

Green Impact Students' Unions Course Rep Training

green impact /



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

Today's session

- What is sustainability?
- Climate Justice in sustainability
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Green Impact Students' Unions
- What can I do to help as a student rep?

Sustainability

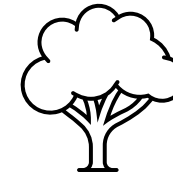
‘the avoidance or depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.’

The United Nations' 17 SDGs

green impact



It's more than just planting trees and reducing plastic!



Addressing environmental issues without considering social justice fails to tackle the root cause, and harm to the environment and people will continue.

Climate Justice

Both environmental degradation and social oppression are often driven by the same forces - and these systems often prioritize profit over people and the environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwJAb9aAltI&t=51s>



Watch Amnesty International's brief overview of Climate Justice and the roots of the climate crisis



“Climate justice is the moral, social and political side of the climate crisis, understanding that certain communities and minorities will face different and more damaging consequences of climate change sooner and harsher than others.”

Leah Duffy, Teach the Future campaigner

Young people understanding intersectionality as global citizens!

green impact

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_WRe-9ArNI



Watch Isra Hirsi explain how an intersectional approach is a key part of climate work

Education for Sustainable Development

A way of learning that helps people develop the skills and knowledge they need to live and work in a way that protects the environment, society, and the economy.

Sustainability 'Skills'

green impact

Using resources efficiently to limit the impact on the environment and other people

Looking at global problems from the perspective of people from around the world

Considering ethical issues linked to your subject

The causes of inequality in the world

Understanding how to create change

Understanding how human activity is affecting nature

Challenging the way we do things now (like business, politics, education)

Solving problems by thinking about whole systems - including different connections and interactions

Communicating complex information clearly and effectively to different types of people

Understanding how to create change

Looking at a problem using information from different subjects or disciplines

Planning for the long term, as well as the short term

Students want embedded climate learning



89% say they agree their place of study should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development



82% would like to see sustainable development actively incorporated and promoted through all courses



67% say sustainable development is something they would like to learn more about



Green Impact Students' Unions

We are leading the
sustainability
movement in SUs!

What we do with GISU

- Work with the charity Students Organising for Sustainability UK
- Carry out impactful projects and campaigns:
 - Climate Justice
 - Equality
 - Curriculum reform
 - Health and wellbeing
- Make sure our buildings make as small an impact on the environment as possible
- Champion the student voice and experience
- Work with other Unions and Associations
- Help students to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to deal with the global challenges we face
- Get awards!

What can I do as a Student Rep?

3% of people attend university
but they take up **80%** of the
leadership positions.

Chuck Hopkins, UNESCO Chair

You have the power to make change!

- Help academic staff and Heads of Department understand the value of integrating Education for Sustainable Development into their curriculum
- Students must be educated on important sustainability topics to change the way we all behave, both now and in the future!
- It's important to keep things as paperless as possible (except for accessibility issues!) - and make sure that online spaces are not using digital storage more than necessary
- Encourage your department to purchase only Fairtrade goods for catering, and consider their overall social impact
- Speak to other students about sustainability to raise the profile of this important topic
- Ensure that student views on sustainability are heard!

Thank you!

Any questions?