

# Sustainability Awards 2021

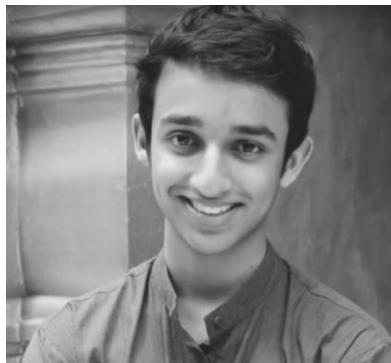
**Meet the Highly Commended Nominees and Winners of the  
UCL Sustainability Special Awards 2021**

## Sustainability Education Award

Awarded to the member/s of staff and/or postgraduate student/s who have integrated a comprehensive sustainability education plan into the formal or informal curriculum.

### Winner: Joint Award for the Medical School

Adesh Sundaresan, Honorary Clinical Lecturer at the Medical School



Adesh designed and ran a novel module for medical students dedicated to empowering, educating and inspiring students on the health impacts of climate change. Students were equipped with skills which will allow them to participate in adaptation, mitigation and communication-related activities.

UCL Medical School's MBBS Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group  
(Tor Wright, Florence Fowkes, Mehar Singh, John Ooi, Natalia Zernicka-Glover)



This team of students and staff has thought of ways to encourage UCL academics to integrate issues linking healthcare, climate change, and sustainability into the MBBS curriculum (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery). They collated their ideas into a report, which the students presented to the MBBS Executive Team in March 2021 and which is now being implemented.

Deanne Atreed, Head of Strategic Partnerships, UCL Medical School



As a Green Champion for the UCL Medical School, Deanne has been instrumental in introducing core student teaching within the Medicine MBBS Programme (2000 students), as well as being key in establishing the first medical Student Selected Component (SSC) in climate change and health in the UK. Deanne also worked with Medical students to sign a [Declaration of the Climate Change Emergency](#), which is a national initiative amongst UK medical schools.

UCL Medical School's Planetary Health Report Card Team (Trizzha Feliciano, Catherine Napper, Luisa Alamo Gomez, Selina Aziz, Isis Gaspar Calado)



This team researched and reviewed the UCL Faculty of Medical Sciences' commitment to climate change education and sustainability in the faculty's curriculum, interdisciplinary research, community outreach, support for student-led initiatives, and campus sustainability, in addition to setting up a board to further improve the faculty's engagement in the future as part of the [Planetary Health Report Card \(PHRC\) Initiative](#).

### Highly Commended

Dr Alexander Rettie, Lecturer in Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage



Alexander created and led intensive week-long projects for UCL Chemical Engineering students. They were introduced to the importance of climate change, the sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and critically analysed current topics like the electrification of transport and industrial battery production. By using real-world data and government targets, Alexander is training [the next generation of Chemical Engineers](#) that will be uniquely prepared to usher in the clean economy.

## Staff Award for Outstanding Commitment to Sustainability

Awarded to the staff member who most clearly exemplifies an outstanding commitment to driving, encouraging, or creating environmental and/or social change at UCL.

### Winner

Ivet Dimitrova, University Project Officer in the UCL Estates Capital Projects Team



Ivet ensures that all future spaces at UCL are designed and constructed with an emphasis on sustainability and in line with the [UCL Sustainability Strategy](#) and the [UCL Sustainable Building Standard](#). Ivet has helped reduce UCL's environmental impact in several areas: reducing the energy use associated with mechanical and electrical building services; maximising materials reuse and minimising waste as part of a circular economy approach; and improving internal environments to support the health and wellbeing of staff and students.

### Highly Commended

Vindya Dassanayake, Solution Architect from the Digital Experience team



Vindya was a key part of the team that designed and developed LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), a tool that helps maintain standards in sustainable laboratory operations. Vindya's dedication was crucial to creating the tool that is enabling UCL and now 29 other institutions take advantage of LEAF.

Bernadette d'Almeida, Library Assistant at the Senate House Hub



Bernadette is a [Green Champion](#) at Senate House Library, and has gone above and beyond in her sustainability efforts. She has been developing sustainability projects at UCL for 14 years, has presented annual sustainability and wellbeing workshops for 10 years, and has reduced the amount of waste produced by the library by 90%.

## Sustainability Impact Award

Awarded to a team and/or society which has undertaken an initiative contributing to the [Signature Campaigns](#) in the UCL Sustainability Strategy, Change Possible.

### Winner

UCL Ahlul-Bayt Society (ABSoc) (Lena Jasim, Abid Razavi, Syed Qasim Naqvi)



ABsoc organised events that mobilised the Shia Muslim community to engage with the climate crisis. During sustainability week, they united student societies such as the Climate Action Society and the Pakistan Society to discuss how climate change affects people of all backgrounds, and how they can achieve environmental justice and tackle the climate crisis.

### Highly Commended

Graham Nevill, Senior Technician, Steve Terry, Research Fellow, and their Garden Helpers at the Ear Institute



Graham, Steve and their team created a roof top garden above the Ear Institute 'It's good up Ear' as a place for relaxation and recreation. They created a sustainable space through making planters from discarded wood pallets, diverting rainwater to use for watering, and encouraging wildlife through insect-

UCL Introductory Project Team (Tim Beasley-Murray, Vincent Harding, Louise Pollock, Viki Burnage, Roisin Cassidy, Katie Price)



The interdepartmental team has developed the pages on sustainability for the UCL [Introductory Programme](#) for next year. The sustainability space will showcase UCL research, highlight student-led projects, and provide students with interactive activities for online and practical participation in sustainability at UCL.

## Sustainability Research Award

Awarded to the researcher/s whose contribution to the environment and/or society at UCL, or beyond, has the greatest positive impact.

### Winner

Dr Priti Parikh, Associate Professor, Head of Engineering for International Development Centre at the Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction



Priti has championed the role of infrastructure to address SDGs [over the last five years](#). She led a UCL team which [demonstrated the links](#) between sanitation and energy, climate change, health, education and poverty reduction, making a case for targeted action in sanitation. Until that point the linkages between water and the SDGs had been mapped but the role of sanitation had received very little attention. Priti has also led efforts to influence policy and practice, with her and her team's work influencing the African Sanitation Strategy, and how SDGs are monitored in [South Africa](#).

### Highly Commended

Dr Onya McCausland, Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the Slade School of Fine Art



Onya's [research](#) has identified and pioneered a new use for the iron solids left behind at UK Coal Authority mine water treatment sites as a sustainable pigment for use in paint. This pioneering paint, named by its place of formation, [Six Bells Red](#), is made in combination with in-organic, sustainable, non VOC binders.

Dr Massimiliano Materazzi, Engineering/RAEng Research Fellow at the Chemical Engineering Department



Dr Materazzi's group partnered with [Heathrow](#) to test innovative recycling technologies for conversion of plastic waste from airport terminals - including food packaging and plastic film - to high value materials and chemicals. The research showed that chemical recycling offers great opportunities to make polluting sectors, like [aviation](#), more sustainable.

## Student Award for Outstanding Commitment to Sustainability

Awarded to the student who most clearly exemplifies an outstanding commitment to driving, encouraging or creating environmental and/or social change at UCL.

### Winner

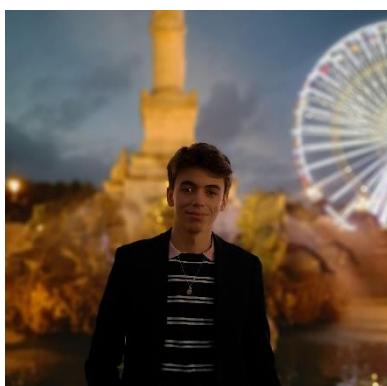
Carol Paige, Democracy, Operations and Community Sabbatical Officer at the Students' Union UCL



Carol has transformed sustainability within the Students' Union in her 2 years as the Democracy, Operations and Community Sabbatical Officer through developing the [Students' Union UCL's first Sustainability Strategy](#), hosting numerous sustainability-themed events, including sustainability talks during the election period, and facilitating UCL's [Student Sustainability Council](#) and [Sustainability Ambassador programme](#).

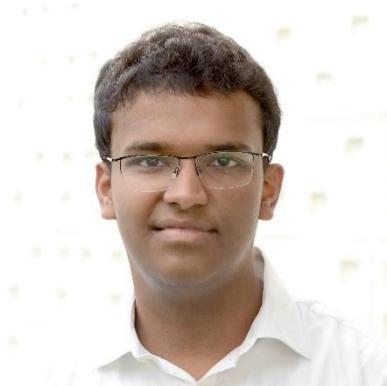
### Highly Commended

Harrison Cox, LLB Law and French Student at the Faculty of Laws



Harrison has been a member of the UCL Laws Green Impact Committee, which strives to improve sustainability in the faculty. He was a driving force behind their launch of a sustainability newsletter. He is also the conduit for re-establishing an environmental legal clinic within the faculty.

Udit Singhal, BSc Management Science Student at the UCL School of Management



[Udit](#) founded [Glass2Sand](#) in 2018, a zero-waste initiative and 'no glass to landfills' movement in India. 18,000+ waste glass bottles have been stopped from going to landfill. Last year, the United Nations selected him as one of [17 Young Leaders for the SDGs](#) for his contributions to sustainability. Udit is working towards a Glass2Sand ecosystem for the UCL community.