



NUS Students' Green Fund: driving student engagement

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Speaker(s):

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Students' Green Fund

Driving student engagement





Student Led Sustainability



Grow- Urban gardening
Ecollect- Reducing waste to landfill
Create- Upcycling and reusing
Learn- Creating awareness
EcoFund- Supporting studies
CafEco- Mobile engagement



Renew





MA Arts and
Design Second
and Third Year
Students
looking to turn
their work into a
small business



Renew



Currently using the EcoFund to upcycle unwanted and unused furniture.

Displayed at the New Birmingham Library



Renew





Bin it to Win it

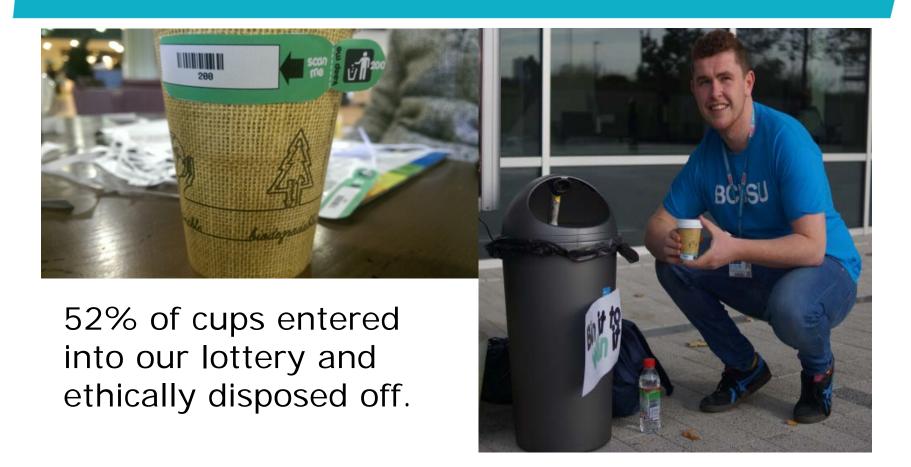
Set up by two students- Ladi and Aaroon.

Environmental Problem: A large amount of plastic coffee cups being thrown onto the ground and not into suitable recycling bins.

Ladi: 'We have developed an incentive scheme where people who bin their litter gets entered into a cash lottery; whereby, the more litter you bin, the higher your chances of winning.



Bin it to Win it





Chinese Cultural Day



MA Events Final Project

Educating people on the link between Chinese culture and the natural world.



Pot of Trix



The motivation behind Pot of Trix Theatre is to educate primary school children about sustainable farming, healthy eating and growing their own vegetables. Part of MA Events.



EcoGarden

What is it?

Two first year Landscape Architecture modules dedicated to designing an EcoGarden.

A joint design project between the School of Landscape Architecture and students from the School of Health's Growing Compassion Project.



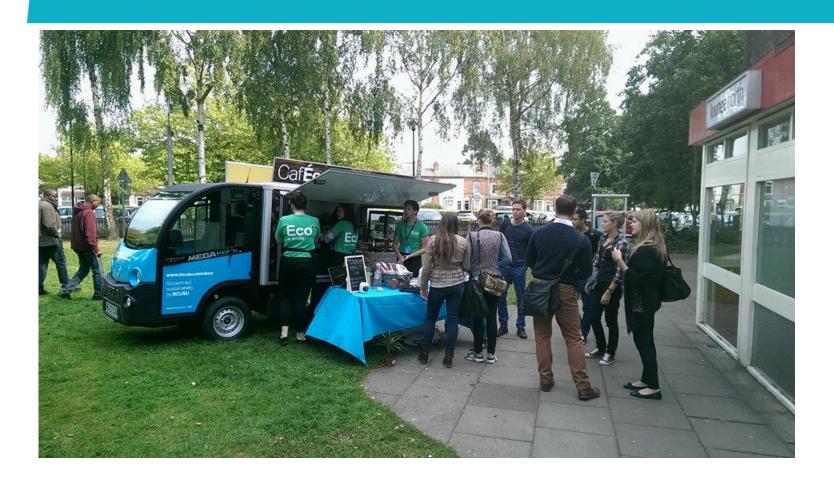
EcoGarden

How did we do it?

- Getting the right links
- Cherry Picking Courses
- A flexibility on both sides
- Opportune timing
- Positive for both parties



CafEco





Roots and Renewal



Students from BCU and a local college learn Portuguese through gardening and role-plays.





Conclusion

It's good to talk



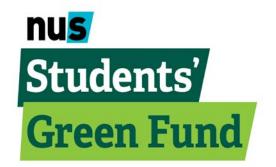






Engaging with Disabled Students

What we've learned through trial and error





SUMMARY

In the 2013/2014 academic year, Cycling 4 All has engaged with a total of 987 disabled and non-disabled students with 376 cycling

Roadshows C4A Wheelchair Rugby Gardening Trips

Broader engagement across school children/public and at community events – 5,203 individuals

Engagement with disabled students is still the primary challenge

national union of students

Disabled Students

- 10% of the student body
- Increase of ~ 7% per year
- Under represented in sports/societies
- Low engagement with SU
- Marginalisation and inequality exists for disabled students (Vickerman and Blundell, 2010)



Why?

- Fragmentation of disability provision
- Contracting out of provision
- Lack of social hub
- Accessibility issues
- Fears and lack of understanding



Challenges of Engagement

- Connecting with individuals
- Lack of a social hub or network for disabled students
- Many students don't think they can participate
- Accessibility and specialist equipment
- Attitudes of non-disabled students and staff



Engagement tools – what works

- One to one engagement
- Disabled student ownership
- To entice engagement, explain the benefits
- To maintain engagement, demonstrate the benefits
- Keep stats
- Links with Disability Services
- Do not exclude anyone, disabled or not
- MAKE IT FUN TO BE INVOLVED



Keep it fun!















Engagement tools – what works

- Try everything and think big
- Start before Freshers Fair
- Involve disabled students in all elements of the project
- Shout loudly about your successes
- Involve the community good for additional funding
- Involve non-disabled students, they have disabled friends
- Provide a physical social space



Engagement – what doesn't work

- Making wheelchair users feel harassed/singled out
- Don't rely on social media
- Waiting for things to happen
- Not delivering on promises turns off students
- Focussing on one activity only
- Not having student buy in



Benefits to Engagement

- Improved self esteem
- Increasing social networks
- Student physical wellbeing
- Entry point to other engagement
- Student led project
- Improved NSS score
- Improved retention



Disabled student engagement is a challenge but is very rewarding.

You can help to improve an individuals university/college experience.







Wigan and Leigh College Students' Union

The Smart Green Scheme

Starting from Scratch

- 10,000 students across 5 buildings, serving some of the most vulnerable groups in the community
 - No channel established for learner voice.
- A vision of an effective students' union with sustainability remaining within its core purpose.



Methods of engagement

Formal and informal curriculum

No culture of clubs/societies/volunteering



Aims of the project

- To develop an active Students' Union with a strong learner voice across all College locations.
- To develop an understanding of the facets of sustainability (environment, economy, society) amongst staff, students and the wider community.
- To encourage student entrepreneurship through sustainability.
- To promote a sustainable college community.
- To further develop and promote links with the local and global community through curriculum and the Students' Union.



6 key principles

The Students' Union hopes to use the Dragon's Den project to promote sustainability with a strong emphasis on community and social justice. This will be achieved by delivering projects according to '6 key principles' of Sustainability.

- Minimising human impact
- Enabling people
- Ensuring fairness
- Reducing waste
- Promoting happiness and positive wellbeing
- Social responsibility



Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships

 'Five Aid' – food waste event launched the Smart Green Scheme. Worked in collaboration with Manchester Friends of the Earth, Fare Share North West and local traders on Wigan Market





Shaping Education

- Learner Voice
- Student-led projects
- Working with course leaders to embed sustainability



Any questions or good examples?

