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Introducing the Sustainability Society

By Ellen Salter

The Sustainability Society was first conceptualised in May 2015; after students at the University of Nottingham realised that there were many individuals across the university that were passionate about sustainability, but lacked a platform for action and engagement. Our society, (officially created in June 2015), therefore aims to unite like-minded individuals who are interested in the concept and practice of sustainability in all its guises (economic, psychological, social, environmental etc); sustainable living practices; and for those who want to simply get involved and make an individual environmental and societal difference.

Our society is extremely welcoming, open, and engaging for all students, regardless of year of study or disciplinary background. We are a tri-campus society and we aim to host events across all three of our campuses - University Park, Jubilee Campus, and Sutton Bonnington; and we even hosted an event at the Medical School! We also host and attend a great diversity of events; including engagement with community sustainability projects (such as Nottingham City Council's Sustainability 2020 Vision and the Sustainable Food Cities Project); campaigns (such as Meat Free Monday Initiatives); socials to sustainable food eateries; environmental film nights; society socials; and we organise one residential sustainability excursion each year.

In our first year of establishment (academic year 2015/2016), we attained Silver Society Status (with 280 STARS points); received an award for Best Newcomer; and an award for Best Inter Society Collaboration for our contribution to Environmental and Social Justice Week. This year (academic year 2016/2017), we received 'Highly Commended' awards for Best Trip (for our self-organised sustainability conference to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales); Best Inter-Society Collaboration (again for our contribution to, and involvement with Environmental-Social Justice Week); we were nominated for a further 3 awards; and we attained Gold Society Status (with over 800 STARS Points).

Membership prices for the society costs just £3 for the year, and this provides priority and reduced-price tickets to all of our events. Our student-led society is incredibly active and we hosted and engaged with more than 30 events in the academic year 2016/2017. We also encourage personal and professional development within the society; and if you want to create, organise, or volunteer with any project or activity, you will receive a great deal of support and guidance. If you have a snazzy idea, we're all here to help! We also host regular members meetings; and there are great opportunities to run for committee positions.

I am incredibly thankful for our wonderful committee and members for shaping the society into the fantastic community that it is today. For me, creating the Sustainability was the best decision of my university experience. It has afforded the opportunity to meet many inspirational individuals at a local, national and international level; to travel to global sustainability conferences; to make tangible changes at the university and community level; and to make life-long friends. So, if you're open to new challenges, experiences, and love working as a team, then we are definitely the society for you!

Ellen Salter, Sustainability Society President (June 2015-June 2017)

Members Testimonials

Jack Tither, Third Year Chemical Engineering Student:

I wanted to get involved with the Sustainability Society to meet like-minded people and learn more about the concept and practice of sustainability. Sustainability is important because the choices we make today have a massive impact on future generations and the future of our planet. Sustainability Society is one of the most supportive, inclusive and diverse societies on campus. There is a wide range of projects and events available, so everyone can get involved, and it is incredibly rewarding to see the positive impact you have on students and know you are making a real difference.

Becky De Laurenzy, Second Year Business Student:

I think the society is really social, very welcoming and friendly and always lots of events and projects on. I also like that the projects chosen cover a vast range of areas to cater to different people's interests within the sustainability field.

Luke Fortmann, Third Year Politics Student:

I joined the society so I could effectively get involved with a worthy cause, meet some cool people and try and do my bit to protect our little blue rock. I genuinely think it's a top society and very unique. I really enjoy how stuck-in everyone gets; and how there is always something interesting going on.

Tom King, MSc Sustainable Chemistry Student:

I joined UoN SusSoc to meet and learn from other passionate people about the planet, its ecology and its people. I enjoy meeting others from all walks of life, hearing what they have to say about their experiences and sharing good times. The society is spectacularly well organised and managed in a god-like fashion by yourself and your committee members. You always put out great events and ways to engage people with a myriad of different interests and perspectives. It's really heartening to see how motivated other individuals at the University are.

Lawrie Swinfen-Styles, Third Year Chemical & Environmental Engineering Student:

I'd been looking for a way to get involved in Sustainability for a while, as I not only want to work in renewable energy in the future, but I also want to broaden my knowledge of Sustainability in general. The society lets me do that. It's a wonderful group of like-minded people who are passionate about change, and it was absolutely the right decision to join.

Holly Weber, First Year Environmental Science Student:

I joined the society because I wanted to meet like-minded people and sustainability is linked to my course (environmental science). I think the society is really well-run; and it's nice that there's always range of activities going on.



2016/2017 Calendar of Events

October 2016

Sunday 9th October (1pm): Welcome Meet & Greet @ Crocus Café (Lenton Boulevard)

Tuesday 25th October: First Social: Games & Vegan Food Night

Thursday 27th October: Member's Meeting

Thursday 27th October: NCC Focus Group Meeting: Nottingham 2020 Sustainability Strategy

November 2016

Monday 14th November (7pm-9pm): 'Before the Flood' Film Screening

Tuesday 15th November: NCC Focus Group Meeting

Thursday 17th November (9am-1pm): Green Universities Thailand Student Engagement Workshop

Tuesday 29th November: Sustainability Pub Quiz Social @ Sir John Borlase Pub

December 2016

Tuesday 6th December (4pm): Society Members Meeting

Wednesday 7th December (3pm): Society Members Meeting

February 2017

Sunday 19th February (7.30pm) 2017: Environmental Societies Pub Quiz in Mooch

Friday 24th February- Sunday 26th February 2017: The Sustainability Lesson: Trip to the Centre for Alternative Technology

Thursday 23rd February-Wednesday 1st March 2017: Nominations for Sustainability Committee (17/18) Open

March 2017

Thursday 2nd March (3.30pm-5pm): Sustainability Primary School Activities @ Dunkirk Community Centre

Monday 6th-Monday 13th March 2017: Sustainability Society 2017/18 Committee Elections Open

Tuesday 7th March 2017 (5.30pm-8pm): Sustainable Food Cities Lecture @ the Medical School

Wednesday 8th 2017 (1pm-3pm): Sustainability Projects Workshop

Monday 13th March 2017 – Sunday 19th March 2017: ESJ Week

Wednesday 15th March 2017 (2pm-4pm): Sustainability Projects Workshop

Thursday 16th March (7pm-9pm): Racing Extinction Film Night with Animal Rights Society

Sunday 19th March 2017 (7pm-9pm): Earth Hour Sustainability Performance

Tuesday 28th March 2017 (6pm-8pm): Sustainability Careers Evening

Friday 31st March 2017 (8pm onwards): Sustainability Society does Caramello

April 2017

Tuesday 4th March 2017 (5pm-6pm): Vertical Farm Talk with Save the Earth Coop

Tuesday 4th April 2017 (6.30pm-10pm): Annie's Burger Shack Sustainability Social

Wednesday 5th April 2017 (12pm-3pm): Bake Sale at Sutton Bonnington Farmer's Market with Pro Bono Society

May 2017

Saturday 13th May 2017 (7pm onwards): Societies Ball

Thursday 25th May 2017 (6pm-8pm): Nottingham Food Assembly Sustainable Meal Social

June 2017

Thursday 8th June (12pm-2pm): Sustainability Team Waste Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Sunday 11th June (12pm-4pm): Sustainability Activities at Dunkirk Community Festival

Monday 12th June (5pm onwards): Sustainability Time Capsule Burial, New Committee Handover Session; New Committee Handover Meal; and Society Caramello Social

Friday 16th June (12pm onwards): Sustainability End of Year BBQ @ Wollaton Park

Ongoing Projects

Sustainability Questionnaire, Sustainability Video, The Sustainability Lesson Project, Nottingham City Council Projects: Sustainability 2020 Vision & Sustainable Food Cities

Member of the Week League Table 2017

Member of the Week is a new concept, added to the Sustainability Society for 2016/2017.

We believe that each individual makes a profound contribution to sustainability, however this is not always recognised.

We have therefore added Member of the Week to our society, to promote the hard work of individuals whose recognition shouldn't go unnoticed. At the end of the term, those in the member of the week list, and/or those who have made a profound contribution to the development of the society will be shortlisted for a society award and receive a prize from our sponsors.

Semester 1:

Member of the Week (1)

Lydia Phillips: For introducing new recycling schemes at Mooch, to ensure that they recycle more than just glass bottles.

Member of the Week (2)

Elaine Gray: For single-handedly cooking Vegan and Vegetarian Tofu for 15 members of the society at our first Sustainability Society Social.

Member of the Week (3)

Megan Light: For overall involvement and enthusiasm with the Sustainability Society. For engaging with the Halls Student Switch Off Campaign; for her presence at Sustainability related events; and for volunteering to attend the Green Universities Thailand Workshop.

Member of the Week (4)

Andrew Mitchell: For gaining sponsorship in the guise of Free Meal Vouchers and £150 from Annie's Burger Shack (Nottingham)

Member of the Week (5)

Andrew Mitchell: For attending important committee-society meetings, and completing applications for development funding.

Jack Tither: For contacting the Estates Team about the Hopper Bus Adverts; and for organising the production of Sustainability Society T-Shirts.

Member of the Week (6)

Elaine Gray: For organising the 'Before the Flood' Film Screening.

Luke Fortmann: For organising events forms & room bookings.

Megan Light: For attending and contributing to the 'Green Universities Thailand' workshop.

Lydia Phillips: For helping with creation, and giving a presentation at the 'Green Universities Thailand' workshop.

Member of the Week (7)

Andrew Mitchell: For attending the Sustainability Team Meeting (despite coursework pressures).

Luke Fortmann: For attending the Sustainability Team Meeting (despite coursework pressures).

Semester 2:

Member of the Week (1)

Luke Fortmann: For completing events forms, beginning to organise the Sustainability Careers Evening and Signing up to SU Committee Training

Member of the Week (2)

Ben Mallett and Justyna Kustka: For creating Sustainability Awareness Posters

Member of the Week (3)

Holly Weber & Tom King: For creating the Sustainability Questionnaire

Member of the Week (4)

Claire Seah and Luke Fortmann: For organising the 'Save the Elephants' Talk.

Member of the Week (5)

Brenda Gonzalez & Jane Meehan: For attending, and engaging with, the Sustainable Food Cities Project.

Member of the Week (6)

Claire Seah for designing a variety of sustainability event posters.

Member of the Week (7)

Jack Tither for continuous support of sustainability activities, room booking, and Admin.

Member of the Week (8)

Everyone who attended the CAT Trip for their hard work, engagement and enthusiasm.

Member of the Week (9)

Jack Tither for continuous dedication to sustainability admin, activities and enthusiasm for events.

Alice Fathers, Lucy Randle, Megan Light, Clara Wan, Zhivena Mazakova & Claudia Queti for their enthusiasm at the Dunkirk Communita Event.

Member of the Week (10)

Holly Weber (x4) for the Sustainability Questionnaire, Sustainability Videos, the Meditation Session, & the CAT Trip Review.

Alice Fathers (x2) for the Sustainability Video and Meditation Session.

Becky de Laurenzy for the CAT trip Video.

Tom King, Clara Wan, and Lucy Randle for Sustainability Videos.

Member of the Week (11)

Andrew Mitchell & Jack Tither for their assistance and organisation with the Sustainability Careers Evening.

Centre for Alternative Technology Trip Review

By Holly Weber

After our six hour coach journey across the beauty welsh countryside, we arrived at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Machynlleth. We were shown to our eco-cabin where we would be staying for the next few days. Along with the amazing view of the welsh valleys from the window, there was a wood burning stove to heat the accommodation and supply us with hot water. A combination of renewable sources (wind turbines and hydropower) and the national grid supplied the electricity for the cabin.

Once we had settled in, we were given the chance to explore around the centre. They were many educational resources about many aspects of sustainability including the engineering behind environmentally responsible building, the science of renewable energy, organic growing and composting.



After a delicious vegan dinner (sweet potato and chickpea curry) we were shown to the main lecture room in the WISE (Wales Institute for Sustainable Education) building. Here, we learnt about the inventive work of 'Zero Carbon Britain': how we can change our approach to energy, the environment, and how we use our land to lower Britain's carbon emissions in order to avoid further climate change. The talk was very insightful and inspired me to start making lifestyle-changes to live more sustainably. We were also given advice as a society about what we could do to help attain 'Zero Carbon Britain'.



The next morning we had a talk about the history of CAT by one of the last remaining original members. We learnt how the centre had progressed over the years from small group of people aiming to live an independent and sustainable lifestyle to a place of education and pioneering scientific work.

Later that day, we had a renewable energy tour around the centre where we learnt about a range of different renewables, including hydro, wind, solar and biomass. We were able to see these types of renewable energy working to convert energy into usable forms, helping us to understand both the scientific mechanisms and the practical implications. Later, we completed sustainability workshops, discussions, and our project videos. After this, we had another delicious vegan dinner; and had the opportunity to watch traditional Welsh music; whilst playing 'Save the World' – a sustainability themed board game.



The morning we were given the chance to hike up to one of the wind turbines to see it up close. Naturally, it was positioned on a very windy hill which made the journey a challenge at times! However, it was worth it and was a memorable experience.



Overall, the weekend provided us with a refreshed approach to renewable energy and sustainability, a desire to make changes our energy consumption and a background of the basic scientific knowledge behind renewable energy sources. We would like to thanks CASCADE for the funding and support to make this possible!

Centre for Alternative Technology Trip Testimonials

Mo Langmuir, Second Year Environmental Biology Student:

The Centre for Alternative Technology originally appealed to me just for its name! I am studying environmental biology and am particularly interested in climate change and sustainable science. The trip seemed like a good opportunity to see this science in practice. I thought the trip was great. The right balance of educational, practical and recreational.

Jaime Arias, MSc Sustainable Energies Student:

The main reason why I went to the CAT trip was to explore new ideas for my dissertation topic related with community energy systems. What I found more relevant was the guided tour around the CAT where we were explained the different technologies they utilise. This trip allowed me not only to reinforce technical knowledge on renewable energy systems, but to understand better the complexity when building up a successful sustainable community such as the Centre for Alternative Technology.

Zhivena Mazakova, Third Year Environmental Science Student:

I think this trip was a great opportunity to find out more about renewable energy in general, but most importantly – to see how different technologies are put in practice, how things really happen and work – something which is difficult to see at university. The most important thing for me was to realize that a whole place can really be run entirely on renewable energy and how much constant effort it actually takes to maintain everything.

Megan Light, First Year International Relations Student:

I was really interested in coming on the trip as I wanted to understand more about being sustainable as an individual and how we could achieve this through use of technology. I learnt a lot about the different ways of getting energy through wind, solar and hydro power, a topic I knew very little about before the trip. My favourite parts were the talk on zero carbon Britain where the positivity and optimism of CAT really showed itself, and the wind turbine walk!

Rija Sanni, Third Year Environmental Science Student:

I came on this trip for a hands on experience in the sustainability department as I have always been passionate about sustainability and the environment. I gained so much knowledge while at the CAT institute, the homely feel and the energy that the people and lecturers gave was very positive and refreshing. Would definitely recommend a trip to anyone interested in technology and sustainability.

Andrew Mitchell, Third Year Geography (BSc Student):

I came on the CAT trip to experience living a more sustainable lifestyle without the frills of day to day life that we take for granted. My favourite part was learning about the Zero Carbon Britain Project that CAT have been working on. The biggest thing I learnt whilst on the trip was how a use can be found for everything. We are so accustomed to our consumer culture we live in that we don't stop and think of reusing, repurposing and recycling in our day to day lives. The best part of this was the Reed Beds that helped to purify and filter human waste in order to make it clean enough to water plants and be funnelled back into the river without any chemicals whatsoever.

Green Universities Thailand

By Megan Light

What interested you about the Green Universities Thailand Workshop?

I decided to go on the Green Universities Thailand Workshop because it encompassed all of which I am most passionate about with regard to sustainability - to gain some understanding about what is being done worldwide by students to combat both local and global environmental problems and how policy can shape this; the day sounded extremely interesting!

What did you do during the workshop?

The Workshop started with a tour around the new GlaxoSmithKline carbon neutral laboratory on the Jubilee campus to see how each element within the building was made sustainable and how it all came together to be one of the most sustainable buildings in the world. We then went around the Jubilee campus and had a lovely lunch in the restaurant! After lunch, we went back to the conference room and discussed, along with others such as from Nottingham's Enactus organisation, our ideas and what we have been doing to improve sustainability. The Green Universities Thailand group explained how they were implementing practices in different stages throughout the country, which aimed to help mitigate a number of environmental problems.

What did you enjoy most about the workshop?

The experience was particularly enjoyable because we had people from across Nottingham and across the world discuss what they were doing to help improve environmental problems. It was really inspiring to learn about policy changes at universities in rural Thailand, as well as what people from Nottingham had been doing internationally to help mitigate such problems.

Overall, the experience was unforgettable. It gave us the opportunity to meet international policy makers and understand how sustainable practices are implemented in societies so different from our own. It was truly inspiring to come together with individuals from completely different backgrounds with the common goal of sustainability!



University of Nottingham Students' Union says NO to fossil fuels.

By Ismail Sadurdeen, SU President & Emory Cunnington, ESJ Officer

It is with great pleasure I can announce that your Students' Union has divested its investment portfolio away from fossil fuels-based companies.

As a result of student activism, on 26th November 2015 at the 427th Union Council, Rachel Elves proposed a motion asking the Union to divest from fossil fuels; this motion was passed with an overwhelming majority.

Last year as the contract with our investment partner was coming to an end, your SU used this an opportunity to look for a new alternative partner, which we made clear would not be with companies who aren't green.

The great news is our return on investment from divestment from fossil fuel based companies has not taken a hit as a result of the change.

It's a win-win.



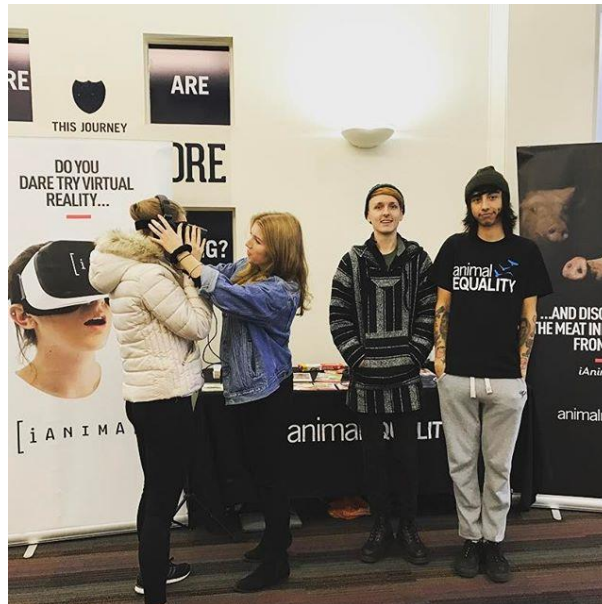
Animal Rights Society Highlights!

By Aleesha Nagra

We've achieved a lot this year that we are really proud of; from hosting some great vegan food socials to winning an award at the Societies Ball!

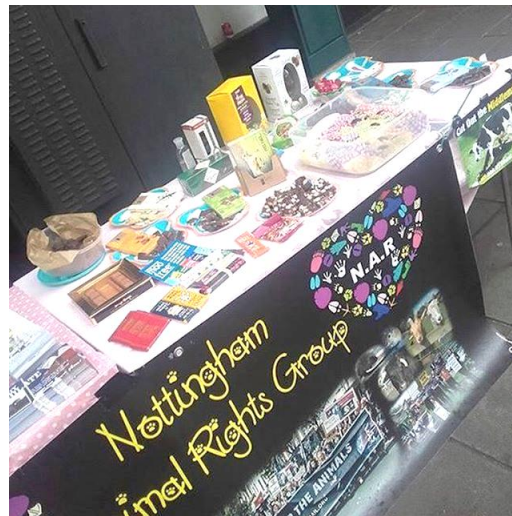


We welcomed back the charity Animal Equality for the third time, where they showcased their iAnimal virtual reality technology; giving students a unique 360 degree experience of life inside a factory farm. As well as this we visited some real life slaughterhouses, attending vigils and protesting the inhumane enterprise of battery farming.



Within the university, our members ran campaigns into issues like improved vegan options in halls and ensuring the university cleaning products are all vegan following the upcoming tender. As well as these, we investigated into animal testing and liaised with FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) who are developing increased numbers of experiments which use humane alternatives to animals. In the City, we worked alongside the Nottingham Animal Rights

group and supported them in outreach stalls, vigils and protesting local issues such as Greyhound Racing and the selling of Foie Gras at local pubs.



We've had a great range of social throughout the year; from visiting the Nottingham Viva! Festival, to Sunday lunch at the Peacock (Vegan pub) to our most loved local, Crocus Café! As well as this, we've done some fun stuff in collaboration with other societies like Model United Nations Society to debate Ivory Hunting and movie nights with the Sustainability Society.



As a committee, we are really happy with what we have achieved this year and have loads of great plans for the academic year ahead! We plan to raise money for a local Animal Sanctuary we created links with this year, have more meetings, more socials and lots more great vegan FOOD! The biggest highlight of the year has to be the upcoming International Animal Rights Conference in Luxembourg this September where the outgoing President Connie Painting and the incoming President Aleesha Nagra are keynote speakers, amongst a whole host of activists from around the world! Their speech will be focused on the challenges, rewards and importance of running animal rights societies at university, and they're super excited to have the chance to represent the society at such a big event!



If you haven't already, check out our Facebook page 'UoN Animal Rights Society' and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @animalrightssoc to stay up to date with all the fun stuff coming up next year!

Animal Rights Society Committee x

The Green Box: Education for Sustainability Toolkit

By Mohsen Gul and Ehsan Gul

'All the Sustainable Development Goals come down to Education'- Malala Yousafzai, youngest-ever Nobel Laureate

Education is the linchpin of achieving future sustainable development agenda. It is imperative to integrate the big ideas of sustainability into the heart of curriculum itself and into our institutional practices, culture, and community partnerships. Rather it is a perspective that we as educators can use to design learning opportunities. Using sustainability as an integrative theme can help educators address multiple topics and concepts at one time, while improving the students' comprehension, interest, and overall engagement.



Education for Sustainability (EfS) is a transformative learning process that equips students, teachers and school systems with the new knowledge and ways of thinking we need to achieve economic prosperity and responsible citizenship, while restoring the health of the living systems upon which our lives depend. EfS inspires young people to think about the world, their relationship to it, and their ability to influence it an entirely new way.

Green Box emerged as a youth led initiative of international graduates from across the globe who share the passion towards preparing the leaders of tomorrow for the greater challenges they will face in the future. In our complex and fast-changing world, we cannot prepare them for exactly what the future will require, but we can make them aware of the interconnectedness of our world- both locally and globally, and the scale of their actions.

While the need for EfS is global, there is an ever-increasing demand for sustainability education in the Global South. At present, almost all the literature and EfS programmes are designed and implemented in the developed countries. The attempts to replicate successful EfS programmes in Global South have received limited success due to the lack of localisation of content and involvement of key stakeholders in design and implementation of these programmes.

We conducted a national study with over 1500 youth participants in Pakistan forecasting the scenario of sustainable development by the year 2047 when it completes 100 years of existence. The study highlighted about 40% urban youth cannot define the concept of sustainable development and 60% are unaware of the sustainable development goals for the year 2030 of which Pakistan is a signatory – we need to promote environmental stewardship and active

citizenship in developing countries through diverse local, regional and national EfS programmes. We have identified doorways to achieve EfS targets through the 3 Cs approach (Community, Curriculum and Citizen). Our flagship initiative is the design of a simulation-based web platform for Key Stage 3 and 4 students to understand the underlying complexities of stakeholder engagement and resource optimisation for sustainable development across the world.

How and why you should get cycling!

By Ben Mallett

Everyone remembers the days in their childhood (or adulthood) spent learning how to ride a bike. Grazed knees and wobbly steering aside, riding through parks in the summertime with your helmet awkwardly strapped as tight as it would go is one of the necessities of growing up. Unfortunately, it's also a skill which only a limited amount of people use on a regular basis.

And it's a shame. The benefits of cycling over conventional methods of modern transport are well documented. To hit you with some basic statistics: during its lifetime, the average car contributes roughly 1.3 billion cubic yards of pollutants to the air we breathe. Public transport fares considerably better, but still contributes unsustainable quantities of carbon into the atmosphere due to the number of trips each bus, train or tram has to make every day. If you've ever considered how you could possibly limit your contributions to climate change, know that the Australian government estimates that cycling rather than driving or taking public transport for only two 5km journeys a day could save up to 750 kilograms of greenhouse gases a year.¹

What does this mean for your average student in Nottingham though? With such reliable means of getting to and from campus as the 34 bus, why cycle?

A better question might be: why queue for overcrowded buses, especially in upcoming stuffy summer temperatures? Why pay £1 to and from campus every day for the coming year/s of your degree when you can invest in a bike from £65 or less and exercise as you travel?

Such opportunity proves especially fruitful in a city such as Nottingham, where the city council has invested heavily in cycle lanes and bike services over the past two decades which are already being utilised by hundreds each day. Unsurprisingly, other student towns, such as Cambridge, Oxford and Bristol, frequently top the list of the places in the UK where the highest proportion of residents cycle regularly.² It shouldn't be beyond Nottingham to join that list, considering how the majority of student accommodation off-campus, such as Lenton, Raleigh Park and Beeston, are the perfect distance from campus so that you could halve your travel time by cycling.

If you are considering purchasing a bike, it is important to remember how you can maximise sustainability and cost-effectiveness by buying second-hand from one of the numerous reputable bicycle stores Nottingham has to offer. For example, establishments such as Nottingham Bikeworks, a not-for-profit organisation only a ten minute walk from Lenton Boulevard, offer second-hand bikes with a minimum 30-day guarantee for well under £80. And even if you don't fancy purchasing your own bike, look out next year for the Borris Bike-style rent-a-bike scheme which the university is offering to all students from next year.

Either way, at least consider what picking up cycling again could do for you and for lowering traffic emissions during your time at the University of Nottingham.

¹ Source: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Cycling/Benefits.aspx>

² Source: <http://cyclinginfo.co.uk/blog/2636/cycling/stats-uk/index.html>

Have we reached the point of no return?

By Ellen Salter

Did you know?

Today, man-kind destroys species at one thousand times their natural background rate of extinction.

At current growth rates, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.

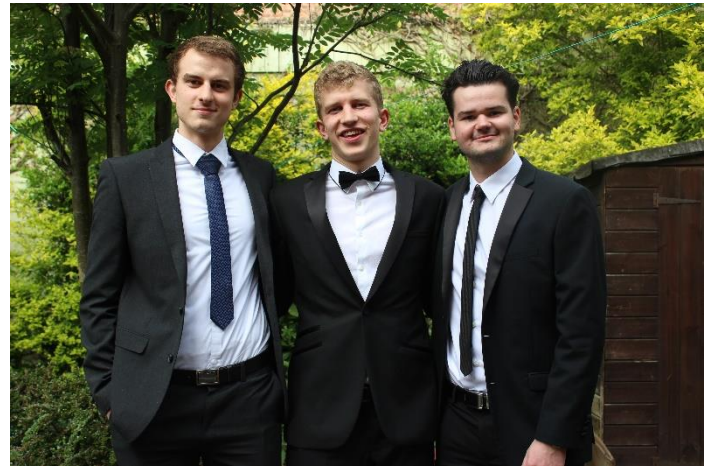
Just 5 companies account for 12.5% of carbon emissions produced annually.

Often, my friends ask me what I think the world will be like in 2050. I don't know why they ask. Maybe because I always bombard them with monologues on sustainability; over-population; and climate change; and for some reason, this seemingly equates with a prophecy of the future state of the world. Sometimes I adopt a Malthusian approach and speak of the dystopian version of the future; sometimes I present the hard facts; and at other times, I make the emotive case... "It could be a lot better if **you** attempted to make a sustainable difference". Of course, I don't know what the world will be like in 33 years of time; I think even experts themselves are baffled.

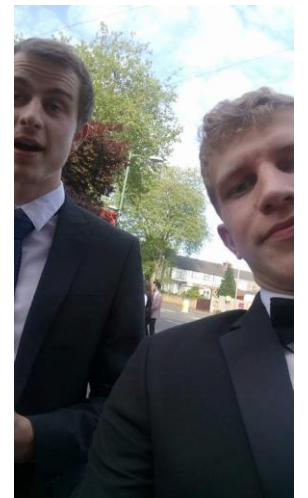
There are so many multi-faceted, moral, social, environmental and political interlocking factors that do, and will govern the state of our sustainable future. Key questions such as 'who's to blame for climate change?', 'what can you do to make a difference?', and 'have we reached a point of no return?' frequently circulate amongst the mass-media. Disparities between the haves and the have-nots present startling issues; particularly in relation to responsibility and burden. Can we really blame population growth in the developing and less-developed regions for carbon emissions, when just 90 companies have been responsible for two-thirds of carbon emissions since 1854?

All these questions palpably present the need for an urgent solution... a solution before we truly reach the point of no return. Currently, at the global level, we consume an average of "one and a half planets". Put simply: To provide a sustainable rate of regeneration, we would need a land and sea area equating to an additional half the Earth to maintain our current rates of consumption. These figures are startling.

So, is there anything we can do? Now, this is a question that I wish my friends asked me. There is so much we can do, at an individual, collective and global level. From our basic consumption choices, to our diets, to sustainable advocacy and awareness, we each have the profound capacity to make a positive sustainable difference to our Earth – the one place we have to call home. Start asking, start researching, and starting acting to positively shape the future of our planet; and make the world a sustainable place to live in 2050. As Walt Kelly's (1970) Earth Campaign Poster suggested, "We have met the enemy and he is us". Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could reverse this notion; and act as a protector, rather than an enemy of the planet?



Societies Ball 2017



Trump Administration: Enemies of the Environment

By Lawrie Swinfen-Styles

Donald Trump has made no secret of his disbelief in man-made climate change. In 2012, he famously tweeted “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive”, and not much has changed since becoming President of the US. His first 100-day plan revealed his intentions to “lift restrictions on the production of \$50 trillion worth of shale, oil, natural gas, and clean coal”, lift the Obama-led block on the Keystone Pipeline, and “cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs”. This is not a man whose primary concern is environmental protection for future generations; in fact, it’s not even on the list.

His complete lack of faith in the scientific method has led him to appointing Scott Pruitt, famous climate change denier, as head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, which has effectively silenced the government’s voice in the scientific community. One of the more worrying recent developments was Pruitt’s decision to remove half of the scientists from the EPA’s science board, instead choosing to replace them with “industry aligned” representatives. Yes, you read that right. Oil and coal executives.

So, dark days for the environment then; America about to begin excavating more and more fossil fuel, the Paris Agreement on the verge of collapse, and humanity teetering ever closer to the edge of irreversible climate change.

Does this mean then that it’s over; the battle lost? Planet Earth has undoubtedly gained a notorious adversary in Donald Trump, and the damage that he could do in his (hopefully only) four years of office is immeasurable. But the idea that such a small group of purposefully ignorant fools can disable a whole country’s ability to take part in environmental protection is one that makes many people very angry. Since his election and subsequent gagging order on EPA scientific papers, Trump has faced strong opposition. The March for Science movement, held on Earth Day 2017, presented a series of rallies to enhance the transparency of governmental science statistics, including climate change. Hundreds of thousands of people participated, a strong indicator of public opinion on the vital nature of climate change research and prevention.

From an international perspective, it often feels like we as onlookers can do little to support the fight for scientific reason in America. Perhaps we can only sit back and hope for a miracle-impeachment. However, it is erroneous to suggest that the US is isolated, both in its struggle and its effects on the climate. These pockets of climate change conservatism exist all around the world; the UK is no different. And it’s not enough just to “save” ourselves. If the UK became carbon neutral tomorrow, it would not stop the increase in extreme weather, or the rising tides.

Supporters of environmental protection should remember that humanity is in this together; we are not islands, unaffected by the rest of the world, and there are many things we can do to help. You can petition your own government to uphold its agreements with the rest of the world regarding air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; volunteer and start a recycling initiative; start a society, or join one – unite like-minded people to share information and positivity.

It can often seem like a hopeless struggle, fighting against hundreds of years of overuse and self-obsession, but it is a necessary one. We must change the way we think, and the way others think, to really affect change on a global scale. I, for one, quite like this planet, and I intend to keep it.

HOW DIRTY ARE YOUR CLOTHES?

By Becky De Laurenzy

What's the problem?

In the UK alone, we throw 1.5 million tons of clothes into landfill every year. With fashion trends coming and going, it's easy to see how the fast turn-around and rate of obsolescence is, by nature, unsustainable.

Why should you care?

The environmental damage from the fashion industry is incredibly widespread, with clothing estimated to account for 3% of global CO2 emissions. Hazardous chemicals used to grow and dye our clothes are often left untreated before disposal, polluting rivers with wastewater corrosive to human skin and aquatic life. Current rates and methods of garment production also require a *colossal* amount of water, with one single cotton t-shirt taking up to 2,700 litres to produce. In times of prevalent drought and famine, water waste is not sustainable nor acceptable.

Not only does fast fashion damage the planet at an alarming rate, it takes advantage of the most vulnerable - often refugees and child workers. Major fashion houses have a lesser-advertised dark side, a recent example of which being the 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh that killed and injured thousands of garment workers. It was the fourth largest industrial disaster in history and the factories inside the building were all producing for big global brands commonplace on our high street. Across the board, brands lack transparency on their supply chain, failing to communicate their performance on environmental or social issues, which in turn means they are failing their workers and failing the planet.

It is therefore quite evident that regulatory authorities in the industry need to enact more stringent regulations to protect workers and the environment. But what can you do as an individual to engage with the issue? Luckily, there are many ways you can avoid funding unsustainable production and help us to move away from the consumer culture of throwaway fashion...

Clothes swap. Around 30% of our clothing has been unworn for over a year. Instead of throwing your forgotten pieces away, get together with friends to swap with each other. That way you can get new clothes to change up your wardrobe without spending money whilst clearing out some space in the process.

Donate. Give your unwanted clothes to homeless shelters or charity shops.

Recycle. Nottingham City Council have launched a scheme to help households recycle clothes and other textiles. H&M accept old clothes in store for recycling into their H&M Conscious range.

Repair old pieces. Extending clothing life by just 3 months can reduce carbon, water and waste footprints by up to 10%.

Shop small. Try to purchase from independently owned brands as opposed to fast-fashion chains.

Shop sustainably. Brands like People Tree, Komodo, Reformation, CAFIN and many others make the environment a priority in their business models by reducing water used in production and/or by sourcing their materials ethically. See your purchase as a vote towards what you want to support and choose your custom carefully.

Shop second-hand. Shopping at charity shops puts money towards a good cause and encourages the reuse of items. Nottingham's Hockley district has a great collection of both charity stores and shops selling reclaimed stock that are worth checking out. Markets also offer affordable and unique pieces that are very different to anything you may find multiples of on the rack, which can really elevate an outfit. You could also purchase online through second-hand sites such as eBay or the Depop app.

Shop consciously. Whether it's purchasing organic, Fairtrade, or just giving your Saturday splurge a little rethink, be conscious of what you are spending your money on, whether you truly need it, and where that item has been on its production journey. Make the connection between retail therapy and the environmental damage, because in order to become more sustainable we truly need to stop thinking of clothing as disposable.

Educate yourself & spread the word. A lot of the time people don't realise the impact of their purchases, so let your friends know and spread the word. Encourage the big fashion houses to increase transparency and reduce waste. Put words into action to retain the creativity and expression of styling an outfit without compromising wildlife, vulnerable people and without adding to the plethora of waste and the continual dirtying of our planet.

What do students REALLY think about sustainability? The results are in!

By Holly Weber

Following the results of a survey I created a few months ago, I have collected data surrounding current students' attitudes towards leading a sustainable lifestyle at university.

I was inspired by the generally positive attitude towards sustainability and the willingness to work towards a more sustainable lifestyle, on both an individual and community scale. When asked how important leading a sustainable lifestyle is, students answered with an average score of 81 out of 100, showing this to be relatively important for students on a whole. Over half of students said that they are continuously making positive changes to live more sustainably, indicating that the majority of students are willing to work towards a more sustainable life.

When asked how they try to live more sustainably, the majority answered that they switch off lights, recycle waste, limit their use of central heating and make an effort to not regularly print documents, but only 35% claim to live more sustainably by taking shorter showers.

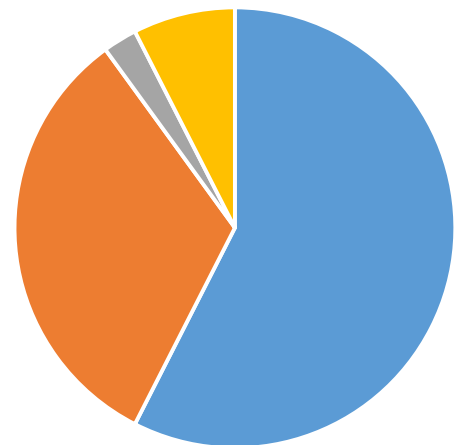
Students answered that not wanting to live in a polluted environment and protecting the planet for future generations were their main motivations for living a sustainable life.

When asked what sustainability meant to the participants, there was a general consensus of working towards a better future for our planet. Most responses focused on environmental aspects but some mentioned economic and social aspects.

Interestingly, the responses to 'Meat-free Mondays' was positive; 90% of responses said they think it would be a good idea or that they'd probably grow to accept it.

The questionnaire also highlighted some possible changes that the university could make to help and encourage students to live more sustainably. For example, only 52.5% of people said they are aware of what can and cannot be recycled. Several of the suggestions about how to improve sustainability in university included more signage on bins, more specifically indicating what is and is not recyclable. This is without doubt an important change that can be relatively easily made around campus- hopefully it's a change we will be seeing soon!

How would you feel about the university adopting 'Meat free Mondays' in the restaurants and cafes on campus?



- I think it is a good idea
- I'd probably get used to it and be okay with it
- I would find it a bit annoying
- I really don't like this idea

human

nature

A photography series exploring some of the ways in which we impact, utilise and exploit the natural world...

By Mo Langmuir







