Sustainability workshop 21/02/2020

Union's wishlist

Students' Union UCL is most sustainable SU in the UK

Sustainability a decision criteria in all new Union initiatives

Understand what the most critical sustainability issues are for the Union and where we can make the biggest difference

Renewable/low carbon energy

Maximum sustainability outcomes for the resources that we put in

Develop sustainability metrics to measure performance, benchmarking to similar organisations, can we learn from similar projects (e.g. student centre)

Sustainability examples

3 tiers of coffee cup prices (disposable is most expensive, cafes cup, own cup is cheapest)

Walking/liveable neighbourhoods (no car parking spaces)

Rice Inc (rice drying technology)

Zero waste shop and hot water tap (Sheffield Students' Union)

Camden Think + Do (community climate change space)

Campus kitchens (leftover food cooked by students- philanthropy)

Composting of leftover food (used on university gardens)

Change in recycling habits in the UK (increase in recycling rates due to landfill tax and public pressure)

Gloucester service station (local food sourcing, electric car charging, become more popular)

Greg's vegan sausage rolls

Sustainability and our students

Sustainability agenda being pushed more by younger generations

NUS- 80% of students have said they want their university to be more sustainable

Bartlett- declared climate emergency after petition from its students

Student societies focussed on sustainability

Sustainability ambassadors (Student Sustainability Council)

Mapping Students' Union UCL activity

4 cafes

4 bars

1 pizza outlet

1 shop

2 pop-up food stalls

Gym and Elite Athlete Programme

Shenley sports ground- in a contract with Watford FC

Volunteering- over 2000 student volunteers

Jobshop- students finding part-time and seasonal work in the local community

Advice Service- 400 students helped last year with academic, housing and welfare issues

Clubs and Societies (we allocate ~£1M/yr)

74 sports teams- hiring training grounds (100 facilities)

Travel to matches- public transport if viable, coaches if not

Travel to Shenley- coach

Buying sports equipment

Hiring coaches

Events and conferences

Field trips (e.g. Ski Trip, sports tours)

Marketing of all events

Music and performing societies

HR- 200 student staff

Finance

Marketing and Communication

Democracy- 1,600 academic reps, committees/policy zones, implementing policies, board committees/governance

Campaigns- influencing/partnering, sabbs on many university committees

Liberation networks

Questions- food sourcing, co-operation and sustainable welcome fair

What is the Students’ Union already doing?

London Living Wage employer

Developing a sustainability strategy!

Sustainable society’s checklist

Student Sustainability Council

Sustainability ambassadors

Recycled material t-shirts in the shop

Student-led sustainability conference

Microwaves in outlets

Policy: waste from external events

Policy: Plastic Free Union

Ditch the Disposable charge

Fairtrade policy

SU Cafes loyalty card- get your 8th drink free when you use your reusable cup

Leftover food from the cafes- donated to local food bank/shelter by Zero Food Waste UCL

0 waste to landfill

Own 100 acres of greenbelt land

100% renewable electricity

Appropriate recycling bins

Recycled paper marketing

Increasing vegetarian and vegan food range in cafes (currently at 30%)

Current recycling rates

Print Room café- 60.66%

KLB (Lewis building and 25 Gordon Street)- 75.62%

Bloomsbury- 83.26%

Key activities: proposed actions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Key activitity | Proposed action | Resources needed |
| Energy/Carbon | Gym  | Look at energy generation from workout machines |  |
| Bars | Review Bars lighting  |  |
| Investment | Lobby UCL for more sustainable investment policies (building on socially responsible investment) |  |
| Banking(Barclays, Virgin Money and Scottish Widows) | Review the banks we currently use- People and Planet have an ethical banking score card |  |
| Facilities  | Install more water fountains in Union spaces  |  |
| Review energy efficiency and shutdown protocols |  |
| Electricity generation | Investigate viability of solar panels at Shenley  |  |
| Food and Drink | Hot drinks (600,000 sold last academic year) | Increase price differential between single-use cup and reusable cup  |  |
| Show menu with reusable price (like Starbucks) |  |
| Improve seating areas in all cafes and ceramic cup provision so that fewer people would use single-use cups |  |
| Investigate cup return scheme |  |
| Make plant milk the default  |  |
| Effectively communicate the no extra cost for plant milk  |  |
| Coffee ground disposal- look at collection schemes for waste to be turned into biodiesel  |  |
| Food range | Look at reducing beef options |  |
| Put Vegetarian and Vegan options on deals |  |
| Make vegetarian and vegan options more attractive- put them at the top of the menus and first/in the best fridge positions |  |
| Food packaging | Investigate carbon footprint labels for food, or simpler marketing showing how meat and dairy have biggest environmental impact |  |
| Campaign suppliers for more sustainable packaging |  |
| Look at reducing packaging |  |
| Meetings and events | Update Sustainable Society’s checklist  |  |
| Cut out bottled water in event catering |  |
| Look at automatic opt-in vegetarian catering |  |
| Bars | Further reduce single-use plastic by introducing hard-plastic cups for bust nights |  |
| Products and Materials | Procurement | Look at UCL’s procurement policy and ways to ensure suppliers are maintaining sustainability requirements |  |
| Investigate Sustainable procurement contract documentation |  |
| Clubs and Societies | Develop a resource centre for clubs and societies so that they can use reusable crockery, glasses, pitchers etc. for their events  |  |
| Review what products clubs and societies are buying most often and see if the Union can supply reusable alternatives  |  |
| Look at society re-imbursement and see whether a sustainability requirement could be added  |  |
| Sports kits- review single-year sponsorship deals and recycling/re-using kits |  |
| Union Shop | Look at clothing sustainability, i.e. Fairtrade cotton |  |
| Facilities  | Are we using the most sustainable cleaning materials and toilet rolls |  |
| Travel | Clubs and Societies | Review travel re-claim policy, i.e. refunding the cheapest form of travel vs. the lowest carbon method |  |
| Look at viability of moving our sports ground so that our teams can use public transport to and from home matches |  |
| HR | Look at home working policy  |  |
| Marketing | Communicate locations of showers and bike parking to students (and Union staff) to encourage cycling |  |
| Education | Academic Reps | Lobby for sustainability to be a permanent part of Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCCs) |  |
| Marketing | Introduce weekly core messages and add key sustainability themes to Comms grids (marking global moments) |  |
| Regular catch ups with Union marketing and Sustainable UCL |  |
| Website | Develop a ‘sustainability hub’ on the Union website to help people find information and get involved  |  |
| Events | Hold more sustainability-focussed events |  |
| Use the Sustainable Development Goals as a basis for an events series on sustainability  |  |
| Democracy  | Marketing | What could we ask every student to pledge to do? (a plastic straws moment) |  |
| Community  | How can we influence Camden (e.g. on air quality on Euston Road) |  |
| Influence Keir Starmer (lobbying on Climate Change) |  |
| UCL East- the link to communities in East London and how we could use that interconnectivity  |  |
| London Mayoral candidates  |  |
| Student Sustainability Council | Strengthen the council so that it becomes the forum for student participation sustainability at UCL  |  |
| Governance  | HR/Union permanent staff | Embed sustainability in job descriptions of key roles across the SU |  |
| Appoint a staff sustainability champion/SMT sustainability lead |  |
| Add a sustainability objective into the appraisal process |  |
| Union planning | Add sustainability as a requirement in Departmental Operating Plans |  |
| Include sustainability in business cases |  |
| Board of Trustees | Look into regular sustainability reports to the Board |  |
| Develop KPIs  |  |
| Look into establishing a ‘Sustainability’ committee of the Board  |  |
| Student participation | Develop the Sustainability Ambassador roles  |  |
| Accreditation | Look at ISO 14001 accreditation |  |
| Gain the Gold Green Impact Award  |  |

Next steps

 Sustainability role to start this work- CSR sponsorship, alumni?

What's the biggest impact we can have?

Operations

Behaviours of students- influence

Hold university to account

Local/national influence

Data provision for staff travel, scope and emissions

Investigate funding for auditing- can students do some auditing?

Develop targets

Looking to increase the Block Grant- sustainability plan

Develop table of proposed actions by theme- add resources/costs etc., then meet again to refine, prioritise and look at resources, aim for student council to look over document