



**Green Impact Survey
University of Suffolk Students' Union
February – March 2018**

About:

On Friday 23rd February 2019, the SU made a Green Impact Survey – which had been designed from scratch – live. The survey closed on Friday 23rd March 2019, receiving 76 responses in total.

Key Findings:

- 37% of participants 'strongly agreed' that they were concerned about climate change. While 20% stated they 'agreed', only 1% suggested that they strongly disagreed.
- Only 9% of participants strongly agreed in their confidence of having knowledge and understanding of a sustainable environment, with 36% agreeing and 39% feeling neutral on the subject
- 48% of students said they 'agreed' with their confidence in understanding what can and cannot be recycled, while 23% strongly agreed in understanding of recycling.
- Contradictory to this, 84% of students knew what can and cannot be recycled.
- 53% of respondents believed there were sufficient recycling facilities around campus.
- 96% of respondents felt that contributing to making the environment more sustainable was important to them.
- When asked what participants currently do to help the environment, 72% of respondents actively turned off plugs when they were no longer in use. 72% limited water use when washing up or brushing their teeth. 75% say they regularly recycle. 61% use reusable coffee mugs, while 73% of respondents used reusable plastic water bottles.
- Students were asked if they were aware of the microwave located in the library building with 64% of respondents saying yes. An additional question to this was if students used reusable Tupperware, to which 89% of students said yes.
- Students were asked how often they buy lunch each week, which saw mixed responses. 35% never bought lunch, while 14% bought lunch three times a week and 18% buying twice a week.
- When asked if students felt that the Students' Union was currently contributing to a sustainable environment, 74% of respondents agreed.
- Students were asked if they would be interested in helping the Students' Union become more environmentally friendly, 71% said yes.
- Finally, students were asked if they would be interested in joining a 'Green impact' society, which 51% of respondent's saying yes.
- Students were asked about the areas around the campus that need changing and the main issues students bought up were the cafes using disposable and non-recyclable coffee cups, plates and cutlery.



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Our Recommendations:

1. We should offer our students more (access to) information about what sustainable and environmental development is, as well as communicate what we as an SU do/will be introducing to promote it.
2. We should increase knowledge of what can and cannot be recycled around the university, with clear signs, such as posters, as well as a guide to recycling on the Students' Union website.
3. Give regular updates on how the Students' Union is combating climate change around the campus, this can be through social media and the website.
4. We should further investigate (through our sports teams, societies, student officers and course reps) reasons why some students are not currently invested in protecting the environment.
5. Speak to cafes around the campus and come up with a suitable plan to reduce single use items.
6. Reach out to local green charities and promote events to students, so they can get more involved in the local area.
7. We should share the results of this survey with the new Student Officer team (elected in March 2019), as well as the current officers and student reps, and identify ways in which their current campaigns could involve students in:
 - Improving general waste management, whether this is food or course materials.
 - Reducing energy costs by finding ways to promote reusable energy sources.
 - Identifying ways to promote a culture within current student life which promotes sustainability and values efforts to reduce the harmful effects of transport and travel to and from the University.
 - Promote sustainability throughout the curriculum, that is relevant to the course being taught.