

NUS-UK awarded UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development

NUS-UK (the National Union of Students) have been awarded The UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development for their work on education for sustainable development, through the Green Impact program.



Green Impact is celebrating ten years of ESD and behavior change across students' unions, universities, colleges, and a huge range of off-campus organisations. The program 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 cyclical model that works in all environments and workplaces, 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.

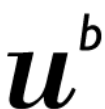
NUS was selected as a winner by an international jury from 120 nominations across 64 UNESCO Member States. In the last ten years over 380 organizations have participated in Green Impact, reaching an incredible 115,000 people. In the last year alone Green Impact saved participating organizations \$1.4m and 6,923 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Accepting the award in Paris, NUS' LGBT+ officer Melantha Chittenden said: "The student movement has always been at the forefront of social change. To create a just and sustainable future, we now need substantial change in tertiary education. The vision for our sustainability work is simple: All students, regardless of what they are studying, leave tertiary education equipped and motivated to make society a better place. We dedicate this award to our students' unions, and all the other participants in Green Impact who have contributed to its success".

NUS have relaunched their Green Impact program for the year, and are giving away the prize money among Green Impact participants to continue their sustainability work.

Find out more about the award, the program or get in touch with NUS for more information: sustainability@nus.org.uk

Think global, teach local: Integrating education for sustainable development into your teaching at the University of Bern



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The University of Bern aims to increasingly integrate the topic of Sustainable Development into teaching, in order to better prepare students to address global problems. The University's didactics centre will be offering a new course in March 2017. In this course teaching staff will address the interface between their own disciplines and Sustainable Development, based on which they will develop innovative teaching and learning scenarios. The course is part of the CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) in Higher Education.

Further information is available here: <http://zuw.me/hd/dt.php?kid=3156>

Networking and Creating Synergies: Bern's HEIs Sustainability Day



On 6th April 2017, Bern's institutions of higher education – i.e. PHBern, the University of Bern, and the Bern University of Applied Sciences – will hold their first jointly organized Sustainability Day. Its theme will be “Sustainability3: Networking and Creating Synergies – Sustainability Day of Bern's 3 Institutions of Higher Education”. Students, researchers, and staff of the three tertiary institutions will present their sustainability projects and hold workshops. More information will soon be provided at: <http://nachhaltigkeitstag-bern.ch/web/>

Symposium on Learning and Innovations in Resilient Systems, 23-24 March 2017

Open Universiteit
www.ou.nl



The symposium will take place in Heerlen, the Netherlands. Resilient systems address pressing societal and environmental challenges. Resilience has been widely adopted in policy, practice and research on (i) information and computer systems, (ii) organizational and management systems, and (iii) environmental systems. However there is little consensus regarding what resilience is and what it means to society. And perhaps most importantly, what societies require to learn from the past and to innovate supporting resilient systems in the future.

For more information: <https://www.ou.nl/web/learning-and-innovations-in-resilient-systems>

ECO Campus & CA webinar on Theory and Practice of Sustainability in Academic Research



What does it mean to have sustainability become a central part of a university's research policy, and how do we reach that goal? How can incentives for individual researchers be attuned to the concept of sustainability?

The Head of the Centre for Sustainable Development of Ghent University (www.cdo.ugent.be) in Belgium, Prof. Thomas Block, will give an hour long webinar on the theory and practice of sustainability in academic research. This is part of a cooperation between COPERNICUS Alliance and Ecocampus of the Flemish Government Department of Environment (www.lne.be/ecocampus-english).

Don't miss the opportunity to ask your questions and follow the live webcast on 7th December at 3 PM CET: <https://youtu.be/qZUa1KBCnSo>. To increase the chance of having your question being picked, send it in beforehand to ecocampus@lne.vlaanderen.be.

Have a look at the Ecocampus website and click through to the 12-minute film on sustainability in research, featuring Prof. Block, amongst others (www.lne.be/ecocampus-english).



The Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) is a Spanish non-governmental organisation set up by and for 75 Spanish public and private universities in 2002.

The CRUE Sustainability Committee is organised in eight working groups:

1. University Sustainability Assessment:

A self-diagnosis procedure in the form of a user-friendly digital platform has been recently devised and is now available to assess the sustainability measures implemented at each university. In addition, a good practice document has been drawn up for sustainability as well as a plan for sustainability programmes at Spanish universities.

2. Environmental Enhancement of University Buildings:

A good practice document has been drawn up, addressing the following points for analysis regarding the environmental enhancement of university buildings.

3. Risk Prevention:

Several subgroups are now working on prevention indicators, civil liability (insurance policies), health monitoring, applied psychosociology, a research project assessment and impact, coordination of business activity, nano-material, risk prevention and students.

4. Curricular Sustainability:

Work is now in progress on a form for diagnosing good practice in curricular sustainability. Steps are being taken for more universities to introduce compulsory sustainability courses for all students.

5. University and mobility:

This group is collaborating with the European LIFE U-MOB Project, whose goal is to set up a university network for managing mobility across European universities in order to encourage the pooling of information with a view to achieving a more sustainable and efficient model of mobility. The first European Conference on Sustainable Mobility at University will be held at the Autonomous University of Barcelona 8th-10th March 2017.

6. Healthy Universities:

The work of this group is reinforced by the Spanish Network of Healthy Universities (REUS). At the REUS 4th Conference of Health Promoting Universities at Mahon, Menorca, a number of documents were discussed and approved.

7.- University Town Planning and Sustainability:

This group culminated a previous stage of work with the drafting of a Good Practice Declaration. The new stage is devoted to carrying out self-diagnoses about the urban location of each university in order to set up a best practice database. Progress is also being made on a set of guidelines to assist local authorities in their planning.

8.- Environmental Participation and Volunteer Work:

An Inter-university Environmental Volunteer Network (RIVA) has been set up to enable members to publicise volunteer activities carried out at their universities. The hope is that this will lead to greater visibility and the participation of more volunteers in a given activity, as well as create opportunities to organise inter-university volunteer exchanges.

CRUE contributes to international events such as the 4th Conference of University Cooperation for Development (UCD) Observatory at the University of Valencia, the theme of which was "University Discourses, Instruments and Policies regarding the 2030 Agenda", the International Environmental Risk and Management Workshop organised by the National Board of Argentine Universities to present the policy and managerial work done by the CRUE Sustainability Committee.

UNESCO launches education and climate change publications

Education was the thematic focus of a full day at the UN climate conference (COP22) held in Morocco, from 7th to 18th November. Read about the panel discussions and roundtables. At this event UNESCO launched two publications, Action for Climate Empowerment, guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness, and Planet: Education for environmental sustainability and green growth.

SORTED Guide to Sustainability in Further Education



Supported by UNEP and GUPES, the aim of this guide is to provide colleges and other Further Education (FE) institutions with specific guidance on embedding sustainability into every aspect of their organisations, with inspiring examples of good practice.

Visit the Sustainability Exchange website for more information.

Education for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea region Special Issue

A special issue of Studia Periegetica, an open access journal, focuses on Education for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea region. The papers examine the incorporation of sustainable development and environmental education in higher education curriculum, teaching methods, research and e-learning at universities in Latvia, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Poland.

http://www.wydawnictwo.wsb.pl/sites/www.wydawnictwo.wsb.pl/files/czasopisma-tresc/Studia%20P_15_net.pdf (in English and Polish)

2016: The State of Sustainability in British Tertiary Education

The second annual report on sustainability in tertiary education has been released by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), National Union of Students (NUS), University and College Union (UCU), Association of Colleges (AoC) and the College Development Network.

The report is based on survey responses from 512 staff involved in sustainability in universities and colleges. The survey set out to identify how further and higher education institutions are responding to environmental sustainability and social responsibility challenges, as well as how staff perceive their institution's efforts.

Download the report: http://www.eauc.org.uk/2016_the_state_of_sustainability_in_tertiary_e

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