

SUSTAINABILITY SMART TARGETS

2023-2024



*We will be a positive influence for students and
we will grow your skills and experiences.*





Undeb Aberystwyth wants all students to love student life. Part of this is making sure students have a positive experience while studying here in Aberystwyth. We are very lucky to be located in a vibrant and very natural environment and we want to make sure our student community is taking care of it while living in Aberystwyth.

We have designed these targets to support us on our work, to break down the key areas that we would like to work on during the academic year.



"After the amazing results of Green Impact last year, I want to build on all the progress the Student union has made, to ensure that we have the same results as last year. The main objective of Green Impact is to develop the Union's opportunities to be more sustainable. Green impact gives clear guidelines that can be followed and helps direct the Union on the best way to do things and make change. The events and schemes that benefited students last year came from Green Impact and these are going to be continued this year. Green Impact doesn't only focus on environmental sustainability, but it also focuses on the growth of the union and ways to help students such as substance awareness."



Bayanda Vundamin
Union President

Our Aims

1. We Will Collect Students Opinions on Sustainability
2. We Will Get Academic Representatives Involved in Environmental Sustainability
3. We Will Make Sure Sustainability is Included in Strategic and Operational Plans
4. We Will Create Adequate Sustainability Webpages
5. We Will Host a Union Week Dedicated to Sustainability (Green Week)
6. We Will Begin Conversations with the Career Department about Green Skills and Green Careers.
7. We Will Keep Students Updated on Law Changes in Wales
8. We Will Encourage Non-Environmental Focused Student Groups to Get Involved with Eco Activities
9. We Will Make Sure All Union Events Are Eco-Conscious
10. We Will Recognize Staff and Students Who Go Above and Beyond on Sustainability Work.

1

We Will Collect Students Opinions on Sustainability

We will collect student opinions and make sure they are guiding our work. Students should have a key part in all we do here at the Students Union. Their feedback will shape and form our main projects throughout the year.

- Collect student feedback through surveys, focus groups and general day-to-day conversations. We would like to see if students are aware of the projects the University and Union are undertaking and what they believe to be the biggest issue facing Aberystwyth when considering environmental sustainability and the future of our town and campus.
- We should aim to receive 100 responses to make sure our research is representative of our university.
- This will be completed at the start of the academic year (no later than November 2023) to make sure we have the time to complete the actions students have requested from us.
- This will allow us to make sure the work we conduct is relevant to student needs.



2

We Will Get Academic Representatives Involved in Environmental Sustainability

Academic Reps are key representors for our student population. Not only do they create consistent feedback loops with students but have regular conversations with university staff through SSCC meetings. Having a good understanding of environmental sustainability and how to bring up issues surrounding this in meetings is vital in the University and Union development, ensuring green skills are being embedded into the curriculum and departments all around campus are being eco-cautious.

- Every year in November, the Students Union hosts an Academic Rep conference. We will ensure this year there is a session regarding and introduction to sustainability. This will include what areas of your life sustainability fits into and how to bring up these issues in meetings with the University.
- The Students Union will organise and host 'knowledge and Experience' sessions relating to sustainability to expand students' knowledge. We will aim to have a sustainability targeted Knowledge and Experience session twice a year.
- Sustainability will be incorporated into the Academic Rep training occurring at the start of the academic year.
- Our aim is to have 80% of Academic Reps trained in sustainability practices.

We are **shaped by students**, your voice matters most



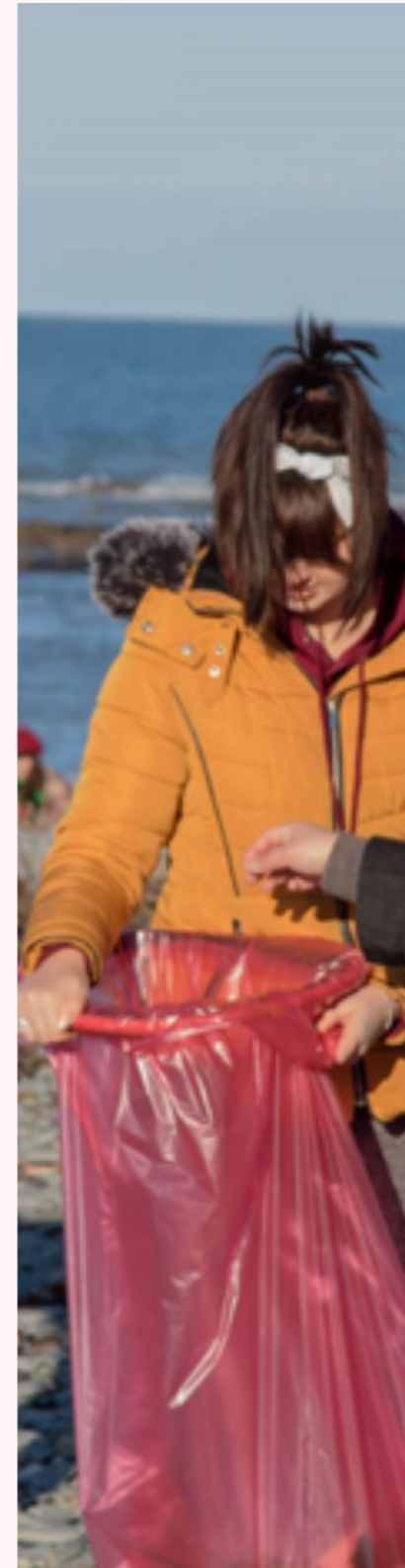
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We Will Make Sure Sustainability is Included in Strategic and Operational Plans

Strategic and Operational plans are they key foundations on the running of operations. Without having a clear focus on environmental sustainability within these, there is the possibility of projects and activities not taking place in the busyness of the academic year. This will ensure sustainability plans are stuck to and worked on.

- Work on updating the Students Union Strategic Plan and seeing where environmental sustainability may fit within it.
- At the beginning of the year during Operational Plan meetings, we will make sure environmental projects and activities are included to make sure they happen during our yearly plan.
- We will work with other departments across the University to see where we can incorporate sustainability into their strategic and operational plans.

We are **ambitious**, we develop for the future



4

We Will Create Adequate Sustainability Webpages

It is important to communicate with students and the wider community on the work we are doing relating to sustainability. Having an easy to access way of staying up to date is important. Having these spaces accessible will grow our audience.

- We will create a main sustainability page on the Change Aber section of the Student's Union website, giving it its own section.
- We will create a campaign page relating to our sustainability work for this year, linking it onto the general sustainability page for easy access and location.
- This page will be set up at the beginning of the academic year with key information on it for students.
- The page will be updated throughout the year with the work we have conducted, including advertisements to our Green Week and further reading.
- The main campaign page will be created before April, in time for the new law changes surrounding rubbish and recycling to come in.



5

We Will Host a Union Week Dedicated to Sustainability (Green Week)

Throughout the year, the Student's Union recognises national campaign weeks and internal union projects. It is important for us to have a full week where the Union can show a direct focus on sustainability, working with student groups to host activities and projects. It is important that this is as student run as possible so that it is the change students want to see.

- Students/Aber-forward placements will lead on the planning of Green Week with support from Union staff.
- At least three student groups will be involved in running activities throughout the week.
- The week will be organised with a specific theme for the year.
- We will host a variety of events, working with different organisations to have a wider reach.
- We will work with the environmental checklist to make sure all the events are eco-friendly.
- We will host this week in middle of the second term of university.



6

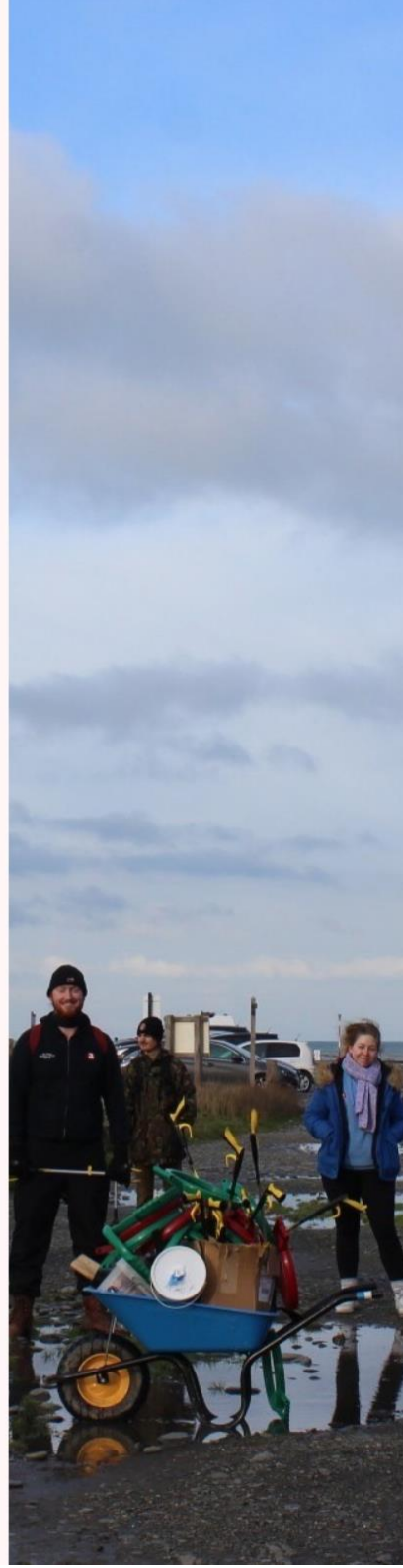
We Will Begin Conversations with the Career Department about Green Skills and Green Careers

Green jobs and careers are expanding every year, and many organisations are looking for employees who have green skills to support them in their operations. With this we need to be making sure students are gaining these skills while at university and know how to recognise these when applying for jobs.

We will work in partnership with the Universities Careers Department in the Student Services Department about encouraging green careers and different green employers while looking at the skills students gain while at university and how we can incorporate green skills into this.

- The Union and Careers department will host joint events and activities to get students recognising their skills.
- Host LinkedIn events to get students knowing how to excel in LinkedIn to support them with career development.
- Work with Careers to promote green career graduate jobs.

We will help to grow your **skills and experiences**



7

We Will Keep Students Updated on Law Changes in Wales

We are aware that some changes to how we recycle and use rubbish bins will be changing in Ceredigion this year in April. This may feel like a big change for some who have lived here for a couple years. It may also be a new system for students who are moving to Aberystwyth this year. Therefore, to make things as easy and accessible as possible, we will try to provide updates and guidance on these law changes for students and how it will affect them.

- The Union will keep up to date with law changes so that we can affectively communicate this with students.
- The Union will run 'That's a Rubbish Campaign' to update on the changes in a catchy and fun way.
- We will work closely with the University and local Council.

We will be a **positive influence** for students



8

We Will Encourage Non-Environmental Focused Student Groups to Get Involved with Eco Activities

We are very lucky in Aberystwyth to have so many student groups who focus on sustainability and do amazing eco activities. We would love to work with our traditionally not eco-student groups to begin getting them involved in sustainable activities.

- Our aim is to get at least two student groups participating in environmental activities whose primary focus is not relating to sustainability.



We are a **community**, we want you involved

9

We Will Make Sure All Union Events Are Eco-Conscious

The Students Union hosts many activities throughout the year to make sure our students love Student life. While doing these events we need to make sure we are looking after our campus and community.

- While planning our events, we will use an eco-checklist.
- 80% of all our events will be planned to use the checklist at a minimum.
- This will take place throughout the academic year 2023-2024.
- All staff at the Union are responsible for making sure all our events are eco-conscious.



We will be a **positive influence** for students

10

We Will Recognize Staff and Students Who Go Above and Beyond on Sustainability Work

It is important that we reward staff and students on their sustainability work. This may be through their day-to-day activities and attitudes or one-off eco-events or initiatives.

- If a staff member, student, or student group goes above and beyond throughout the year, we will recognise this and promote their achievements on our social medias.
- Awards will be created and nominated for at the end of year 'Celebrates' awards.
- We hope to receive at least two, well written nominations for each of the three sustainability awards at the end of year 'Celebrates'.

