspire us all, and a truly committed team of officers and staff. The Union has embraced projects big and small to reduce environmental impacts. Particularly commended for investment in recycling, energy efficient lighting and recycling hot air from the nightclub in place of patio heaters, but really there are too many plus points to mention them all.”



For the second year running, Loughborough Students' Union have emerged with the highest number of points in their Sound Impact Workbook. They set an exemplary standard last year and, having accrued over 100 more points, they have proved that there is no challenge more tempting than that of bettering your own high standards. Continuing the good work of projects such as recycling everything from their cardboard to used trainers, they have also established a number of new initiatives.



Printer cartridge recycling



Cardboard for recycling

Waste not, want not

New this year, following the appointment of a Union gardener, Loughborough now have a scheme in place to compost some of their waste organic matter from their bar and catering operations.

In addition to the use of biodegradable nappies, the Nursery is provided with donated unwanted items suitable for creative play and has been fitted with a rainwater harvesting system, in order to be able to capture rainwater for reuse in flushing toilets and urinals, or for watering plants. Alongside this, dual-flushing toilets have been installed within the Union's disabled toilets. This gives users the option of half-flushing, thus saving water.



Reusable bags in store

Raising awareness and campaigning

As soon as students arrive at University, they are made aware of environmental issues and active efforts to make Loughborough a greener place to study.

An Environmental and Ethics brief takes place in all halls of residence and an energy league is maintained to show comparative figures between the halls – providing a constant reminder to students that they should consider how much of an impact they make on the environment, both as individuals and a collective.

The 'Save Lufbra Campaign' was introduced this year to prevent closure of communal catering facilities across campus. These facilities ensure use of reusable crockery and cutlery, and generally result in less food waste.



Hot air recycling vents for patio area

Significant investment in energy efficiency

Loughborough replaced their stage and dance floor lighting rig with an LED version to save considerable energy. This represents a significant investment in sustainable technology; it is the final addition to an energy efficient lighting strategy and completes the energy efficient lighting for the whole Union building.

Many Unions have ventilation in nightclubs to extract hot air and dump it outside the building, keeping dance floors and venues comfortable. Loughborough ingeniously filter the hot air and divert it through piping to the outdoor patio area, warming outdoor revellers in the colder months. This technology removes the need for patio heaters, which are heavy energy users and environmentally unfriendly.

Gold

Edinburgh University Students' Association 395

Auditor comments:

“Open and friendly relations between officers, Union staff and the University energy manager has led to efficiently run buildings, fantastic awareness campaigns and investment in well designed buildings improvements, including a state of the art heating and ventilation system. EUSA provide organic and local catering for students and have robust environment policy in place.”



Considering the environment in their decision making process

Following the hugely successful launch of their own organic café last year, Edinburgh University Students' Association have made a remarkable leap forward in terms of introducing new environmentally friendly initiatives, and the impressive increase in their workbook score reflects this. There is significant evidence that making choices which will result in the least negative impact on people and the environment is at the crux of their decision making processes.



Recycling point in EU SA building



Recycling awareness poster

Preventing purchases

The Association has an active policy on sustainable procurement to cover all of their purchases for internal use. They have committed themselves to reducing their consumerism, and manage to do so by cutting out unnecessary purchases and preventing waste through redeploying office equipment which can still be used elsewhere within the building.

With new purchases that must be made, the policy works across the board, from choosing desks made with wood from a sustainable source, to introducing an energy efficient lighting policy so that from now on they only purchase energy saving light bulbs.



Fairtrade in Union shop

Running a sustainable business

Edinburgh Students' Association met all but one criterion in the Internal Procurement section of the workbook. This includes Fairtrade, wood from certified sustainable sources, waterless offset printing for publications, using Sound Ethical Choice in store, BUAV approved cleaning materials, a ban on bleach, and whole-life costing for all new purchases.

Edinburgh collaborated with Heriot-Watt and Queen Margaret Student Associations in a tree planting initiative to neutralise carbon emissions made through the running of bars on each of their campuses. A small forest has been established on the banks of Loch Lomand in partnership with the charity Global Trees.



Highly efficient air handling system

Unique heating and ventilation system

EUSA has a three stage plan in place to introduce sustainable utility generation throughout their buildings. A bar refurbishment has recently been completed, incorporating a state of the art heating and ventilation system ensuring best possible efficiency. Features include direct heating and cooling to air handling units from the onsite combined heat and power generator. Occupancy sensors and air quality sensors in each bar ensure maximum operating efficiency at all times.

Like a number of other Unions, EUSA is located nearby to their water source. This results in higher water pressure pumping through their taps. To reduce the pressure, water saving valves have been fitted around the buildings, so that less water is wasted.

Gold

Leeds University Union 387

Auditor comments:

“A mixture of great projects, good facilities and strong policy impressed the auditor: great recycling facilities for all who use Union building, strong Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy and solar power for the nursery. Information on how to reduce individual environmental impacts is readily available to those who use the building.”

Having achieved Working Towards accreditation in 2006/07, Leeds have shown such dedication and commitment to the scheme this year that they are a very deserving winner of the Gold award.



Supporting the locals

Raising and Giving volunteers raise an enormous total of approximately £150,000 annually, which is then donated to local charities. The Union has also introduced a 'Keep Leeds Tidy' campaign, which prompts members to consider their surroundings and the impact that they can have on their environment simply by making a conscious effort to dispose of their waste appropriately. The Union has a volunteer-run Green Action Food Co-op, actively sourcing a variety of local food products and encouraging students to change purchasing behaviours.



Officer uses an instant hot water boiler



Leave Leeds Tidy campaign booklet

Campaigning on campus

A high profile "Paper Not Plastic" campaign was promoted to students at LUU, encouraging them to think twice about what their shopping bags are made from. As a result, a referendum motion was successfully passed to completely ban the use of plastic bags in Union outlets.

The Union is part of a tender to provide composting across the University campus in partnership with University Waste Services procurement. LUU has been highlighted as a priority for any pilot/trial at the start of implementation. The Green Hall Reps scheme has also been extended in partnership with the University and this formed part of the Union's Green Gown Award application for this year.



Nursery fitted with solar panels

Sustainable student activities and events

LUU's events team have deepened their commitment to the planning of sustainable events and achieved British Standard 9001 in sustainability. Their first focus is on the large scale event of the Summer Ball 2008. From posters and leaflets, to power use and transport emissions, this year's Summer Ball will provide a baseline for improvement as the team at Leeds commits to running sustainable events.

Carbon offsetting both large and small scale events, the Union is also dedicated to further reducing the impact of students' travel with activity groups. This is reinforced by the staff Development Co-ordinators.



Recycling point in Union building

Members of sports and societies are encouraged to minimise transport requirements and use more efficient methods from a cost and environmental perspective. Having taken this into consideration, the Snowriders Club is this year using 12 coaches as transport for their trips to Europe, rather than the alternative cheap air travel.

Other initiatives include installing solar panels in the Bright Beginnings Nursery, and developing a full CSR Strategy in 2007; building work practices around a team of CSR Champions recruited across the whole organisation. Amongst other actions, the Union are working in partnership with the University to establish a power-down system for all PCs, not just monitors.

Comments

"I was astounded and motivated by the levels of enthusiasm and passion on display, from not only the winning Unions, but all those at the event".

David Murphy,
Head of Education,
Office Depot

"We were delighted to win again and we feel that the award has really focused our efforts on the key issues."

Andy Parsons,
General Manager,
Loughborough Students' Union

"I did find the workbook very useful and it has already helped us to implement some simple things which will make a difference."

Charlotte Hill,
Vice President (Media and Volunteering),
Hull University Union

"I'd like to say that the Sound Impact Awards are a really great initiative and long may it continue!"

Thomas Roberts,
Environmental Coordinator,
Lancaster University Students' Union



Ian Knox (centre) from Newcastle Union Society receives Bronze Certificate

"Bucks has made great strides this year, rising to the Sound Impact challenge. We certainly would not have got anywhere near as far without the help of this framework."

Mal Edgson,
General Manager,
Bucks Students' Union

"The Sound Impact Awards have lifted sustainability up our agenda; it has really improved our waste and recycling practices."

Pete Godwin,
General Manager,
University of Central Lancashire
Students' Union

"The Sound Impact Awards have created a staff awareness and motivation to participate and make progress next year."

Ian Knox,
Commercial Director,
Newcastle Union Society

"We have learnt a huge amount about environmental best practice which will inform our Building Redevelopment 2008-2010. The first step (installing new toilets) is taking place this summer, when we will finally have motion sensors, dual-flushing toilets and waterless urinals installed."

Simon Fairbanks,
VP Democracy and Resources,
University of Birmingham
Guild of Students



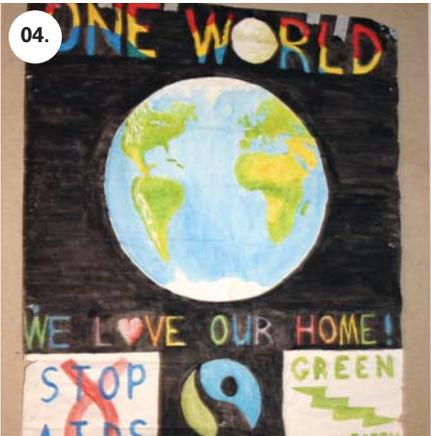
01.



02.



03.



04.

- 01. Building heating control at Newcastle
- 02. Ethical labelling system in Union shop at UEA
- 03. Fairtrade Instant Coffee Machine at Bath
- 04. One World poster at Reading SU
- 05. Christmas card recycling at Anglia Ruskin SU
- 06. Reusable bags in Niche shop at Swansea SU
- 07. Fairtrade clothing at Edinburgh SA
- 08. MMU Angels volunteering at Manchester Met SU



05.



06.



07.

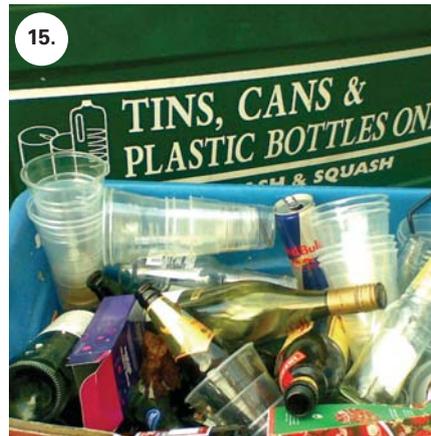


08.

Sharing best practice



- 09. RAG Krispy Kreme donut stall at LSE SU
- 10. Cartridge recycling at Leicester SU
- 11. Carbon Academy training day at Abertay SA
- 12. Lug-a-mug scheme at York SU
- 13. Union shop battery pod at Keele SU
- 14. Bulb planting project at Northumbria SU
- 15. Mixed materials recycling at Goldsmiths SU
- 16. Fairtrade products in the cafe at Liverpool Guild of Students



Sharing best practice



17.



18.



19.



20.

- 17. Staff recycling paper at Medway SA
- 18. Switch off stickers at Westminster SU
- 19. Fairtrade fashion show at Aberystwyth
- 20. Durham SU volunteers
- 21. Compostable bags on sale at Kent
- 22. Cleaners recycling at Liverpool Guild of Students
- 23. Phone & stamp reuse at Winchester SU
- 24. Glass recycling in the bar at Swansea SU



21.



22.

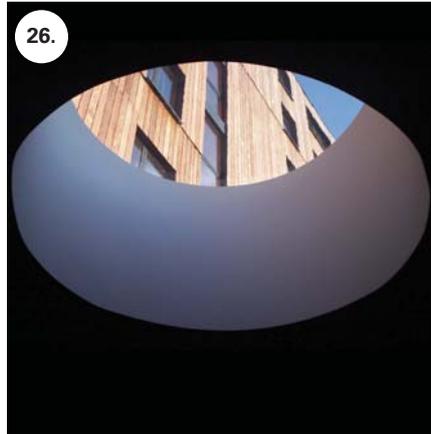


23.



24.

Sharing best practice



- 25. Glass recycling at ULU
- 26. Using natural light at Queen Mary SU
- 27. Reusing old computers at Liverpool Guild of Students
- 28. Resusable & compostable cutlery & crockery at Bradford SU
- 29. Wormery at Bradford SU
- 30. Charity hitch hiking at Birmingham Guild of Students
- 31. Awareness raising at Reading SU
- 32. Catering staff using fatless fryer at LSE SU



Silver

University of Central Lancashire Students' Union 365

Auditor comments:

“An impressive knowledge shown by staff and officers involved in completing the workbook. Officers are dedicated to raising awareness of sustainable living amongst students, running fun and energetic campaigns. UCLan are committed to ethical retailing, promoting Fairtrade and free range products in shop and catering areas.”

**Policy in action**

UCLan Students' Union only use free range eggs in their catering outlets, and they have a visible campaign in the atrium café to raise awareness of this fact and encourage students to consider where the food they eat comes from. The café also offers a menu boasting a number of healthy eating options.

Last year the Union were commended for having energy efficient T5 light bulbs in all of their offices and corridors. This year they have gone one step further and ensured that the bar area is now also lit only using energy efficient bulbs.

Student campaigning

Students organised a Rag and Bone collection to collect as many reusable goods as possible. They also took the opportunity to survey other students on campus about recycling habits and what changes they would like the Union and University to make regarding facilities.

A 'Redress' fashion show was run by the Union's People & Planet Society, highlighting the need for fairer conditions and pay for people involved in the clothes industry. The event showcased work created by society members; some were recycled clothes, others had been bought and altered, and some were created from scratch. All fitted the four themes, Earth, Water, Wind and Fire.



Free range and healthy eatery the Atrium

Sheffield Hallam University Union of Students 354

Auditor comments:

“A Union clearly dedicated to reducing negative environmental impacts by reducing waste and electricity use in particular. Sheffield Hallam Union of Students has made huge strides in reducing carbon emissions through improved monitoring and investment in equipment. Sustainable and ethical policies are at the core of the Union’s vision.”



Leading by example

The Union encourages students to think about what they eat and where it comes from. An example of this is 5-a-day posters displayed alongside free fruit which is available from their bar every day. The Union also stock the only Fairtrade certified cola, Ubuntu cola, in the Union shop.

Sheffield Hallam also organised a Green Week in October 2007 to highlight the aims of the Carbon Academy project. Over the course of the week, local transport and conservation groups were invited to set up stalls for students to visit within the Unions.

Making a show of savings

The Union’s aesthetically unique building was designed with many energy inefficient features. This year draft excluders were fitted to all external doors and a new set of front doors were fitted to the foyer and Bar Phoenix. There is a ‘totaliser’ inside reception showing the percentage reduction of carbon emissions that achieved over the last 12 months. Sheffield Hallam uses a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved printing company for all flyers, posters and booklets, and the Union team ensure that as many of these as possible are recycled. When posters are changed the old ones, including those of rival companies, are brought back to the Union to be recycled in house.



Carbon Academy project workshop on climate change

Silver

Northumbria Students' Union 341

Auditor comments:

“Excellent policy in place to formalise key procedures, such as an outright ban on air travel by staff and officers. Student volunteering programmes are imaginative and original, and examples of quick win, low cost initiatives can be seen throughout the Union building.”



Tea Dances run for senior citizens

Volunteering in the community

Northumbria has a dedicated team of 18 volunteers specifically working on running tea dances within the local community. There is a Student Community Action Team which specialises in voluntary community projects. These have included planting over a thousand bulbs to improve local park land, including daffodils, crocus and tulip bulbs. The Park Community Trust noted that the students' help had been invaluable. Other successful schemes run by the Union include organising a shoebox collection for orphans, and donating surplus food and other goods from the catering outlets to local charities at the end of each term.

Paperless campaigns encouraging feedback

The Union has worked with the University's Environmental Manager to create a library of environmental information, including lead organisation links, top tips and examples of good practice on the Union's website. Northumbria run a monthly competition with prize incentives through its University-wide email newsletter to students and Union staff, generating ideas on how the University and Union can improve their environmental and ethical practices. Excellent at formalising best practice through policy and procedures, the Union has completely removed the option for customers to have a carrier bag or any other sort of bag from its convenience shop.

University of Sheffield Union of Students 333

Auditor comments:
“Sheffield has imbedded and ingrained good practice that is set to continue. The officer enthusiasm and in depth knowledge of staff is impressive. A clear link between halls environment reps feeding through to the Union environment committee can be seen; a particularly strong example of volunteers and sabbaticals working together to instigate positive change.”



Volunteering achievements

The University of Sheffield Union of Students' are certainly receiving outstanding recognition for their numerous volunteering projects, which have been showcased no less than five times by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as model of good practice. In the past academic year they were announced 'Winner of the Guardian Good Citizenship Award' in November 2007, as part of their public service awards, and then in the following month they also won 'Exceptional Winner Award for Outstanding Project' in the Higher Education Volunteering Awards. This is inspirational to other Unions who run volunteering initiatives, both large and small scale.

Recycling the lot

This year Sheffield Union have continued their excellent work with recycling cardboard, cans and glasses instead of sending them to landfill. Waste segregation bins for paper have been introduced both inside and outside the Union, and highly visible printer cartridge recycling bins can be found around the Union for staff and students to use. The Union have installed a bailer in their waste storage area to allow them to prepare and bundle bottles and cardboard which is then collected by waste contractors. This makes recycling more affordable and allows Sheffield Union to increase the types of waste that they can recycle.



Cartridge recycling point

Silver

Kent Union 331

Auditor comments:
 “Kent Union boasts thoroughly dedicated staff and officers, with commitment and enthusiasm for environmental best practice highly evident on the day of the audit. Clear and concise formal policy is in place. Notable schemes the Union has introduced include biodegradable bags in retail outlets, and organic and local fruit and vegetables available in the Union shop.”



Community Stewarding

This year has seen Kent Union focus heavily on Environmental and Ethical issues. They started by ensuring all 500 Freshers Helpers t-shirts and 300 campaign t-shirts were Fairtrade, and then gave away 3,000 'bags for life' to new students. For those who didn't receive a free one, these bags can still be bought in Union shops. A very high profile and successful One World Week was held during which students could attend events and participate in games and discussions focused on ethical and environmental issues. These students and issues are now supported by an Environmental and Ethical Student Officer who was elected through the Student Council.

Fairtrade and involvement

To help reduce the impact of student disturbance in the surrounding community, a van patrol and steward scheme runs 7 days a week at Kent. Other new initiatives include donating 10p per Fairtrade coffee sold in the coffee shop to local charity, Seeds for Africa, and sending empty Organic Milk cartons to a children's nursery for art and craft. There has been a vast increase in the use of Local Suppliers within all outlets, and a new Fairtrade cola is sold in the shop. Additionally, all staff now have a note at the bottom of their emails asking that recipients do not print copies unless it is absolutely necessary.



Commercial Services Director in Fairtrade and organic café

York St John Students' Union 331

Auditor comments:
“A Union that has great community relations, excellent internal procurement policy, enthusiastic senior management and a team that encourages everyone in the Union to join in with environmentally sound practice day to day.”



Staff wear Fairtrade uniforms

Recognising excellence in staff

This year York St John set up a STAR Scheme (STaff Achievement Reward) to recognise excellence in their staff members - both fulltime and student staff. Alongside this they also introduced a Green STAR Scheme to recognise excellence in their staff members on ethical and environmental work, both in terms of good practice and for good green suggestions. The Wildlife Conservation Society have placed bird boxes around the exterior of the Union building, and the General Manager wrote a report on environmental aspects and impacts with recommended action points which were approved by the Union Council.

Educating freshers from the offset

The original SSHH! campaign continues to build upon its success, and campaigners have been so active that this year that a new Zippy costume had to be bought in time for having his photo taken with new students and their parents moving into halls to raise awareness of noise level issues. A Go Green campaign runs in halls, focusing on actions freshers can take to reduce the volume of energy that they consume. Procurement and campaigning have always been the most prevalent aspect of York St John's activities, but this year a concentrated effort on improving energy, lighting, heating and water use has brought the Union into the Silver Award rankings.

Bronze Standard

To achieve a Bronze Standard, Unions need to meet 21 criteria classified essential. These criteria ensure that every Bronze Standard Union has made real commitments across a range of sustainability issues relevant to Students' Unions. These range from reducing utilities use to making policy commitments, running awareness raising campaigns to providing and improving recycling facilities, and ethically aware procurement. Achieving Bronze Standard is something to be celebrated, as it shows positive action being taken across the sustainability agenda.

Anglia Ruskin Students' Union

The Union has developed strong community links with local residents and worked with them to tackle noise pollution and the effects of anti-social behaviour. Their Cambridge bar and venue has promoted a Sssh Campaign and regular residents meetings are held to ensure neighbours are not adversely affected by students out late at night. Residents are informed in writing of the entertainments programme and given a telephone number in case they wish to raise any issues, which are then followed up within 24 hours by telephone and a meeting if necessary. The Union also hosts a Fairtrade sports tournament which is well supported and last year involved over 100 staff and students.

Cardiff University Students' Union

Cardiff has one of the largest student-run volunteering organisations in the country – Student Volunteering Cardiff. Members of this charity volunteer in and around the city, working with the elderly, young, disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community. In addition, the Union has worked in partnership with the Keep Cardiff Tidy campaign to manage waste generated by students. Following significant marketing to students, free green bin bags were given to students at the end of term. The volume of waste collected by refuse collectors from student houses has tripled whilst this partnership has been in place, dramatically reducing the litter and fly tipping.



Anglia Ruskin outdoor recycling point

Bucks Students' Union

Bucks Students' Union run a food and clothes drive project whereby they collect unwanted food and clothes from students at the end of each term. The donations are then distributed to a homeless project and Oxfam respectively. This project was initiated by one of their Environmental Officers: they have not one but two officers whose roles are dedicated to focusing on environmental and ethical issues. Over 70% of the Union's operations are powered by renewable energy and they have also been active in developing the University's Green Transport Policy to encourage staff to lift-share on their way to and from work.



Cardiff University SU staff have reusable mugs instead of disposables.

Bronze Standard

Durham Students' Union

As a pioneering initiative in the UK higher education sector, Durham Sustainable Living Action Group (S.L.A.G) won a Green Gown Award this year! It is a genuine partnership between the University administration, Durham Student Union and the 16 Colleges, acting as a catalyst for behavioural change, and making people consider the environment in their actions. Each of Durham's 16 Colleges have an environment rep who come together to form DSU Environment Committee, and the DSU Environment Officer then works closely with the university through this programme and sits on ESAG (Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group) which oversees University policies on environmental sustainability.

Goldsmiths Students' Union

As part of an Enviroclub and Fair and Green campaign, the Union devised the 'Lug-a-Mug' scheme whereby students receive a discount on hot drinks by bringing their own mug to be used. Goldsmiths consequently inspired many other Unions to run the scheme. Students and Officers organised a series of clothes donations, with collected items used in an eco fashion show in RAG week to promote the value and style of second hand and vintage shopping. The Union runs a successful volunteering scheme called 'Open Book', which is a project where students visit inmates in prisons and then help them in the transition to university life.

Kingston University Students' Union

The Union's Positive Environment Kingston programme uses student mentors to engage in a range of local volunteering tasks; reducing energy, minimising waste and producing other environmental benefits, whilst providing educational and personal development benefits to participants. The Union and institution have successfully reduced student car parking on campus. The Union ran a Freshers Green Fair, where second hand kitchenware was made available to new students and all one sided paper is available for reuse as internal notes and memos amongst staff.



Durham SU volunteer gardening

Keele University Students' Union

Keele's bar and catering operations use HCFC* free fridges. HCFC refrigerants contribute to global warming. HCFC free fridges are not ozone depleting or global warming. Making a conscious effort to reduce energy waste and excess heat during summer months, office windows have had a special film layer added to them, and tailored insulation has been installed to cover unnecessary single glazed windows. Considerations are made when undertaking any refurbishment projects to ensure that draughts are reduced and insulation improved. The Union have also anticipated changes in legislation for battery recycling, providing drop-off pods in the retail store.

*hydrochloroflouorocarbon



Keele Union music collection for reuse by Oxfam

Bronze Standard

Liverpool Guild of Students

Students at Liverpool Guild are offered the opportunity to take part in both an annual beach clean in collaboration with Universities across the North West, and an annual litter pick in co-ordination with other Liverpool Universities. The litter pick was also extended to the Sabbatical team 07/08 as a team building exercise and training. An Energy Efficiency Team has been set up by Vice President Communications, and Ethical & Environmental issues are regularly communicated via the student magazine and website. 5000 biodegradable cornstarch carrier bags have been printed with the Guild logo and are now provided at a minimum cost to students requesting a carrier bag.

London School of Economics & Political Science Students' Union

The Union's Climate Change Action Week inspired the creation of the Mayor's Student Go Green Week, held this for the first time in February 2008 in conjunction with The Greater London Authority, People and Planet and Universities from across the capital. Named the greenest University in London in the People and Planet league tables, LSE runs an Ethical Induction for freshers so they hear about campaigning initiatives and how to live ethically and sustainability in the capital. When they leave halls or the university, stationary, books and other materials are collected to be re-used by other students.

Nottingham Trent Students' Union

The Union is not only actively involved with the Steering Group for the University bid for Fairtrade accreditation, but also helped the Southwell area (where the Brackenhurst Campus is located) successfully achieve Fairtrade status. Chaucer Late, the Union shop in the City Campus, recycles 100% of its cardboard and is equipped with its own crusher/bundler machine. The Union's Conservation Society have sustained their environmental work in the local community and further afield, completing various projects including restoring wetlands, maintaining habitats and advising others on best practice.



Liverpool Guild recycling awareness campaign

Newcastle University Union Society

Over the course of the past year, the Union Society has been working with their two part time Ethical & Environmental Officers and SITA waste disposal to maximise the recycling of waste, card, glass, plastic and paper. Any surplus to requirement furniture and ironmongery is offered to outside charitable organisations. N.U.U. controls its own heating system and avoids wasting energy by applying 'just in time' methods so that heating is switched off 15 minutes before staff leave. Sales through Rijos' Juice Bar show that the Union Society also actively promotes the benefits of healthy living to students.



LSE SU climate march

Bronze Standard

Oxford Brookes Students' Union

Making a determined effort not to purchase materials made from tropical rainforest timber, the Union sources timber products for refits and new furniture from certified sustainable sources, buys Fairtrade clothing for Sabbatical t-shirts and bar staff uniforms, and has signed up to NUS Services' free ethical retail campaign, Sound Ethical Choice. Bar managers hold responsibilities for implementing a formal shut-down procedure for vacations whereby equipment such as bottle fridges, ventilation equipment and heating is not left on unnecessarily. Electric hand driers or roller towels are now a standard fitting in all public washrooms instead of paper towels, and the Union now only sells hot drinks in card cups rather than plastic.

Queen Mary Students' Union, University of London

Having moved to a new building this year, the Union had the new space specifically designed to maximise natural light in the reception and office areas. Light fittings have been chosen for maximum efficiency to compliment the use of natural light. Thermostatic radiator valves have been fitted in the majority of radiators to prevent unnecessary heat waste through rooms becoming too warm.

The Union has also committed to only making new purchases when necessary and always choosing products with the least negative impact on people and the environment. A charity toy collection was organised for Christmas 2007 and the Union also collects stamps to raise money for charity.

The University of Manchester Students' Union

The University of Manchester Students' Union takes a very robust and proactive view towards environmental, ethical and sustainability issues when carrying out any routine and major renovation or rebuild of its facilities. Using its own financial reserves it has deliberately and significantly invested in ensuring that the effect on the environment is minimised as a result of their activities into the future. The newly refurbished Manchester Academy building infrastructure has been designed to allow solar panels to be added next year, to produce hot water for the building's users. The careful considerations behind this refurbishment have raised the bar for other Union entertainments venues.



Queen Mary SU charity stamp collection

Reading University Students' Union

During their Go Green Week in November 2007, Reading became the first UK Students' Union to install a Reverse Vending Machine. The machine offers incentive based recycling to encourage students, staff and visitors to recycle cans and soft drink bottles. It works by identifying and processing drinks containers, and then produces a voucher entitling the user to a discount on a drink from the Union's juice bar. The machine was funded on a 50/50 basis by the University Alumni fund, and has since generated a lot of positive press for the Go Green campaign, the Union, University and Alumni fund, and also the concept of incentive based recycling.



Reading SU Reverse Vending Machine

Bronze Standard

Union of UEA Students

UEA have introduced a Good Shopping Guide Ethical Labelling system to their supermarket 'UFO'. This gives customers a wider guide to the ethical nature of products as well as educating members about reasons such as environmental reports, nuclear power, animal welfare, boycotts, and political donations.

The Union is in the second year of running an 'Energy Switch Off Scheme', with over 300 volunteers in halls of residence urging flat mates to compete with other halls to save energy and win prizes. This initiative is sponsored by the Ben and Jerry's Climate Change College. It has been highly successful over the past year and is looking to replicate its success again this year.

Universities at Medway Students' Association

UMSA have reduced the print run of their student newspaper from 2000 to 1000 copies per issue, and now send any spares to a local kennel for bedding. They also have designated cardboard waste bins, and return used cardboard via Co-op from their retail outlet. An inter-campus lift-share scheme is already in place for staff members to make use of, and they are invited to put forward other ideas for energy saving initiatives. Students who use the catering outlets are provided with reusable knives, forks and cutlery, and those on Union Council and other committees only receive meeting notes via email, to prevent excessive copies being printed.

University of Birmingham Guild of Students

Birmingham Guild is an active campaigning Union, and this year they ran a very high profile Go Green week across campus. The Guild has fantastic environmental policy in place; they lobbied the University for a green energy tariff and are working towards reducing their energy consumption. They have also been accredited Fairtrade University Status, and run a Wellbeing Fair to promote both healthy eating and healthy living. Union Officers ensure that both Union staff and University steering groups keep environmental issues high on the agenda. They have excellent building refurbishment plans in place which include specifications for washrooms that will dramatically cut wastage of water.



Birmingham Guild Go Green Campaign

University of Bath Students' Union

The Vegetarian Society set up a Veg Co-op - a local and organic fruit and vegetable scheme for buying locally from farmers and selling to students and staff on a NO Profit NO Loss basis. The Society distribute orders outside the Library from 12-3pm once a week, to customers who pay in advance either at the stand, in the SU shop or at the AWARE (Welfare) Centre. The SU Volunteering Area actively promotes environmental volunteering opportunities such as 'Envolve', an environmental charity set up in 1994 which works to encourage sustainable lifestyles in communities across Bath and North East Somerset, and 'BTCV' offers involvement in practical conservation projects.



University of Bath SU local veg stall

Bronze Standard

University of Bradford Students' Union

'UCAN' volunteering provides hundreds of volunteering opportunities to get students involved. From education to elderly care, conservation to DIY, the scheme has a strong online presence on the Union website. Projects are run in collaboration with large scale volunteering groups such as British Red Cross and Citizens Advice. This year, the Union has introduced many new initiatives and successful schemes. They now recycle kitchen waste as compost – tea bags from the staff kitchen and green waste from catering, and the mileage of the safety bus is monitored. There is also a Union Wormery, and plastic bag usage is being reduced within the shop.

University of Leicester Students' Union

The Union have signed up to 'Student Switch Off', which is an energy saving competition run down at their halls of residences with the aim of encouraging students to lower their energy consumption over the course of the year. During Fairtrade Fortnight in February 2008, they also ran campaigns for further consumption of Fairtrade products on campus and to increase overall awareness of ethical issues. Like a number of other Unions, Leicester has a scheme in place to collect used postage stamps from staff and students for donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind through RAG (Raising and giving society).

University of Sussex Students' Union

Sussex has several student groups which promote ethical and environmental practice: Eco Uni is the main campaigning group, which lobbies the University to increase the level of environmental practice as well as encouraging this within the Union. Each year, 10 'Ecommandments' are written, outlining the changes to make over the twelve months. Dirty Weekenders is another group, where members spend weekends volunteering on environmental projects. Within the Union shops there is an eco-charge on bags, money from which subsidises reusable bags that students can buy for a small cost. Customers can also pick up a free 5-a day recipe booklet, promoting healthy eating.



Leicester SU office recycling scheme

University of London Union

Within the Union Shop, 'Earth Live', measures have been taken to stock the maximum number of ethical products available in order to raise awareness amongst students and offer a broad range. The Union building is separately metered so that the energy usage can be tracked, and motion sensors have been installed to prevent lighting being left on unnecessarily when rooms are empty. In the offices, switching off equipment is taken very seriously – so much so that night time audits were conducted to double check that staff were turning off machines before leaving. Cleaners left chocolate treats on the desks of those who had remembered to do their bit, in order to encourage a 'switch off' culture.



ULU's ethical retailing campaign

Bronze Standard

University of Wales, Aberystwyth Guild of Students

Aberystwyth are currently running a rocket composter as part of a pilot which the University have invested in. The Guild is using it to create soil improver from their catering waste. Any kind of food can be disposed of into the machine, and is turned into compost within two weeks. There is potential to collect food waste from halls of residence, as the rocket composter can handle large volumes of waste. The compost is used around the grounds of the University campus. The Guild's catering and bars also recycle their cardboard, glass and PET bottles.



Aberystwyth Guild use rocket composter

University of Westminster Students' Union

Westminster has registered as a community group with 'Every Action Counts' – a Community Development Foundation set up to help community groups in Britain make environmentally friendly choices. The scheme is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The Union now receives advice and support in reducing their impact on the environment, tackling climate change and improving their local area. Westminster collaborates with the University Estates department and is working towards building refurbishments which will introduce water saving devices, such as flush control valves and water flow restrictors which would reduce the amount wasted. They have also successfully campaigned for better recycling on campus.

University of York Students' Union

At the start of each academic year, York SU auctions all reusable kitchenware left behind in halls and any bikes abandoned on campus at the end of the previous year. This gives students a fair price and prevents the items going to landfill. Money raised funds environment campaigns throughout the year. One such campaign was for a new campus wide recycling system for glass, paper, cardboard, plastic and tin which was implemented at the start of the 2007/08 academic year, and is maintained by a system of college and Union "Eco Reps". They also run a food collection at the end of each term for the local homeless charity.

Winchester Students' Union

Winchester Students' Union boast an impressive all-round approach to sustainability. The Union are committed to raising awareness of sustainability issues; monitoring energy and waste use, and regularly reporting on progress to reduce waste and increase energy efficiency. They keep a lighting and equipment register, which allows them to monitor effective use and timely maintenance or replacement where necessary. They support sustainable travel for students and staff, and have addressed water use via installing dual-flushing toilets, dripping tap checks, and percussion taps. Winchester has been approved Fairtrade University status, and the Union run a Waste Management Group who strongly promotes the recycling facilities available through resources such as the student newsletter.



Westminster SU recycle printer cartridges

Working Towards Accreditation

Unions who complete a workbook but don't meet all 21 essential criteria are classed as 'Working Towards' Accreditation. These Unions are presented with a Working Towards Accreditation certificate so they can show they are on a journey towards addressing the 21 priority actions. We have highlighted a few examples of what our Working Towards Accredited Unions have achieved already.

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union

A major project currently being undertaken at Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union is to create an 'Eco Café' – a dedicated area for students to gain awareness, information and support for any environmental issues. The project has full University backing including a guaranteed financial investment. Already established is a community action group called 'MMU Angels' – created to provide positive action to improve community relations in private rented areas of the student community. Improvements to procedures carried out within the Union include introducing 97% biodegradable bin liners to replace standard plastic bags used for collecting office waste.

Students' Union Royal Holloway, University of London

As a first year entrant, Royal Holloway is determined to improve their environmental performance. Their long term operating plan already includes environmental aims, an environmental policy is in place, and they have received Fairtrade University status. The foundations are set to make positive changes in years to come. One example of a small and practical action the Union has taken is the purchase of a eco-kettle for the staff tea room, which allows staff to boil just the amount of water they need. An energy efficiency team ensure staff and officers are aware of the energy their equipment uses, and remember to switch it off at the end of the day.



Manchester Met MMU Angels clean up campaign

School of Oriental and African Studies Students' Union (SOAS)

Thanks to the SU pressure, SOAS is now adopting a policy to use 100% recycled paper right across the school as part of its commitment to sustainable development. The SU environment officer was on the London Go Green Week 2008 organisation panel, and the School's Green Group (SGG) is running a year long GO Green campaign to further improve environmental commitment. This includes campaigning for the creation of a full-time paid position of Sustainability and Environment Coordinator; a clear positioning of the SU against staff, students and societies flying within a 500km radius; various stunts, petitions and peaceful non-violent demos to show presence on campus and get people involved in campaigns.



Royal Holloway use Eco-kettle

Working Towards Accreditation

University of Bristol Union

As part of their involvement with our Carbon Academy project UBU have achieved a 10.4% reduction in electricity compared to the 2006/07 academic year, saving energy every week bar one since July 2007. Preparation is also underway to build a giant carbon saving totaliser for the reception area to celebrate their achievements. The sabbatical team are actively working with the University on a 'Student Travel Plan', aiming to reduce the number of students who drive to University. The societies run a number of campaigns on environmental issues; from ethical banking to running a Fairtrade Cafe once a week.

University of Derby Students' Union

This year UDSU planned a 'clean the brook' student campaign, encouraging students to clean up the surrounding area of the Markeaton Brook which runs between the main campuses. This year has seen the election of the first environment and ethics committee and part-time student officer, and the Union has recognised the need and importance of making a concentrated effort to improve its environmental performance. Students of the University of Derby organised the second Fairtrade fashion show, promoting Fairtrade projects and a positive body image amongst the membership. The Union also assists the University in sending used computers to schools and children in Ghana, and sabbatical officers are policy bound to order Fairtrade clothing.

University of Wales, Swansea Students' Union

Swansea Students' Union has recently launched a store called "Niche", which sells local, organic, ethical and Fairtrade food and clothing on campus. In order to offset transporting some of the international and ethic ingredients, the store does not provide plastic bags but instead encourages customers to re-use old bags or invest in cotton shoppers to use time and again. Students also work closely with the community as part of the volunteering agency, 'Discovery'. Over 300 members of the student body are registered and cumulatively they commit themselves to hundreds of hours each week by taking part in many community projects.



Derby SU volunteers get crafty

University of Plymouth Students' Union

This Union have introduced an alternative to staff and students buying Christmas cards to each other - a bunch of bound willow was erected in a communal area over the festive season and everyone was invited to hang a Christmas greeting on this instead of sending individual cards. Each contributor donated a sum to charity in lieu of the cost of the cards. Another initiative is a CETL garden which has been provided for both students and staff; all plants are indigenous species and they are watered by a gravity drip feed irrigation system fed from a rain catchment tank.



Swansea sell Fairtrade in Niche Store

Partners and sponsors

The Sound Impact Awards are run by NUS Services, the commercial arm of the NUS, in partnership with NUS, People & Planet, EAUC, HEEPI and *The Ecologist Magazine*.



national union of students



HIGHER EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENTAL
PERFORMANCE
IMPROVEMENT



We would like to say a big thank to our partners and sponsors for their support, and of course to all the Unions that took part

The Sound Impact Awards are sponsored by a number of our most environmentally-friendly suppliers. All suppliers sponsoring this scheme have achieved our Sound Ethical Choice status through our rigorous supplier assessment.

More information is available on www.nussl.co.uk on our supplier assessment.



The COOPERATIVE BANK



It is a great pleasure for Brecon Carreg Natural Mineral Water to sponsor this year's Sound Impact Awards

Brecon Carreg Natural Mineral Water is part landowner, with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA), of 21,000 acres around its precious underground mineral water source.

Almost a quarter of a century ago, the company made a considerable financial investment in the land with the aim of securing the integrity of the catchment area. Brecon Carreg has always worked closely with the BBNPA to ensure that no activities such as heavy industry or intensive farming take place on this land, which could adversely affect the catchment area and therefore the source.

Sustainability therefore is at the very core of what we do in the extraction and bottling of our natural mineral water.

In respect of bottling into plastic, PET bottles, we have carefully and steadily optimised the type and amount of primary, secondary and tertiary packaging materials used, where possible.

For example, we reduced the paper weight of our labels from 85g/m² to 80g/m², and our plastic pre-form for our 50cl bottle from 22 grammes to 18 grammes, giving considerable reduction in materials used. The changes described mean annualised reductions of almost one tonne of paper and 57 tonnes of plastic on this one pack size alone.

For more information please visit www.breconwater.co.uk



The Co-operative Bank is proud to be a sponsor of the Sound Impact Awards and endorses its goal of environmental best practice

At The Co-operative Bank we recognise the need to develop our business in a sustainable manner. Our approach acknowledges that there are physical limits to the resources of the Earth, both in terms of generating materials and absorbing wastes, and that any business activity exceeding these limits is, by definition, unsustainable.

We are pursuing ecological sustainability rigorously. We recycle 63% of the waste we produce - eight times more than the average office - and are the first major UK business to go beyond 'carbon neutral', sourcing virtually all of our electricity from good quality renewable sources and offsetting our remaining CO2 emissions, plus an extra 10% to cover legacy issues.

We do not only 'buy in' renewable energy; we have also invested in innovative on-site micro-generation projects such as the landmark CIS building in the centre of Manchester which has been covered with 7,000 photovoltaic panels. Known as the Solar

Tower, it is the UK's largest-ever solar power installation and will create 180 MWh of renewable electricity each year – enough to make nine million cups of tea.

The Co-operative Bank is the UK's only high street bank with a customer-led Ethical Policy. Since 1992 we have declined over £700 million of loans that conflicted with our customer's ethics. These included to businesses involved in the extraction and production of fossil fuels, the unsustainable harvest of natural resources and the manufacture of harmful chemicals. Additionally, over the last two years, with our customer's support, we have campaigned in partnership with Friends of the Earth calling for a Climate Change Bill with year-on-year cuts in CO2 emissions. This 'Customers Who Care' campaign resulted in every single MP being contacted by a Co-operative Bank customer.

The Co-operative Bank encourages Students' Unions to reduce their environmental impacts; even small-scale initiatives can have a real impact with real benefits, but that doesn't mean you have to think small. We congratulate those who have signed up for Sound Impact Awards and wish them every success with their environmental initiatives.



The COOPERATIVE BANK

