

GREENWICH SUSTAINABILITY HUB
PRESENTS
**FUTURE
FAIR**

Future Fair Post-Event Report

Event Title: Future Fair

Purpose: Education, Engagement & Employability in Sustainability

Date & Time: February 11th 2015 from 2:00PM to 6:00PM

Location: University of Greenwich Stockwell Street Building

Organisers: Green Ambassadors, Greenwich Sustainability Hub



Partners:

- **Students' Union University of Greenwich** supported and guided the Green Ambassadors throughout the planning and delivery of the event. The communication team designed the promotional material and assisted in outreach to students whilst the commercial team helped source products including tea and muesli bars for gift bags.
- **The University of Greenwich** offered passport points and employability credits as an incentive for students to attend the event. Faculty members offered their expertise throughout the speaker's section.
- **The University of Greenwich Sustainable Development Unit** provided guidance and direction throughout the planning and delivery of the event. Their contacts were instrumental to securing speakers and their networks within the sustainability champions supported the communication and promotion of the event.
- **NUS (Students Green fund)** were the funders of the event and continue to fund the project and staffing of the Greenwich Sustainability Hub.
- **Student volunteers** helped to prepare and deliver the event on the day.



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Thank you to all of our partners for making this event possible!

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Executive Summary

Our first annual sustainability themed show happened on Wednesday 11th February. The Future Fair was the first of its kind to be held at the University of Greenwich, and what a success it was! Over 150 students took part in the day's activities and had the opportunity to engage with topics such as biodiversity, energy, carbon, and water, and relate their field of study with potential careers in sustainability.



The Fair incorporated three different sections aiming to educate students through various speakers and panel discussions, inspire action with an exhibition of sustainability projects, photography and innovative research, and create employment opportunities and provide career advice by hosting interactive stalls with businesses and organisations promoting sustainability.

You can [click here for event schedule including speakers, exhibitors and businesses at the Future Fair 2015.](#)

Sustainable Businesses and Societies:

- **Interface:** A global leader in the design and manufacture of sustainable modular flooring, designing by tile has given a creative and economic flexibility to design inspiring and engaging spaces that attracted a new generation of students to study, work, live or socialise in.
- **Mydetoxdiet:** Your own personal one-stop healthy lifestyle shop in the heart of Greenwich, London. Mydetoxdiet stock tons of tasty gluten-free, wheat-free, sugar-free and dairy-free food products for weight loss and detox diets and also offer different body treatments.



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- **Marine Stewardship Council:** The MSC runs an exciting and ambitious program, working with partners to transform the world's seafood markets and promote sustainable fishing practices. They shared this program with students and they will be giving a lecture about 'Protecting and Preserving Ocean Resources' at Medway campus on the 26th of February 2015.



- **The University of Greenwich Green Society:** The Green Society is a meeting point for all students from many programmes, sharing common values and mind-sets regarding the environment and the welfare of contemporary society. The entire team is extremely motivated as they had the opportunity of welcoming new members.



- **The University of Greenwich Guidance and Employability Team, G.E.T:** The Careers Team is part of the Guidance and Employability Team (GET) at the University of Greenwich. Students were able to get advice to develop their professional potential and identity.



- **Young Rail Professionals** - The Professional Association for Young People in the Railway Industry had a stall at the Future Fair. They spoke to students about the rail industry to encourage and advise students to pursue a career in such a field.

Exhibitions:

- **Simon Springate:** Biodiversity of plants and insects at organic and conservation farms in Kent, Functional Biodiversity of Sustainable Agriculture funded by the University of Greenwich. The project aimed to explore this interaction and the effects of management in a particular landscape in southern Britain.
- **Margaret Jennings:** An A0 size material poster showing Margaret's well known piece, "The Living, Taking and Giving Back Library". The artwork uses discarded items that have been collected, categorized, arranged and offered for re-use by others.

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- **Jeremy Haggar:** Biodiversity on coffee farms in Guatemala. Research funded by the Darwin Initiative valued at £250,000. Aimed at 1) identifying the role and potential of agroforestry systems to sustain biodiversity in agroforest/forest/agriculture mosaics, 2) identifying the incentives of land-owners to maintain biodiverse production systems, 3) supporting land-owners in accessing incentives to conserve biodiverse production systems, and 4) provide policy recommendations to public and private bodies on how to improve incentives to landowners to conserve biodiversity.
- **Anushka Athique:** Student studying MA Landscape Architecture at the University of Greenwich having completed the Certificate in Landscape Design last year. She is also a multidisciplinary artist working with landscape and performance. Over the last seven year her practice has involved walking performances using narrative and small scale interventions to exploit the kinaesthetic experience of our surroundings, large public art commissions and solo or one-to-one performances.
- **Aleksandra Gadja:** Floating Food Farm – an idea to create a sustainable growing food system, on a river barge, by using hydroponics, solar power, bio fuel, water harvesting, and purification systems. This project was entered into the Mayor of London Low Carbon Prize.
- **Lauren Newberry:** Palaeo-Environmental Study on the River Medway and Conceptual Map of Ancient River Beds in Tankerton, South East England. Examines the use of quaternary studies in climate change and the sustainability agenda. Examines resources management in the context of future climate change.
- **Karen Taylor:** Poster highlighting the sustainable themes in the project 'Material Cultures of Energy: Transitions, Disruptions, and Everyday Life in the Twentieth Century'.
- **The University of Greenwich Photography Society:** Greenwich Sustainability Hub Photography Competition 2014/15 Finalists Expo - What Does 'Sustainability' Mean to You? Selection of six student submissions of photographs that illustrate 'what does sustainability mean to you', along with an explanatory caption.



Speakers Schedule

Time	Event	Time	Agenda
14:00	What is sustainability and why is it important in your education and career?	14:00	Introduction & Welcome
		14:10	Felipe Zalamea
		14:25	NUS- Emily Thompson-Bell
		14:40	Q&A
		14:55	END
14:55	CHANGEOVER minutes		5
15:00	Climate Change Chair: Richard Lamboll	15:00	Introduction & Welcome
		15:10	IPCC- John Morton
		15:40	Q&A
		15:55	END
	BREAK minutes		15
16:10	Future Cities – What options do we have to make our cities sustainable?	16:10	Introduction & Welcome
		16:20	Edible Wall- Shelley Mosco
		16:30	Interface- Veronica Kingsley
		16:40	Taking and Giving Back Library- Margaret Jennings
		16:50	Q&A
		17:05	END
17:05	CHANGEOVER minutes		5
17:10	Is economic growth compatible with sustainability? Panel to speak about personal experience of sustainability and the economy.	17:10	Introduction & Welcome
		17:15	<u>Panel:</u> NEF - Griffin Carpenter ECG - Diego Isabel La Mondea NUS - Emily Thompson-Bell
		17:45	Q&A
		18:00	END
18:00	END OF SHOW		

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Resources:

- The original budget for the event was £1000 with scope for further funding if and when needed. Overall total gross expenditure for the event came to less than £250. The budget is part of the funding of the Sustainability Hub, which has been sectioned for various events and projects.
- The event was held in the Stockwell Street Building - a newly opened state-of-the-art library and academic building with a BREEAM Excellence accreditation. The spaces for the exhibition and lecture theatre were hired free of charge due to this being an internal University building. Use of exhibition boards, tables and chairs were all free of charge, also using the existing booking and porter system.

Attendance:

- Overall attendance is estimated at over 150 people. Participants were primarily University of Greenwich students and staff members. Student attendance was monitored via scanning of the Student Identification Cards and exhibitor tracking sheets.
- The event was also attended by the Students' Union Sabbatical Officers, CEO and also senior lecturers at the University of Greenwich.
- With regards to speaker sessions, attendance averaged 20 people, with one popular session on climate change that recorded over 80 attendees.
- 67% of our speakers rated the audience participation either 'good' or 'very good', with the remaining choosing 'neutral'.
- Business exhibitors reported an average of 60 interactions throughout the event.





Feedback:

- We received superb feedback and acknowledgements of the benefits the event provided. The students and staff recognised the need for further education and engagement into the field of sustainability.
- Participants and attendees of the event reported on how good it was to have an alternative event, as they were yet to attend a sustainability themed event within the University of Greenwich or Students' Union.
- Responses also covered the innovative and “thought provoking” method of the event by combining all three areas of exhibition, speakers and companies. They also found that the diversity of speakers and having the sessions split up into different sustainability fields was very “interesting”; the only improvement would be to encourage more turnouts next year.
- It was also mentioned that more widespread and clear signage in and around the event would have drawn more attendees to the less visible speaker section. The exhibition area was in-between a heavily foot trafficked area, whereas the speakers were in a lecture theatre a bit further away.
- Speaker’s responses received were mainly around the low turnout as some of the speaker sessions recorded attendance to be below 25, and taking into consideration the size of the room, this made the session seem bare. Feedback suggested the use of a smaller classroom to restrict the number of empty seats. More persuasive advertisements and advance notice could help increase turnout. Linking with faculty members to promote directly to students would also be advantageous to generate increased attendance.
- Feedback from business exhibitors at the event stated that they were overall very impressed with the opportunities the event provided students, and also they appreciated their interactions with students and discussions on sustainability careers within their business and field of study. 100% ranked their experience either ‘good’ or ‘very good’ and would consider renewing their participation in a Future Fair 2016.



Highlights:

- The exhibition area had a continuous flow of attendees who engaged with the exhibitions, showing genuine interest and acknowledgement to the various fields of sustainability which were displayed.
- The University of Greenwich transport team kindly offered a free and later return bus service from the Medway campus to Stockwell Street Building on the day of the event. Medway students were a target audience for the Future Fair as their courses are related to sustainability. The Medway campus is located 25 miles from the Greenwich campus where the event was held. A return journey on the inter-campus bus costs £6.50 which the Greenwich Sustainability Hub subsidised. This free transportation and service increased Medway student participation at the event.
- Another highlight of the event was the sheer number of businesses, companies and academics and professionals who attended. This provided both attendees and staff networking opportunities which would not normally be available. Professionals were able to offer students advice and guidance on how to approach entering such fields of work which proved to be very popular. Also the University of Greenwich Business School accredited students who attended the Future Fair with Employability Passport Points which are collected and recognised at the end of the academic year. The passport is a method to encourage and highlight the number of extracurricular activities, networking and employability events attended by students.
- The final highlight of the event was the ability to shed light on the incredible work and opportunities the Sustainability Hub has to offer students. Through being able to speak directly with attendees and students, positive feedback was noted about the work done by the Sustainability Hub not only on the Future Fair but through previous events. The Sustainability Hub is growing, and becoming an important and integral part of the Students' Union and the University of Greenwich.

Conclusion:

Overall the turnout and success of this 1st Future Fair was remarkable. Based on the attendance and feedback received, the likelihood of subsequent annual Future Fairs at the University of Greenwich is very high and desirable.