

University of Worcester Impact report 2015-16

Thank you so much for everything you've put into Green Impact this year. We're really proud of what the programme's achieved, and hope you are too.

This document confirms your achievements this year and updates you on what's going on with Green Impact nationally.

National impact

Green Impact is a change and engagement programme – it helps people understand sustainability and social responsibility, shows them what they can do to make a difference, and supports them in achieving these actions.

It has been developed over the last ten years, using social change theory and NUS' expertise to produce a model that works in all environments and workplaces year-after-year. It covers the whole sustainability spectrum and is based on the themes of continual improvement, collaboration and meaningful change to establish new social norms and inspire people with the skills and passion needed to make a difference.

In 2015/16, Green Impact has:



Been used by 179 organisations ranging from students' unions to NHS Trusts



Engaged 19,916 people in sustainability and social justice issues



Provided 625 students with training and development opportunities



Been made up of 1,075 teams led by 3,202 people



Seen 46,743 actions completed, 29,382 as a direct result of the programme

We're delighted that:

- 88.9% of participants last year found the programme either excellent or good;
- 87.3% of people reported that Green Impact had encouraged them to engage in the sustainability agenda; and,

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- 75.4% of people said that after being involved with Green Impact they're more likely to encourage others in the sustainability agenda too.

We know this because so many teams take the time to tell us - from time to time, we ask participants of the programme to provide feedback on its impact as well as to evaluate how the programme is run and how it can be improved. We know that surveys can be boring, but we're really grateful to people who complete these as it helps us better understand what the programme achieves and what we can do to better support those involved.

To see more examples of what's being done by Green Impact teams across the country, search for the Twitter hashtag #GreenImpact.

The programme at University of Worcester

2015/16 has been a great year for the university, collectively we have:



Created 11 teams



Engaged 287 colleagues



Achieved 4 bronze awards



Achieved 5 silver awards



Achieved 1 gold award



Been led by 34 team members – our average team size is 3



Put 353 actions into place, 311 as a direct result of Green Impact



Provided 8 students with training and development opportunities in their roles as auditors and project assistants



Saved at least 50,853 kg CO₂



Saved at least 10256

This data is taken from the information teams have put into their online tools, as well as from the audit data. To calculate carbon and cost savings we selected just 4 criteria and used the Carbon Trust's empower tool to analyse the impact of these. This is just 4 out of 60 criteria! We collect a lot of data, because people involved in Green Impact undertake so much positive change. A lot of the data we collect is too complex to be able to allocate carbon and cost savings to every action but it does show that the impact of the programme is considerable.

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In addition to the standard award categories, we also recognised people going above and beyond in the special award categories:

- David Taylor won Environmental Hero from Student Services
- Sophie Tapp and Lucija Vuletic won the Eco Volunteer award
- Georgia Potts won the Exceptional Eco Student award

This year nine Green Impact teams are undertaking exciting Excellence projects on a wide range of sustainability topics from energy to biodiversity. Although their achievements are not captured by the online toolkit, their work this year will add to the fantastic successes described above.

The table below outlines the average achievements across the teams at Worcester along with the total available criteria and points.

	Team size	Bronze criteria completed	Silver criteria completed	Gold criteria completed	Points obtained
Average across UoW	3	17	15	9	165
Total available	N/A	19	18	9	362

Team size is estimated based on how many people have accessed the online toolkit this year. The average may well be higher if team members are not registered online, but contributed towards the award.

The table below shows how many criteria were completed in some common toolkit themes, both as a result of Green Impact and in total.

Theme	Number of actions completed as a result of Green Impact	Total actions completed
Waste & Recycling	79	94
Energy	68	79
Embedding & Communications	55	58
Love Food Hate Waste	38	40
Travel	18	20
Wellbeing	14	18
Biodiversity & Community	6	9
Water	6	8
Procurement	2	2

As well as the Green Impact teams' achievements outlined above, Worcester Student's Union were awarded a Bronze award in the Green Impact Student's Unions programme.

Feedback

Team feedback has been very positive this year, with staff mentioning team-building, working with their project assistant, creating newsletters and achieving an award as some of the things they enjoyed most about Green Impact. When asked in the audit about the change they think has had the biggest impact, many teams mentioned reducing paper use and increasing recycling. Teams mentioned a wide range of things that they are hoping to achieve next year, including going for a higher award level in Green Impact and putting extra emphasis on staff well-being alongside their sustainability work.

Rachel Soper, Sustainability Project Officer at NUS said of Green Impact as a whole at the University of Worcester "Well done for the continued effort of the Green Impact teams at the University of Worcester, you are helping to create a network of committed staff and students who are aware of and proactive about sustainability issues on and off campus. Continue to find new, more sustainable, ways of doing things, working together and encouraging new faces to join the network. Good luck for next year!"

Green Impact is 10!

2016 marks the tenth anniversary of Green Impact. What started as an environmental accreditation and awards programme for students' unions is now a national change and engagement reaching thousands of people each year, influences more sustainable behaviours, and providing students with excellent development opportunities. Thank you so much for being part of this wonderful journey.

Over the coming year we'll be reflecting on how far the programme's come in the last decade, celebrating the impact and influence of Green Impact as well as the many people involved. We hope you'll get involved!

Next steps

Once again, on behalf of the whole Green Impact team, many thanks for helping to make the programme a success this year. We hope you look forward to taking part next year.

In addition to the success of scheme here at the university, as well as at the other 178 organisations using Green Impact this year, we're now recruiting further organisations to the programme for the next year. If you know of an organisation who might benefit from taking part, get in touch.

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

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