



UNIVERSITY *of*  
WORCESTER

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER  
GREEN IMPACT 2023-24  
PROGRAMME IMPACT REPORT

**green impact** /



STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

# Green Impact: international impact



# What is Green Impact?

Green Impact is a multi award-winning sustainability learning and awards programme, designed to embed sustainable practices across organisations. Green Impact suggests what staff can do in their team to support sustainability and guides them how to achieve this.

Green Impact is all about building a community of people learning about sustainability and working together to create positive change. It is tailored to each organisation we work with to strategically support local targets and strategies.

**IEMA** Transforming the world to sustainability  
IEMA Sustainability Impact Awards 2019  
**WINNER**

**nus** charity  
national union of **students**



16

Green Impact has been running for 16 years

2,000+

We have supported more than 2,000 organisations

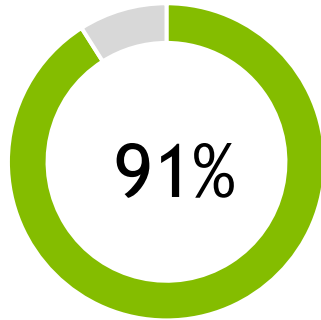
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Green Impact has been delivered in seven countries globally

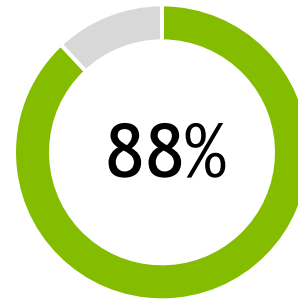
# Participants view Green Impact positively

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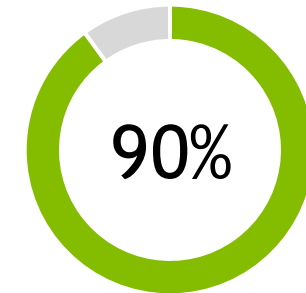
Participants have identified positive personal and professional impacts as a result of taking part in Green Impact



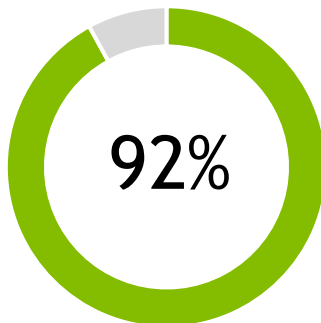
of Green Impact team members know more about how to use their knowledge to make changes to their daily work life



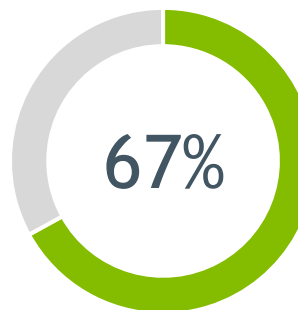
of volunteer student auditors found the auditor training useful, and 79% feel the experience has positively enhanced their employability



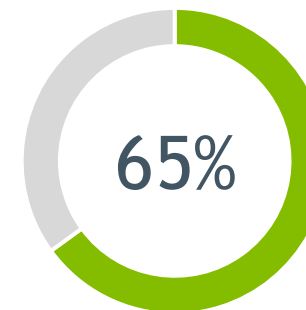
of participants had fun being part of Green Impact, and 92% felt good about themselves as a result of being involved



of participants would rate Green Impact as Good or Excellent overall



of participants identified changes to their own habits or behaviour as a result of taking part in Green Impact



of participants understand more about sustainability and how it is connected to other issues as a result of taking part in Green Impact

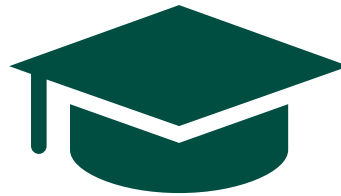
# The international picture 2023-24



Green Impact has been used by **1,665** organisations ranging from students' unions to NHS Trusts



**2,308** participating Green Impact teams led by more than **4,500** people



**709** students have been provided with training and development opportunities in their roles as auditors and project assistants



Nearly **2 million** people have been reached by Green Impact activities relating to sustainability and social justice



More than **15,000** positive actions and projects have been completed through Green Impact

# Green Impact at University of Worcester 2023-24



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*Green Impact offers teams a structured framework to design and implement impactful sustainability projects in their department or area of work.*

*This year, teams from across the University completed projects on a varied range of environmentally and socially sustainable topics and submitted projects through an online, interactive toolkit.*

# Local engagement at University of Worcester in 2023-24

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Since Green Impact launched at the University of Worcester, in 2011, we've seen **173** team awards presented for over **2,300** positive sustainability actions and **78** projects, led by more than **343** people directly involved in Green Impact teams.

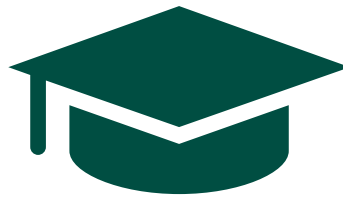
Here's what has been achieved in 2023-24...



**23** teams registered projects, with **15** teams submitting their project this year and receiving an award



**43** people led Green Impact teams - your average team size is **2**



Provided **19** students with training and development opportunities in their roles as project assistants



Reached more than **650** staff, students, and community members via Green Impact projects



Provided **29** students with IEMA-approved training and development opportunities in their roles as Green Impact auditors



# green impact

## Overview of Green Impact projects at University of Worcester 2023-2024

### Stickleback

#### Key Facts

Latin name: Gasterosteidae

Maximum length: 18cm

There are 4 different types of stickleback.

Diet: insect larvae, amphipods, isopods, pelecypods and more.

Lifespan: 3 to 6 years

Conservation Status: Common



Ghegeman, 2015



slowmotongli—Stock/Getty Images

#### Breeding

Sticklebacks have a unique mating system. The male will turn a reddish colour during mating season and will build a nest for the female to lay eggs in. He will then perform a dance to coax the female in and after she has laid anywhere from 50-100 eggs, he will fertilise them. The male may fertilise more than 1 females' eggs.

The male will then guard the eggs with his life and protect them until they are hatched. The father fish usually dies after this.



Alexander Francis Lydon, 1879

#### Did you know?

Marine sticklebacks migrate in winter, whilst freshwater ones tend to stay in the same place all their lives.

#### Distribution

The fish is found usually only in the Northern Hemisphere. Inhabiting mainly coastal areas and some freshwater too.



Vertnet, 2017

#### Adaptation

Sticklebacks are good adapters, evolving from being sea-water fish only to being able to live in freshwater as well, over the course of billions of years. This is thought to have occurred when glaciers started melting.

This is also seen in the fish's ability to adapt nests based on the water's oxygen level. This is because the eggs need to be fanned in order to keep the eggs sufficiently oxygenated.

### Sustainable Food Kitchen

Promote sustainable eating at the University of Worcester and encourage as many students as possible to eat more sustainably and teach them how to do so by setting up cooking sessions to teach students how to eat more sustainably.

### Medical School Gardening

To set out small sessions for the medical students to be able to garden, in the hopes of promoting better health and sustainability.

### City Campus Gardening

Increase the environmental and social value of the outside space by creating gardening spaces throughout the campus. This will offer a space to decompress (SDG3), improve the attractiveness of the open spaces for birds/insects and maybe animals (SDG15). We aim to have launch events where staff and students will gather to garden.

### Biodiversity Mapping

Create an interactive map of biodiversity on campus that can be used by university staff, such as the facilities department or sustainability, but also the public using Arc Collector and Arc Field maps, then working on a user interface. This should assist the new biodiversity strategy and inform further planting decisions.

### Lakeside Campus Nature Trail

create an engaging outdoor nature trail experience for students, schools, and members of the public to enjoy on the University of Worcester's Lakeside Campus. We seek to promote environmental awareness, mindfulness, and showcase nature projects on Lakeside. Create a website with a map, additional information about each stop, and links to other non-university projects involving Lakeside Campus.



previous dead vegetation was removed



meadow was prepared for planting



14th February Team, students and staff met on "Planting Event" Day for plantings like seeds

multiple buckets with seeds ready to be planted for our first "Planting Event"



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## Overview of Green Impact projects at University of Worcester 2023-2024

### Sustainability Game Package

Revolutionize sustainability education by introducing interactive and gamified learning experiences into lectures. A curated collection of sustainability-themed games will be selected, covering diverse topics around social sustainability, sustainable decision making.

### Integrating SDGs into Postgraduate Dissertations

Develop a mini-series of short, accessible videos to support doctoral researchers to reflect on how their research may inform sustainability and the UN SDGs, to support them to provide relevant recommendations for practice.

### Sustainability Hub

Provide a mix of services and equipment in the newly assigned Sustainability Hub to encourage students to engage with sustainable practices and practice mindfulness in a quiet space, where they can make a difference/ learn.



### Disposable Gloves Review

Identify if the perception that the use of disposable gloves has increased since the coronavirus pandemic, and if so, discover the rationale that caused this change in glove use perception. Study glove order numbers before and after the pandemic to see any changes or a correlation between people's perception of glove use and number of gloves ordered.

### Planetary health report card

First step in the wider work of curriculum design that aims to embed an understanding of sustainable healthcare across the medical school. Submit this evaluation for publication to raise the profile of how sustainability awareness can be 'designed-in' to new curricula.



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## Overview of Green Impact projects at University of Worcester 2023-2024

### Sustainability Podcast

Spread awareness on how anyone can make small changes to their lifestyle to become more sustainable and so together we can combat the climate crisis. Create a safe learning space for everyone and reiterate it's not about being perfect but making conscious choices.

### Student Sustainability Network

Promote sustainability awareness, engagement, and action among students and staff members of the Students' Union. Through collaboration, education, and advocacy.

### Sustainability treasure hunt

Educate students on sustainability practices/initiatives at the University, particularly City Campus. Through a series of questions, tasks, and challenges, students will explore sustainable practices, resources, and opportunities.

#### BUSINESS AS USUAL ☹️

You continue to use the lake water as you've always used it, discharging toxic by-products into the lake. The financial consequences of this course of action, your 'payoff', also depend on the decisions made by all other plants. Water quality degrades by 1 unit for every BAU selection made.



#### LIMIT POLLUTION ☹️

Recognizing the deterioration of the water quality, you limit pollution into the lake. Choosing LP slightly improves water quality. Water quality can also be improved by natural processes (flushed out by heavy rains once every 4 rounds).



#### TECHNICAL SOLUTION ①

You take unilateral, technical measures to make your process less dependent on lake water. To develop these technical measures, you invest 20Cr in research and, 3 rounds after you invest, you will



### Sustainability game update

Enhance students' Understanding of sustainability issues and their integration into business decision-making processes. Develop critical thinking skills, teamwork abilities, and practical knowledge of sustainable business practices by simulating real-world scenarios through gameplay. Empower students to make informed and responsible decisions that prioritize environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

### Wildlife on Wednesday

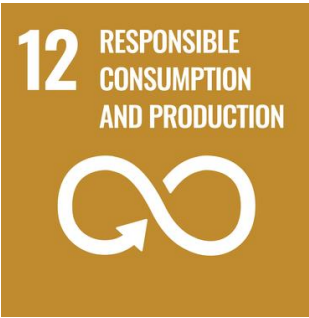
Achieve connectivity with nature in Worcester and across the country by creating informative posts each week that bring wildlife into education, encourage activism, help students learn fun facts, develop new knowledge about native UK species, and engage better with nature around them.



# Engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals



Many Green Impact projects supported and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals meaning actions taken through these projects also support global efforts for sustainable development. Some examples are listed.



**Sustainable Food Kitchen**  
**Medical School Gardening**



**Sustainability Hub**  
**Sustainability Game Update**



**Lakeside Campus Nature Trail**  
**Student Sustainability Network**



**Integrating SDGs into Postgrad Dissertations**  
**Wildlife on Wednesday**



# Supporting the Sustainability Strategy

Green Impact is a standing agenda on the Sustainability Strategy Group and supports the wider University of Worcester Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030. The work of the Green Impact Programme and the projects developed by the teams spread across all four sustainability themes outlined in the strategy. The programme most directly contributes towards Theme 1 of 'Promoting sustainability, social responsibility and wellbeing' and Theme 2 of 'integrating sustainability through knowledge, skills and experience' by providing opportunities for both students and staff to engage in impactful real-life sustainability projects.

## THEME 1: PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WELLBEING

### SDGs relating to Theme 1: Promoting sustainability, social responsibility and wellbeing



## THEME 2: INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

### SDGs relating to Theme 2: Integrating sustainability through knowledge, skills and experience





Congratulations to all this year's award-winning teams!

Each completed project was awarded a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum award based on the project's overall reach, impact, replicability measurability and legacy.

## Green Impact

### BRONZE PROJECT

*Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK*

**Sustainability Game Package**

**Sustainability Game Update**

**Sustainable Kitchen Food**

**Medical School Gardening**

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### SILVER PROJECT

*Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK*

**Biodiversity Mapping**

**City Campus Garden**



## Green Impact

### GOLD PROJECT

*Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK*

Wildlife on  
Wednesday

Sustainability Podcast

Sustainability Student  
Network

Student Sustainability  
Hub

Disposable Glove  
Review

Planetary Health  
Report Card

Lakeside Campus  
Nature Trail

Sustainability Treasure  
Hunt

## Green Impact

### PLATINUM PROJECT

*Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK*

Integrating SDGs into Postgraduate  
Dissertations

# Special Award winners

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The special awards are for those who stand out with their passion and enthusiasm for sustainability. Each local special award winner will be entered into the national Green Impact Awards.

NUS Green Impact

**SPECIAL AWARD**

*Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK*

## Sustainability Hero

**Winner: Mac Weekley & Catarina Da Silva**  
Sustainability Hub, City Campus Gardening

## Environmental Improvement

**Winner: Ben Bridges**  
Disposable Glove Review

## Community Action

**Winner: James Martin & Billy Stirling**  
Lakeside Campus Nature Trail

## Innovation for Engagement

**Winner: Anisha Chopra & James Martin**  
Sustainability Podcast

## Student Leadership Award

**Winner: Anisha Chopra & James Martin**  
Sustainability Podcast, Lakeside Campus Nature Trail



Here's what participants of Green Impact have told us this year:

## Green Impact Auditor

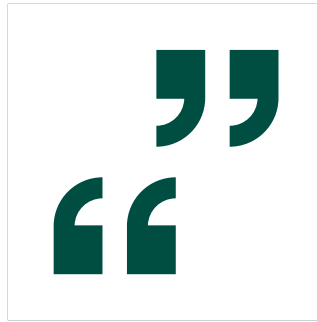
- “The passion for the topic was reflected by the each team members excellent and in depth knowledge of the topic and project. The effort to make learning and lectures, more enjoyable was also greatly appreciated, attention was given to make the games as fun and accessible for people and students of all backgrounds. ”

## Green Impact Auditor

- "The engagement with the student body has been quite successful. The students involved in this project has shown great evidence of hard work and enthusiasm and wish for the project to exapnd further to create a larger impact. The hub itself is a great area which offers students an area to escape stressful assignments.”

## Green Impact Auditor

- “The team effort and commitment has been very productive, the team has worked very well during their planning stage to ensure all aspects are considered. Also, the audit was handled very professionally with honest answers and reasoning. Most importantly, the project conveys an innovative way for students to develop their knowledge and enhance their student experience. The project idea is also great for anyone who wants to develop their knowledge within sustainability. ”



# Participants are recognised through Green Impact

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All Green Impact team members and student auditors receive a digital badge to showcase their personal and professional development.

All award-winning Green Impact teams also received a terrarium this year!





**Katy Boom, Director of Sustainability:** “It has been another fantastic year, working with the students and staff on some diverse and impactful projects, many of which will continue to grow next year. I was overwhelmed by the response to become an auditor, and it was a real pleasure to work with these 29 enthusiastic volunteers, many of which went onto also audit on our Responsible Futures program. I'm excited already for next year.”

**Beatrice Anomah, Project manager at SOS-UK, said the following:** “It' has been excellent and inspiring to see the range of diverse, creative and innovative projects the teams have produced and implemented this year. The reach and accessibility of these projects are wonderful, and their continuity and replicability mean they can have lasting impact. The student Green Impact Assistants have shown such passion in their work, and it's been lovely to see the outcomes of these projects and the reach it has had to students, staff, and the local community.”



# Congratulations to all teams across University of Worcester

Congratulations on your achievements! We hope that you will continue being a part of Green Impact next year and join us on our journey towards creating a just and sustainable world for all.



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[k.boom@worc.ac.uk](mailto:k.boom@worc.ac.uk)



[hello@sos-uk.org](mailto:hello@sos-uk.org)



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