

Green Impact Students' Unions

Anglia Ruskin Students' Union

Feedback report 2016

Well done and thank you for participating in the Green Impact Students' Unions programme this academic year. This report outlines your sustainability achievements in the programme and also highlights success from across the movement.

National sustainability achievements

We have seen great work on sustainability undertaken by unions, universities, colleges and communities across the UK. Students' unions have continued to embed good environmental practices such as, engaging with policy development, running awareness campaigns and implementing sustainability programmes both in their institutions and communities. Here are highlights of some of the exciting events and achievements from across the movement:

- The 2nd NUS Student Sustainability Summit held in November 2015 brought together student leaders from across the UK to learn more about key sustainability issues and campaigns. The summit equipped participants with the skills and information needed to lead effective sustainability and social justice campaigns aimed at influencing negotiations at the Paris COP 21 Climate Change Conference in December 2015.
- Student regional organisers assembled to discuss and plan student engagement activities in institutions across the UK. The campaigns aimed to engage students in lobbying and advocating for the UK Government to positively support and negotiate the reduction of international carbon targets.
- NUS launched the Divest/Invest campaign as a direct result of our research which found that at least £180 million of universities' and colleges' money was invested in the fossil fuel industry. The Divest/Invest campaign aims to encourage institutions to divest from fossil fuels to renewable energies. To date, 21 educational institutions have made commitments to divest their funds.



Delegates of the NUS' 2nd Student Sustainability Summit, University of Bristol Students' Union, November 2015

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- 8 students' unions worked in partnership with their institutions in the NUS [Blackout](#) programme. With the help of over 350 student volunteers, NUS Blackout participants identified over 8000 electrical items that were unnecessarily left switched on.
- 19 unions collaborated with their institution to embed sustainability in their curriculums through the [Responsible Futures](#) programme.
- Student responses were received from 348 universities and colleges of the annual NUS sustainability attitudes and skills survey to add a 6th year of data that has illustrated the overwhelming student support for sustainability initiatives and education.



Launch of Divest/Invest campaign at SOAS, the first London based institution to divest. Jan 2016

In 2015/16 the Green Impact campaign worked in partnership with students' unions and over 179 organisations including, community organisations, NHS Trusts, local councils, and fire brigades. The partnership consisted of over 1,075 organisational teams encompassing 19,916 staff, approximately 3,202 of whom sat on local Green Impact teams. To date the scheme has delivered 256,491 actions, 46,743 as a direct result of the scheme, and this year we have trained over 500 students as volunteer auditors or in supporting teams throughout the programme as a project assistant.

"As a direct result of the Divest/Invest campaign, 21 education institutions have decided to divest funds from fossil fuels into renewables. Divest/Invest is evidence of the power that students' unions have to be heard and make change in the fight for a sustainable future." Piers Telemacque, NUS Vice President Society and Citizenship.

Programme impact

This year 117 unions have engaged with the programme, contributing to a total of 5,632 sustainability actions completed through the Green Impact toolkit, 2164 of these a direct result of taking part in the scheme. This is a significant achievement encompassing a breadth of activities from campaigning and community engagement to energy management and recycling. These results are the collective achievement of all the students, officers and staff members involved in your local Green Impact committees or working groups.

Working towards
Bronze
NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions

1 union

Bronze
NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions

18 unions

Silver
NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions

15 unions

Gold
NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions

32 unions

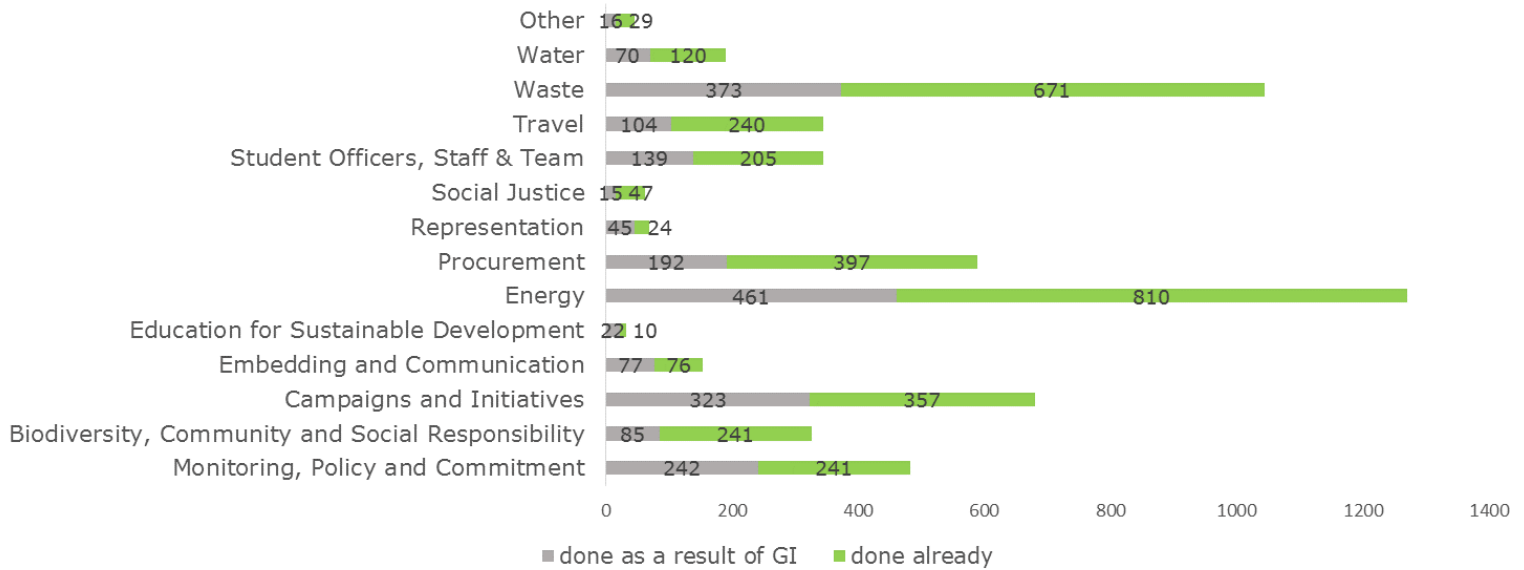
Gold Excellence
NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions

13 unions
and 4 unions working towards excellence

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Total GISU toolkit actions complete



Team Impact

Well done, this year your union has received a Gold accreditation.

The table below outlines how many points your union scored for each sustainability category and how this compares to the total amount available as well as the average for your union type.

	Anglia Ruskin Students' Union points	% of total Points	Commercial Average points
Water	6	13	19
Waste	117	72	88
Travel	46	77	33
Student Officer, Staff & Team	65	57	45
Social Justice	0	0	7
Procurement	37	30	46
Energy	161	54	132
ESD	9	28	3
Embedding & Communication	10	36	8
Campaigns & Initiatives	92	69	74
Biodiversity, Community & SR	49	43	37
Monitoring, Policy & Commitment	48	32	68

This year you have scored a total of 666 points which is 7% difference from your last workbook submission which was 624 points.

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Auditor Feedback

Here is some feedback from your NUS Green Impact auditor: 'Anglia Ruskin Students' Union has demonstrated a consistently high level of commitment to sustainability through GISU over many years. It's great to see Sammi Whittaker, the SU President, championing sustainability this year across the university as well as seeing a strong working relationship between the SU and the university on programmes like Responsible Futures. The coming months will be important for the SU to position sustainability strongly in the new strategic plan which will cover the next three years. When ARUSU first started GI it was largely focused on sorting out recycling systems and switching things off whereas in this latest audit the SU has demonstrated sustainability having been embedded across the entire organisation from strategy to volunteering to course rep training to wider campaigns with the university. Hopefully, the journey that the SU has taken with regards to sustainability can continue to grow and strengthen.'

Next Steps

On behalf of NUS's Department for Sustainability, many thanks for helping to champion sustainability in your union and we look forward to launching the new programmes for FE and HE in 2016/17 later on in the year.

Congratulations on all your achievements and before you get cracking on next year, make sure you take a good rest, reward your team, and reflect on everything you've achieved this year! We look forward to seeing you 5-6th July 2016 at SU2016 where you will be receiving your award, or if you aren't able to attend we will ensure certificates/awards are sent to you over the summer.

We've achieved an amazing amount through Green Impact over the last 10 years, from those who have been with us from the start to those who have more recently been championing sustainability. To celebrate we'll be having a series of events including on the evening on 5th July at SU2016 and two parliamentary receptions in the autumn to more broadly showcase our collective achievements and impacts of students and their unions over the past 10 years.

For more information, news, case studies and information about NUS' other sustainability programmes, visit www.nus.org.uk/sustainability or contact gisu@nus.org.uk.

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