

# UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER STUDENT SWITCH OFF CAMPAIGN REPORT 2020-21



# The Student Switch Off campaign



SOS-UK's multi award-winning work engages students in environmentally and socially sustainable practices within student accommodation.

Engagement activities communicate practical advice to achieve quantifiable energy, waste and water reductions.

The campaign builds students' foundation of sustainability knowledge and carbon literacy, focusing on enhancing student experience and empowerment.



## This year your campaign has achieved...



**487** students engaged in the campaign  
(54% of 902 residents)



**412** entries in our climate quizzes



**5** students trained as campaign ambassadors



**70** participated in our online competitions, activities and webinars

# How we judge the competition



The competition was based on our key engagement statistics, as a percentage of residents from each hall.

Due to issues in collecting energy data this year, the campaign focused on engagement instead.

# We train and empower student volunteers



## 5 students attended the online volunteer training workshops

The training covers:

- How to save energy, water and recycle in halls
- Introduction to sustainability auditing
- Campaign implementation and impact
- Climate Emergency and Social Justice
- Techniques for engaging others

This supports students to:

- Bring about change
- Engage other students and inspires them to take action
- Complete their own sustainability audit in their residences



## Over the year, volunteers..



Promoted the campaign to their flatmates and online



Volunteers worked towards achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold volunteering awards



All 5 students audited the sustainability of their residences and made improvement measures



Increased their sustainability knowledge through support sessions, masterclasses, webinars and workshops

# What volunteers told us



89%



Took personal action  
to be sustainable

94%



Encouraged flatmates  
to be sustainable

70%



Sought further  
information  
i.e. heating controls,  
recycling, reporting  
maintenance etc.

\*Results from the end of year Student Switch Off 2019/20 ambassador survey

“Volunteering for Student Switch Off has been a great learning experience and a good way to connect with students who share similar values, this made me feel more hopeful for the future”

Student Switch Off Volunteer 2020-21

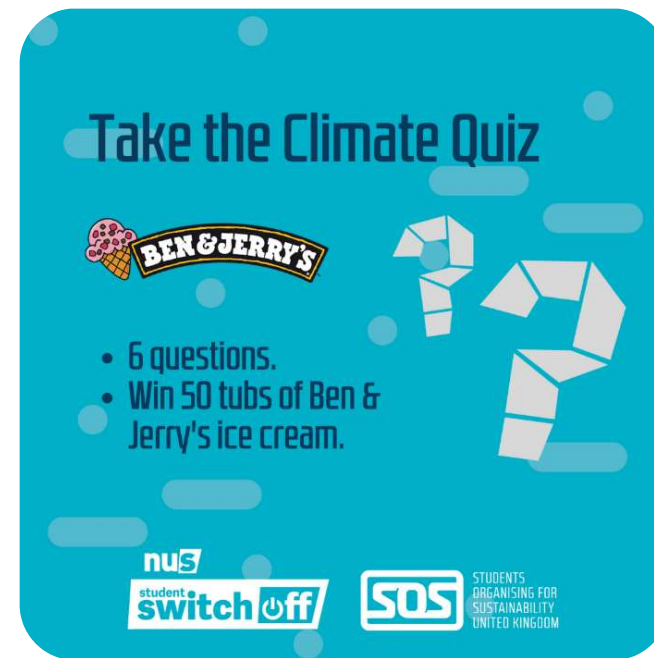


# We run Climate quizzes



## 412 students took part in the two rounds of our national Climate Quiz

- Students answered 6 questions on energy saving, climate justice and recycling
- 400 tubs of Ben & Jerry's ice cream was given to the national top 8 halls of residence
- Two students were picked from the University of Worcester to win Ben & Jerry's for themselves



# Your halls came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Climate Quizzes



## In our Climate quizzes - Worcester won the competition!

- In our Term 1 quiz - Abberley, Vesta Tilley and William Morris were joint 1<sup>st</sup> place with 67% of their residents taking part!
- In our Term 2 quiz - Abberley came 1<sup>st</sup> place overall from all our participating universities
- Students at these halls were sent Ben & Jerry's vouchers as a reward.

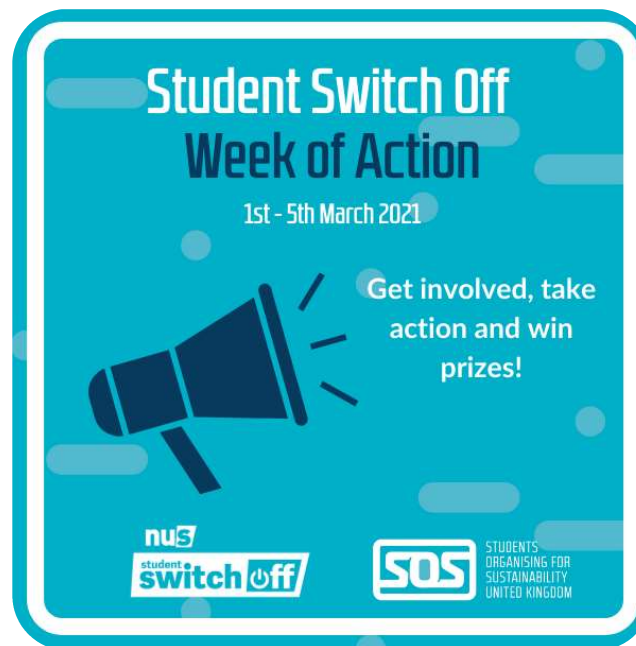
A graphic titled 'The Climate Quiz Leaderboard' with a blue background and white question mark icons. It lists the top four halls and their scores. At the bottom, it features the 'nus student switch off' logo and the 'SOS' logo with the text 'STUDENTS ORGANISING FOR SUSTAINABILITY UNITED KINGDOM'.

Rank	Hall	Score
1.	WORCESTER - Abberley	67%
2.	OXFORD - Wadham College	
3.	BATH - Conygre	
4.	STAFFORDSHIRE - Royal Doulton	

# Online activities engaged residents



70 students participated in our online competitions, activities and webinars



# We supported learning and development



## We ran learning masterclasses, webinars and workshops

### Workshop: Bringing Sustainability Values Into Your Future Career

12pm, 14th May



Want to explore how you can make a positive impact in your future career?



### Want to learn more about Single Use Plastics? Join our Webinar!



Sign up to join today's event (5-6pm)



### Masterclass: Introduction to ethical finance and investments



Learn about how money influences our world and what you can do about it



# We awarded the top sustainable residence



## Halls Sustainability Leaderboard

Check out the University of Worcester halls of residence sustainability leaderboard 2020-21

Updated: June 2021

2020/21

1	Abberley	1st
2	William Morris	2nd
3	Vesta Tilley	3rd
4	Malvern	4th
5	Sarah Siddons	5th
6	Wulfstan	6th
7	Windrush	7th
8	Berrow	8th

## Abberley won the competition!

In the context of social distancing this year we made a contribution on behalf of everybody who took part in Student Switch Off towards the charity Mind.



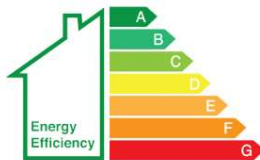
# We included private renters



- The SSO+ campaign delivers advice to support students when they leave halls and move into private rented accommodation
- Topics include energy efficiency, smart meters, thermal comfort and energy bills and providers

## Energy performance certificate

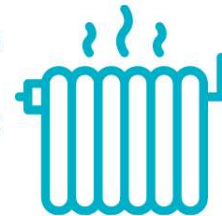
- Every property should have an energy performance certificate (EPC)
- A is the most efficient, G is the least efficient
- All rental houses should legally be E or above
- You can view the EPC of any rental property online



## HEATING

Heating is important to avoid problems of damp and to live comfortably.

Check if the house is heated with gas or electricity, and ask the current tenants (if possible) how they find the heating.



## SIGNS OF DAMP

Look out for the tell-tale signs of damp - **smell, mould and condensation.**

A damp property is hard to heat and can have a significant impact on your wellbeing.

Try and avoid damp properties or ask the landlord to take action.



# Student engagement has positive outcomes



Our research shows that as a result of student Switch Off:

60%

of students  
enjoyment of  
living in  
residences  
increased

77%

of students  
wanted their  
residence to  
offer  
volunteering  
opportunities

81%

of students  
are proud  
their residence  
is taking  
climate action



# How SSO contributes to the SDGs



Institutions, residences and students are contributing to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SSO contributes by: increasing energy and resource efficiency; reducing the environmental impact of cities; supporting the adoption of sustainable practices; encouraging improved recycling rates; raising awareness on climate change mitigation; building partnerships for knowledge sharing





# Nationally this year the campaign has achieved:

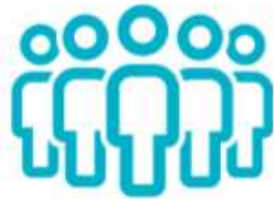


**1,090,509**

kWh of electricity reduced,  
equivalent to:

**335** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

Leaving a light on for **8,300** years



**51,300**

students reached  
in residences



**7,600**

entries in our  
online activities



**120**

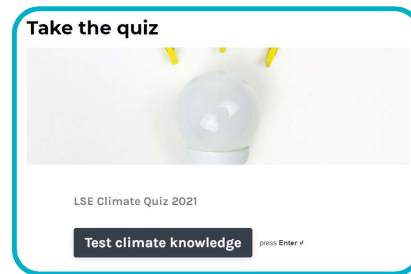
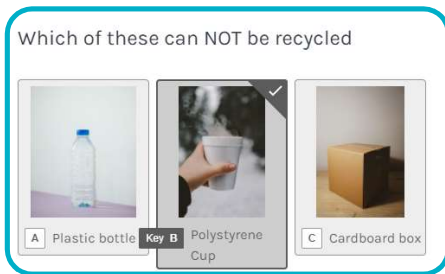
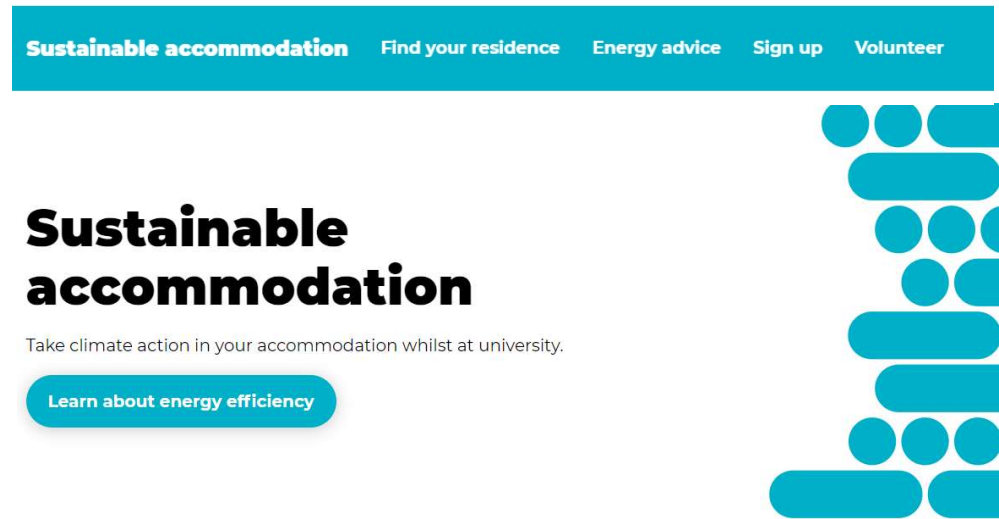
student volunteers  
provided training and  
development

# We're innovating the campaign every year



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESIDENCES 2021-22:

- We will continue to develop and expand the successful new campaign elements that we trialled during 2020/21, including: volunteer **residence sustainability auditing**, supporting **volunteer meet ups**, a funded **microgrant** scheme, sustainability **masterclasses** and an expanded **webinar** series.
- We are excited to announce a newly developed website that will facilitate brand new style **quizzes**, **polls**, **competitions**, **pledges** and **online learning**.



# We're innovating the campaign every year

In 2021-22 we will be offering a number of elements that you can add to your residence campaign:

## WELLBEING SPRINTS \*NEW\*

- Week long sprints to support students during their time in student residences.
- Programme of daily online activities; competitions, webinars, workshops and quizzes.
  - October 2021: Alcohol harm reduction
  - January 2022: Community building
  - May 2022: Wellbeing selfcare

## RECYCLING AUDTS IN RESIDENCES

- Visual check of student recycling at key points in the year
- Feedback performance and offer incentives and information
- Reports help identify recycling habits and areas for improvement

## PRIVATE RENTED ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

- Based on our years of engaging with students once they have left halls of residences.
- Programme of online competitions, volunteering opportunities, webinars, quizzes and engagement activities.
- Support students who may be vulnerable to energy poverty.



# WE ARE PROUD OF SOS-UK'S IMPACT IN 2020

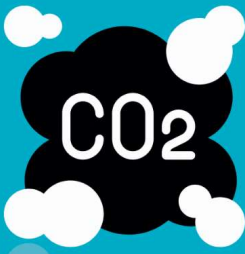


We would like to thank you for the instrumental role that you are playing by choosing to work with and support SOS-UK



Nearly **1,000** organisations took part or funded our work

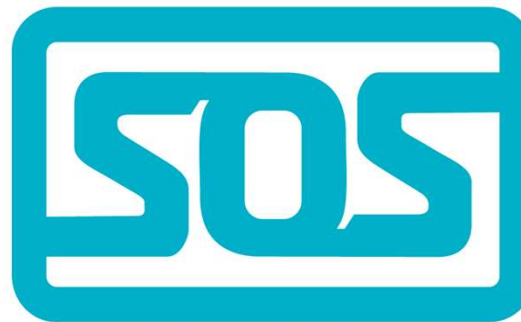
Nearly **200,000** people were reached through our sustainability work and campaigns



**3,080** tonnes of CO2 were saved as a direct result of our work



**1,708** students participated in SOS-UK sustainability training and development



We launched **5** new sustainability campaigns



Thank you for your  
continued support!



We look forward to working with you in  
2021/22!