

GREEN IMPACT STUDENTS' UNIONS REPORT, 2020-21

This report outlines some of the sustainability achievements and successes from across the programme and student movement.



GREEN IMPACT STUDENTS' UNIONS IS...

A **framework** for union staff, officers and students to **collaboratively** address key issues to lead on embedding sustainability and social justice across campus, the curriculum, and wider society.

This supports SUs to build **impactful** projects and campaigns around climate justice and equality, curriculum reform, health and wellbeing and much more.

You're joining our **network**. We provide opportunities to partner with other unions, hold networking events and share good practice through resources and case studies.



GISU RESPONDS TO STUDENT DEMAND

Green Impact's success is partly due to it being student-led, reinforced by the fact that SOS-UK is doing this because students want institutions to do more on sustainability.

Students' Unions have excelled in implementing and embedding good environmental practices, while expanding their engagement with sustainability to address social and political issues. We have seen positive, wide-reaching results across campus', communities and in the curriculum.



91% say they agree their place of study should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development



83% would like to see sustainable development actively incorporated and promoted through *all* courses



91% say they are concerned about the effects of climate change

Source: NUS Sustainability Skills Survey 2019-20 | Base: c.6000 respondents in higher education across the UK

IN THE 14TH YEAR OF GREEN IMPACT STUDENTS' UNIONS...

NUS Green Impact Students' Unions

WORKING TOWARDS...
GOOD AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK

1 students' union achieved a Working Towards Good Award

NUS Green Impact Students' Unions

GOOD AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK

6 students' union achieved a Good Award

NUS Green Impact Students' Unions

VERY GOOD AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK

5 students' union achieved a Very Good Award

NUS Green Impact Students' Unions

EXCELLENT AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK

21 students' union achieved an Excellent Award

[> Read our article announcing the full list of award winners](#)

THE GISU SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS ARE...

- **Highest Scoring - The Students' Union at UWE (462 points)**

The sustainability committee led a campaign called [Let's Talk Trash](#), exploring how waste can be reduced across five different areas: food, fashion, recycling, plastic, and zero-waste living. Lots of great activities were ran through social media to engage students and support learning for sustainability.

- **Highest Scoring from the Nations - Undeb Bangor (416 points)**

Just some of the things that the SU ran this year, included a '[Period Poverty and Planet Friendly Period](#)' campaign, the '[Walk and Talk](#)' project for health and wellbeing, activities focusing on sustainable gardening, and they installed new water fountains.

- **Most Improved - City, University of London Students' Union and City of Glasgow College Students' Association.**

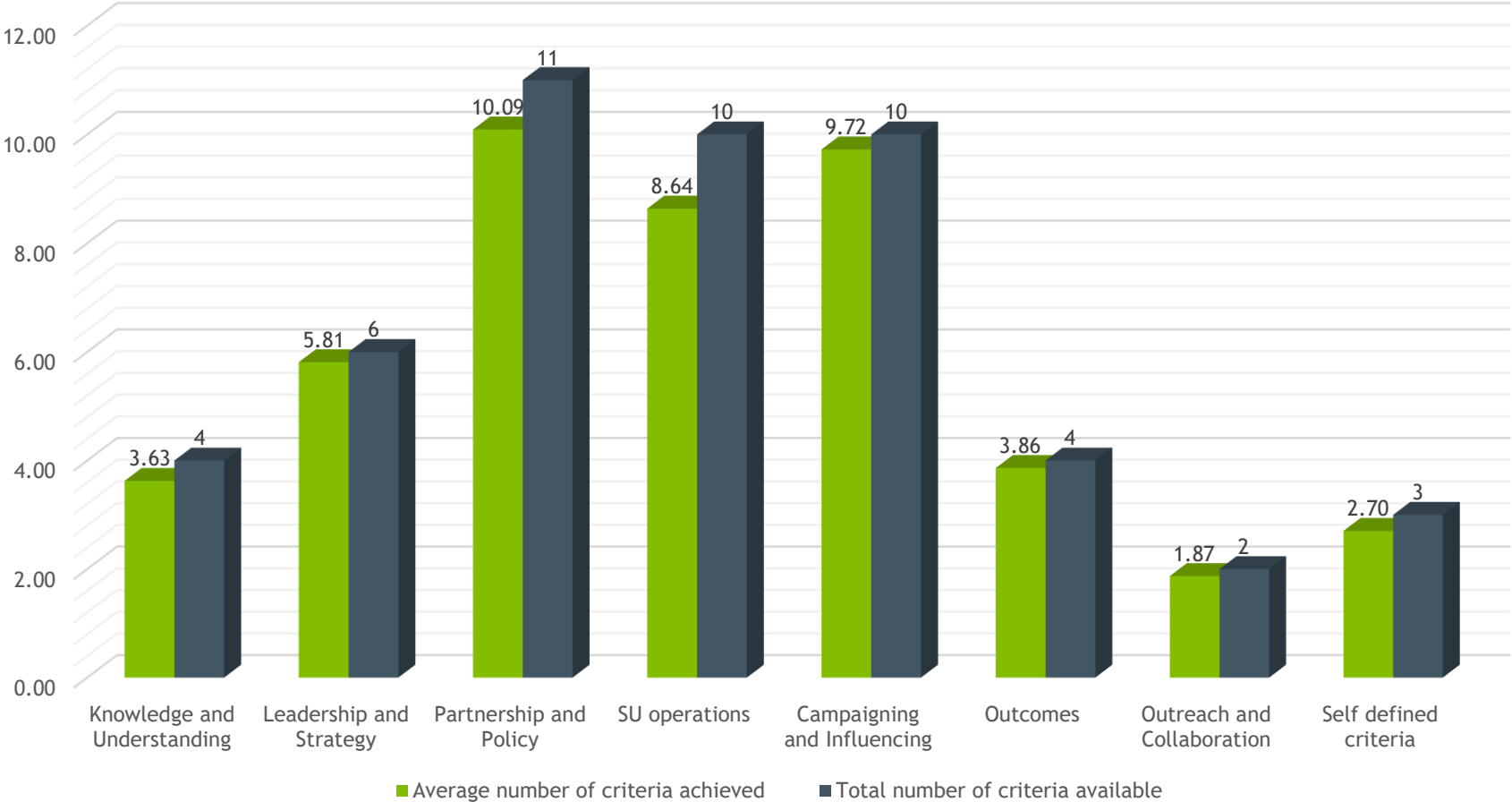
City have been leading a [plant-based food campaign](#) and have provided comprehensive guidance for staff on purchasing student incentives, whilst City of Glasgow College went out litter picking and developed a new environmental policy requiring all activities to go through an environmental risk assessment.



Undeb Bangor
More water fountains around site is something that was submitted to Undeb Bangor Ideas over two years ago and is something we've worked incredibly hard on and we are pleased to say that there ... See more



UNIONS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADDRESS MOST CRITERIA



A total of **1,465** criteria and **13,922** points were awarded across the 50 sustainability criteria.

- Average criteria achieved
- Number of criteria available

On average, SUs completed a total of 43 criteria out of the 50 available.

WHAT HAVE UNIONS BEEN FOCUSING ON IN 2020-21?

DIVESTMENT & CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Aberdeen SA: After years of student activism, AUSA and the [Aberdeen Fossil Free Campaign](#) have been pushing the University to divest from fossil fuels, and a vote on divestment will be taken to the University's Court in September.

Birmingham Guild: Have been making progress on their campaign for UoB to announce a Climate Emergency and fully [divest from fossil fuels](#), and will be continuing to push these demands next year.

Liverpool Guild: [Climate Action Liverpool](#) have been lobbying the University to declare a Climate Emergency; commit to a carbon neutral target of 2030; and set-up groups of students and staff to set how the institution must action on climate change. As part of this, they have put on screenings, panels and workshops.



[View SOS-UK's Invest for Change resources to help your campaigns for institutions to divest, and reinvest in environmental and social justice solutions.](#)

WHAT HAVE UNIONS BEEN FOCUSING ON IN 2020-21?

WELLBEING & GROWING PROJECTS

Wrexham Glyndwr - The SU lobbied the University to have co-responsibility of the [communal garden](#), and led a garden revamp in June to create a relaxing space for students whilst also being a location for natural wildlife.

UWTSD - For their Wellbeing Week, the SU sent out 250 free 'Wellness Packs' that contained clay, soil and seeds, pencil crayons and colouring sheets, as well as resources for students to support their wellbeing. Whilst in their Green Week, they [gave out soil and seeds](#) for students to grow plants to benefit wildlife and student wellbeing.

Arts University Bournemouth - The SU hosted wellbeing walks for students, led a ['chill-out and bug house building'](#) activity session.



[View SOS-UK's Student Eats webinar on supporting student-led social enterprises.](#)

WHAT HAVE UNIONS BEEN FOCUSING ON IN 2020-21?

WASTE

Aston: They ran several litter picks through their *Keep Aston Tidy* campaign which focused on tackling plastic waste and street litter, whilst supporting students to take action for the environment. They had over 30 volunteers join over the 3 days of litter picking, collecting 35 bags of rubbish in total.

Leeds Trinity: The SU passed a [single-use plastic giveaway policy](#), initially through Student Council and then ingrained it into Union Policy by the Board of Trustees. Next year, they are aiming for the SU bar to go plastic-free.

Westminster: The SU focused on the issue of [food waste](#) this year, aiming to raise awareness amongst students about the negative environmental and social impacts and empower them to take action to reduce their waste. Online activities, giveaways, tips and tutorials were provided as part of the campaign.



WHAT HAVE UNIONS BEEN FOCUSING ON IN 2020-21?

- Ethical purchasing & consumption - Reading, QMULSU
- ESD and Course reps - UWE, Glasgow Caledonian, Lancaster
- Period Poverty - Bucks, Birmingham Guild
- Alcohol & Drug Impact - Leeds University, Kingston



View the GISU
offering for 2021-22

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN GREEN IMPACT STUDENTS' UNIONS 2020-21.

Find out more on the [Green Impact website](#) or email gisu@sos-uk.org

For any other enquires, email hello@sos-uk.org

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STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM