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# I&E Green Impact Sustainability Plan 2020-21

### 1 Overview

UCL I&E has taken part in Green Impact since 2016-17 achieving Gold in the Office Workbook in all three years to date.

In 2019-20 I&E undertook two Sustainability Projects: Ditch the Disposable, and Food Habits (detailed below). We will take these projects further by increasing awareness of recycling and plastics, and the importance of protecting biodiversity for the planet and for our own health and wellbeing, particularly during this pandemic.

#### 2019-20 Projects

Ditch the Disposable (DtD)

Launched at the I&E Away Day in September 2019 and supported by I&E Leadership, this project removed single-use items from all I&E’s catered events and from staff tea points. DtD highlighted the levels of waste and impact on landfill from single-use items in catering. It showed that the small changes we can all take really do make a significant difference – from making a small investment in reusable crockery to bringing your reusable cup/Keep Cup with you to meetings. The UCL Council showcase held at BaseKX on 14 February 2020 was 100% single-use free. Over 1100 single use items were saved from landfill in 2019-20. DtD is now part of our business as usual.

Food Habits

With the aim of raising awareness within I&E about where our food comes from, its carbon footprint and the impact of packaging, we surveyed our staff about their food habits and sustainability actions. We found that staff were already, or were moving towards, eating less meat and looking for dairy alternatives, thinking more about the packaging used in food retail, along with greater awareness of the impact of their choices on producers and workers across the world (Fairtrade, organic etc). As a result of the findings, we changed our office milk order to contain non-dairy oat mylk, increased awareness of the importance of Fairtrade during the 2020 Fairtrade Fortnight. The results also reaffirmed our departmental pledge to Ditch the Disposable (see above) and to provide as close to 100% vegetarian catering for our departmentally organised catered events. We worked closely with Sodexo to create a 100% vegetarian menu for the UCL Council showcase held at BaseKX on 14 February 2020.

### 2 Key Areas of Focus for Sustainability in 2020-21

The coronavirus pandemic and home working have highlighted staff interest in biodiversity (particularly during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021). The DtD and Food Habits projects from 2019-20 highlighted issues of plastics (including hidden plastics), confusion about recycling logos, and overall consumption. We will also promote more about the support provided by I&E across UCL on sustainability activities.

In 2020-21 I&E sustainability projects will focus on building awareness and sharing good practice on:

* Biodiversity
* Plastics
* Promoting I&E’s support for sustainable activities across UCL

The I&E Sustainability Plan activities will be linked to the UCL Change Possible Strategy Goals[[1]](#footnote-1), and the UN Sustainability Goals[[2]](#footnote-2). Progress against the plan will be provided at I&E Leadership meetings and I&E all staff meetings.

### 3 Detailed Sustainability Plan 2020-21

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| Area of Focus | Title of Project Activity | Description of Project Activity | UCL Change Possible Strategy Goals[[3]](#footnote-3) | UN Sustainability Goals[[4]](#footnote-4) | Project progress to date | Project Stage |
| **Biodiversity** | NaturCode | Connecting with Nature  [www.notion.so/NaturCode-2b6da38317a447238a44d507ce29b5b9](http://www.notion.so/NaturCode-2b6da38317a447238a44d507ce29b5b9) | Positive Climate  Wild Bloomsbury | 3: Good Health and Wellbeing  15: Life on Land | Feb 21: Website created by Suthida Chang (Student Sustainability Ambassador)  Due to be launched at 17 Feb I&E staff meeting. | Implementation |
| Wild / Bird Life | Getting to know more about birds:   * Publicising and talking about the RSPB Bird Watch 29-31 January 2021 * Work with UCL Union Conservation Society students to put on a lunch time talk. * Origami Cranes (see also Sustainable Festivities below)   Wellbeing + Nature:   * Publicise the BBC Spring/ Summer/ Winter Watch Mindfulness Moments. * Circulate BirdSong FM details. | Positive Climate  The Loop  Wild Bloomsbury | 3: Good Health and Wellbeing  11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  13: Climate Action  15: Life on Land | RSPB Bird Watch undertaken by more staff this year.  [Origami cranes workshop](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/message/19:a2d6ad9112354f0c9d41ab3ca8038d73@thread.tacv2/1605715929277?tenantId=1faf88fe-a998-4c5b-93c9-210a11d9a5c2&groupId=59ba4631-8be2-4c29-9bd7-3b288318fa31&parentMessageId=1605715929277&teamName=I%26E%20All%20Staff%20Team&channelName=Staff%20Wellbeing&createdTime=1605715929277) has taken place with good staff feedback.  [BBC “season” watch programmes and minufullness moments](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/message/19:5e151daf57e845c9a43d721b8df529a2@thread.tacv2/1611230948749?tenantId=1faf88fe-a998-4c5b-93c9-210a11d9a5c2&groupId=59ba4631-8be2-4c29-9bd7-3b288318fa31&parentMessageId=1611230948749&teamName=I%26E%20All%20Staff%20Team&channelName=General&createdTime=1611230948749), and [Birdsong FM publicised](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/message/19:6bd486e18e0f41c2904b801a6e00618c@thread.tacv2/1612265244578?tenantId=1faf88fe-a998-4c5b-93c9-210a11d9a5c2&groupId=59ba4631-8be2-4c29-9bd7-3b288318fa31&parentMessageId=1612265244578&teamName=I%26E%20All%20Staff%20Team&channelName=Lockdown%20Living&createdTime=1612265244578) with staff via MS Teams. | Implementation |
| Earth Hour 2021 | Promoting Earth Hour on 27th March 2021 8.30pm (Sat).  Providing a quick wins checklist and info sheet for staff to take part.  [latest.earthhour.org/earthhour-at-home](https://latest.earthhour.org/earthhour-at-home) | Positive Climate  The Loop  Wild Bloomsbury | 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  15: Life on Land | Nico Ulloa-Olguin to lead.  Promoting Earth Hour, 27th March 2021 (Sat).  Virtual switch off  Check efficiency of electric appliances  Paperless Office goals | Planning |
| Fairtrade Awareness | Fairtrade Quiz (staff meeting on 24 Feb 2021) – helping raise awareness of why Fairtrade is important, and small changes you can make to your buying habits to help support farmers.  Fairtrade Bake Off (5 March 2021) | Positive Climate  The Loop | 1: No Poverty  8: Decent Work and Economic Growth  9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure  10: Reduced Inequality  15: Life on Land | Nico Ulloa-Olguin leading the Fairtrade Awareness Quiz (@24 Feb staff meeting)  Gemma leading the Fairtrade Bake Off [expect to hold virtual event on 5 March]. | Planning |
| **Plastics** | Can I Recycle this? | Helping to demystify recycling symbols/logos   * Staff Quiz to raise awareness of the many different “recycling” logos on everyday products. * Get staff to look at logos before they buy a product so they know if it can be recycled or not. * Increase recycling rates at home and in the office and send less to landfill. | Positive Climate  The Loop | 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  14: Life Below Water  15: Life on Land | Harriet is preparing the quiz to show at a future staff meeting. | Planning |
| UCL Recycling Refresher | Refresher for staff on the UCL recycling system noting that there have been changes to when many people were last on campus. | Positive Climate  The Loop | 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  14: Life Below Water  15: Life on Land | Harriet will prepare details of the UCL recycling system and socialise the new requirements and branding. | Planning |
| Hidden plastics | Hidden Plastics   * Raise awareness of hidden plastics in everyday life. * Provide some quick wins and easy fixes for staff. | Positive Climate  The Loop  Wild Bloomsbury | 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  14: Life Below Water  15: Life on Land | Feb 2021: Olivia Scott (Student Sustainability Ambassador) is preparing a short presentation to be shown at 17 Feb I&E staff meeting on hidden plastics and some quick wins. | Planning |
| Sustainable Festivities | Origami Cranes (see also Biodiversity above) and paper decorations.  [Ideas for a sustainable festive season](https://liveuclac.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/VPEInnovationEnterpriseIntranet/Shared%20Documents/I-E-2020-GreenImpact-sustainable-festivities-ideas_94469.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=2Ycs0R): Quick wins for you and the planet | Positive Climate  The Loop  Wild Bloomsbury | 3: Good Health and Wellbeing  11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  15: Life on Land | November and December 2020 Staff activity: making origami cranes to highlight  Ideas for a more sustainable festive season circulated | Completed |
| **I&E support across UCL on sustainable activities** | Entrepreneurship and sustainability | Details of Entrepreneurship support provided to UCL students with a sustainability focus | Positive Climate  The Loop | 1. No poverty  2. Zero hunger  3. Good health and wellbeing  4. Quality education  7. Affordable and clean energy  12. Responsible consumption and production | [Business founded by UCL graduate is now world's largest recycler of coffee grounds](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2020/sep/business-founded-ucl-graduate-now-worlds-largest-recycler-coffee-grounds)  [UCL students tackle food poverty with social enterprise and win prestigious $1m prize](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2018/nov/ucl-students-tackle-food-poverty-social-enterprise-and-win-prestigious-1m)  [UCL startup Musemio provides immersive and educational virtual reality experiences](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2020/aug/ucl-startup-musemio-provides-immersive-and-educational-virtual-reality)  [in2scienceUK: UCL PhD student gives underprivileged young people a chance at science careers](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2018/nov/in2scienceuk-ucl-phd-student-gives-underprivileged-young-people-chance-science)  [Playbrush: UCL graduates revolutionise toothbrushing for children](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2019/jan/playbrush-ucl-graduates-revolutionise-toothbrushing-children)  [UCL startup plans to transform hospital teaching with major grant](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2019/jun/ucl-startup-plans-transform-hospital-teaching-major-grant) | Planning |
| KE activities and sustainability | Details of KE funding and associated activities provided to UCL colleagues with a sustainability focus | Positive Climate  The Loop | 6. Clean water and sanitation  9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure  12.Responsible consumption and production | Creating paints from coal waste: the arts and sciences join forces at UCL  [EcoNomad: UCL entrepreneur scales down eco-tech for small farms](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2018/nov/economad-ucl-entrepreneur-scales-down-eco-tech-small-farms)  [UCL and Imperial tackle global threat of arsenic in drinking water](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2018/oct/ucl-and-imperial-tackle-global-threat-arsenic-drinking-water) | Planning |
| Partnering activities and sustainability | Details of partnership activities with a sustainability focus | Positive Climate  The Loop | 3. Good health and wellbeing  5. Quality education  9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure  13 Climate action | [Self-help for diabetics](https://www.uclb.com/2019/05/28/nhs-england-provides-online-support-developed-at-ucl-for-type-2-diabetes/)  [UCL helps industry tackle the scourge of damp buildings](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2019/may/ucl-helps-industry-tackle-scourge-damp-buildings)  [Making English grammar inspiring and rewarding for school teachers and pupils](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/case-studies/2019/jun/making-english-grammar-inspiring-and-rewarding-school-teachers-and-pupils)  [Driving down shipping emissions](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/consultants/news/2018/apr/reducing-shipping-industrys-carbon-emissions-major-progress-says-ucls-low-carbon)  social enterprise Numberfit - Innovate-UK Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme with academics from IOE (link to follow) | Planning |

1. See [ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/sites/sustainable/files/change\_possible.\_the\_strategy\_for\_a\_sustainable\_ucl\_2019-2024.pdf](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/sites/sustainable/files/change_possible._the_strategy_for_a_sustainable_ucl_2019-2024.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See [ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/sites/sustainable/files/change\_possible.\_the\_strategy\_for\_a\_sustainable\_ucl\_2019-2024.pdf](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/sites/sustainable/files/change_possible._the_strategy_for_a_sustainable_ucl_2019-2024.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)