***DKC Sustainability activity report 2014-15***

This report summarises the work of the Education for Sustainability team at Keele throughout 2014/15.

*Baseline data*

1. Module and programme level analyses carried out to identify gaps in ESD coverage.
2. A survey of student attitudes to sustainability was carried out in March 2015 and received 268 responses. Almost 100% of students responding to the survey believed that sustainability is something which universities should actively incorporate and promote and almost 90% of students agreed (strongly agree, agree, moderately agree) that sustainability is something which all university degree courses should actively incorporate and promote. Over 70% of students felt that they i) knew more about sustainability issues, ii) cared more about sustainability related issues, iii) believed that their day-to-day behaviour is more sustainable, and iv) believed that they will act more sustainably in their future careers, due to their time at Keele. Arts/Humanities and Health students had the lowest engagement and understanding of sustainability issues, highlighting priority areas for further work.

*Awards and accreditation*

1. Keele achieved the NUS Responsible Futures accreditation which recognizes a whole institution approach to embedding sustainability in the student experience.
2. In November 2014 Keele was awarded Highly Commended in the highly competitive ‘Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change’ category of the Green Gown Awards. Patrick Bailey, then PVC for Environment and Sustainability, won the new ‘Leadership’ category at these awards.

*Curriculum and staff training activities*

1. Away Days using sustainability-discipline linkages to deliver core skills, delivered for Chemistry at years 1 and 2, Media, Communications and Culture and Physics, engaging approximately 120 students. Feedback suggested an increase in student awareness of Environmental and Ethical issues within their subject area, and an increased likelihood of taking these issues into consideration in their personal and professional decision making.
2. Additional work to integrate sustainability into different programmes was carried out for Midwifery, Chemistry, Nursing, and the Social Science Foundation year.
3. Medical School engaging with Sustainable Healthcare Education project
4. LPDC workshops on sustainability for staff i) Introduction to Green: Keele, and ii) Introduction to Education for Sustainability.
5. ESD session delivered for TLHEP
6. Development of “[Embedding Sustainability in Your Teaching: an Introduction to Higher Education for Sustainable Development](http://keele.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=95)” online learning package
7. Individual consultations with members of staff (for example Music and Medicine) to discuss the opportunities for embedding sustainability.
8. Integration of sustainability issues into Intercultural Communications module for students Studying Abroad (for 2015/16).
9. Development of booklet on sustainability module case studies

*Student experience activities*

1. Three sustainability-related events run as part of the Be More weeks. ‘Be More Visionary’ looking at future visions of society, ‘Be More Tasty’ looking at food waste issues and foraging around the Keele campus, and ‘Be More Resourceful’ looking at environmental decision making and resource use models in business.
2. The University’s annual Green Week was run in March. The week of events, lectures, workshops and campaigns involved 15 student volunteers, contributing around 100 hours, with around 60 people attending events.
3. Integration of sustainability activity into Refugee Week, Fairtrade Fortnight and the World Festival.
4. Support for SU sustainability activity such as the ‘Blackout’ campus-wide energy audit event involving over 30 student volunteers.
5. Support of the Student Eats food-growing initiative (involving over 25 students), which has led to the development of the student-led Veg Box scheme, now the Keele Food Collective.
6. Keele awarded the annual prestigious World Student Environmental Summit for 2016, in collaboration with Sussex University.
7. Two Keele students invited by the prestigious Tongji University, China to attend a sustainability summer school in China in 2015.
8. Over 50 students have received training in aspects of sustainability as part of professional projects or activities, including training as part of the sabbatical officer handover, Halls reps, Green Impact Project Assistants and Auditors, and Responsible Futures student auditors. In addition, the Students’ Union piloted a university-wide ‘Green StARs’ project, and the EfS team provided training in sustainability for Student Academic Representatives interested in including sustainability issues in their role.
9. Integration of Sustainability into Halls Life projects and induction information and activities.

*Communications activities*

1. Maintenance of Green:Keele Twitter and Facebook accounts
2. Tri-annual Green:Keele newsletter to all staff and students
3. Development and maintenance of Green:Keele webpages
4. Development of videos of sustainability activities

*Engagement figures 2014/15*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Event** | **Number Engaged** | **Hours of Engagement** |
| **Student Training** | 55 | 160 |
| **Curriculum Delivery** | 203 | 392 |
| **Student Engagement and Awareness** | 114 | 326 |
| **Student Project Support** | 31 | 200 |
| **Staff Training** | 46 | 78 |
| **Staff Engagement** | 192 | 397 |
| **External Projects** | 7 | 33 |
| **Total** | **648** | **1586** |
|  |  |  |
| **Conferences (2014)** | 111 |  |
| **Research Engagement (KU Sustainability Research Network)** | 850 |  |
| **Social Media Following** | 676 |  |

**Threats:** This activity takes place under a threat to staffing, with one key member of the EfS team leaving in September 2015, and currently no longer term commitment to EfS staffing currently in place, beyond the contract of the two remaining Sustainability Project Officers.

*Dr Zoe Robinson*

 *18th September 2015*