

Green Lancaster Annual Report 2022-23



Foreword

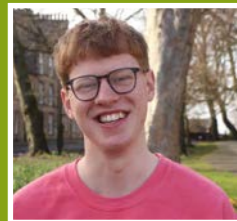


SIMON GUY
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Digital, International, Sustainability

Sustainability sits at the core of Lancaster University, with ambitious decarbonisation goals enshrined in our strategy and a commitment to sustainability at the heart of our values. Recognition of our strong environmental record can be found in the QS global ranking for sustainability in which we are placed 24th in the world.

This ethos is nowhere better embodied than in the work of Green Lancaster. Bringing together the University and Students Union, students and staff, public and private enterprise, Green Lancaster demonstrates sustainability in action both locally and through connection to our international partners like Lausanne.

Ignited by the passion of our Green Lancaster champions, activities are now reaching across the University to encourage wider participation and facilitating engagement with sustainability for all interested students. As the annual report illustrates, the work of Green Lancaster continues to be both pioneering and inspiring and the team should be proud of another year of fantastic work.



CALLUM SLATER,
Vice-President Students' Union
Development 2022-23

I am delighted to see how this year's Green Lancaster Annual Report, once again, demonstrates the leading work and meaningful impact of this strategic partnership between our Students' Union and University.

Green Lancaster is truly special in how it engages our students in practical solutions to the climate and ecological emergencies, advancing our impact on campus from discourse and dialogue to creating real change to lifestyles and our shared environment. By working collaboratively, a key tenet of facing the wicked challenges of the 21st century, we are able to combine the best in environmental expertise with the innovation and enterprise of our student body.

In doing so, we are able to test and catalyse fresh ideas to make a difference. I am particularly pleased to see the Students' Union embark on its own carbon audit and work inter-departmentally to embed sustainable values in all that we do, such as planting trees to restore University land for votes cast in Union elections.

Above all, Green Lancaster develops sustainable leaders ready to face these challenges in every walk of their lives. I look forward to seeing its impact grow and these leaders making change around the globe.

Who we are and what we do?

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Green Lancaster is the strategic sustainability partnership of Lancaster University and Lancaster University Students' Union. Our mission is to engage the Lancaster University community in positive, change solutions to the challenges of our time.

Established in 2005, the partnership has a track record of inspiring and equipping the next generation with sustainability skills and knowledge. Alongside this, our projects, events, and campaigns create positive change across environmental and social agendas at Lancaster and beyond.

2022-23 at a glance



Launch of new Sustainability and Leadership Programme



Green Lancaster Team 2022-23

Our core delivery is via the Green Lancaster team, based in the Students' Union. The team consists of full-time staff plus a dedicated team of student staff recruited each year to facilitate and deliver our programme. Team members collaborate with a range of internal and external stakeholders to design and facilitate our annual programme.



Green Lancaster Manager: Darren Axe, Green Lancaster Assistant: Lea Rüegg
Student Team: Joe Mason, Eve Brimble, Izzy Sharpe, Emily Jones



Don't Ditch It

Project Supervisors: Anna Mummery, Amelia Smith, Katie Russell, Caitlin Wilton
Team members: Ellen Winters, Flo Ray, Helen Shaw, Martha Querée, Harshil Boparai, Ellie Pritchard, Jaya Patel, Kate Wyld, Harsh Khandelwal, Anna Temple-Heald, Pallavi Puranik

Governance, objectives and outputs

The Green Lancaster board, with senior representation across the University and Students' Union sets the overall strategic direction of Green Lancaster. Objectives, targets and the core KPI are agreed annually and tracked via quarterly meetings. Objectives are tracked across four engagement indicators:

- Overall Engagement KPI: aggregate total of all engagement and interaction types. Provides an indication of the overall proportion of the Lancaster University student population reached with our activities.
- Core Team: individual students, staff, and community members participating in programme activity as volunteers or members of the Green Lancaster student staff team.
- Collaborators: individual students, staff, and community members taking part in sessions facilitated by Green Lancaster but delivered as a partnership between Green Lancaster and other groups, societies, teaching modules or other community collectives.
- Network: participants attending wider events, promotional stalls and festivals throughout the year. This type of engagement builds awareness, brand recognition and drives further engagement to the collaborator and core team categories.

Our progress and achievements against objectives are summarised in the table below. The new engagement tracking system as described above was implemented for 2022-23 following strategic planning and associated approval by Green Lancaster Board. The comparison aggregate engagement figure for 2021-22 is included for reference.

Deliverables	KPI/Indicator of Success		
	2021-22 Totals	2022-23 Target	2022-23 Totals
Overall Green Lancaster engagement (Core KPI)	2,407	Total reach equivalent to 10% of LU student population (1,500 interactions)	Total reach equivalent to 30.9% of LU student population (4,643 interactions)
Green Lancaster core team	Not measured	200 individuals	194 individuals
Green Lancaster collaborators	Not measured	300 individuals	318 individuals
Green Lancaster network	Not measured	1,000 interactions	4,131 interactions



Budget and expenditure

Our annual Green Lancaster operating budget is developed via the Green Lancaster board and approved by the University Planning and Resources Group (UPRG). Total annual budget for 2022-23 was approved at £148,000. Actual expenditure at financial year-end was £155,000 with a minor overspend attributable to in-year cost of living salary uplifts applied universally across the University.

		2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Actuals
Income	Lancaster University General Contribution	72,500	77,662
	Lancaster University Facilities Contribution	68,000	68,000
	Project Generated Income	7,500	8,000
	Philanthropic Contributions	0	2,338
	Total income	148,000	155,000
Expenditure	Green Lancaster staff team payroll	93,000	113,000
	Non-Payroll Project costs	55,000	42,000
	Total expenditure	148,000	155,000

Our project generated income (£8,000 in 2022-23) makes a significant contribution to the overall budget. The household goods ECOShop is our main revenue generating activity, with a smaller contribution generated from ECOHub produce market stall sales.

We are also incredibly grateful for the generosity of the following benefactors who have contributed a combined total of £2,228 in philanthropic donations during the year.

- Paula Breed via Friends of Lancaster University in America, Inc.
- Lancaster Environment Centre via Envision doctoral training consortium
- Lancaster University Management School
- Lancaster University Earth and Environment Fund (philanthropy funding)

The Green Lancaster partnership also received £13,000 in-kind contributions from Lancaster University Students' Union covering a range of in-year operational enhancements and innovations:

- Second hand Renault Kangoo Electric Van (a shared resource with LUSU events team)
- 3 storage containers for the Don't Ditch It Circular Resources Hub
- SU VP Union Development participation in Leadership Development Programme (Isle of Eigg)
- Trees for Votes' financial contribution to trees for ECOWild project
- Contribution to launch of Switzerland Sustainability and Leadership programme



Our work in focus

Our projects operate in a unique space at the intersection of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with building collaborative partnerships between individuals and wider stakeholder organisations (SDG17) being a fundamental guiding principle.

Our engagement methodology is constructed around UNESCO's implementation roadmap on Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDG's (ESD for 2030). The table below outlines how the ESD for 2030 priorities connect to our work.

Advancing Policy	Creating a strategic governance framework to guide our work and track progress in implementation of our strategy. Enabling our members to connect to senior decision making processes at Lancaster University and influencing positive change.
Transforming learning environments	Providing dynamic learning spaces in which our members can co-create project innovation. On campus spaces include the ECOHub and Circular Resources Hub. With many of our projects being based in the natural environment, the real-world is our classroom.
Building capacities of educators	Developing student leadership for sustainability is our 101. Through providing an engaging and empowering framework, our programmes provide the ideal space for members to define and develop their own sustainability journey whilst at Lancaster University.
Empowering and mobilising youth	Our members hail from a wide demographic, including young people at University and other educational establishments from pre-school right up to sixth-form and colleges.
Accelerating local level actions	On the ground impact is a key guiding principle. Our projects deliver impact across the SDG's. For example our practical ECOWild sessions have demonstrable, positive impact to Life on Land and Life below Water.



ECOWild

ECOWild aims to inspire people and connect with nature. As one of our core programmes based out of the ECOHub on campus, sessions run throughout the year, providing members with a very local opportunity to trial and implement nature-positive solutions. The weekly programme of activity delivers seasonal activity appropriate to the temperate climate of Lancaster. 2022-23 activities have included coppicing, wildflower meadow establishment and maintenance, tree and hedgerow planting and wetland habitat creation.

ECOWild also provides our members with an off-campus field visits programme. As part of these visits, members explore a range of landscapes and habitats, from marine through woodland and meadow to the uplands. The opportunities include learning species identification and taking part in restorative practical tasks. In 2022-23, we provided a programme of 13 off-site visits, 8 of these delivered in partnership with nature conservation organisations across the north of England. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of our project partners in delivering a varied ECOWild programme.



ECOWild Field visits Programme 2022-23

October 2022	Clougha Pike, Forest of Bowland AONB Wild Garsdale Pike partnership
November 2022	Wild Haweswater partnership
December 2022	Restoring Hardnott Forest partnership
February 2023	Aldcliffe Marsh, Lancaster Urban Wild Green Spaces, Lancaster Walney Island Nature Reserve partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust River Lune exploration from Halton to Caton
March 2023	Brackenhurst 'Leaky Dams' in partnership with Ribble Rivers Trust Restoring Hardknott Forest partnership
May 2023	Hollin Bank Farm, Cumbria partnership
June 2023	Wild Garsdale Pike partnership Roeburndale Woodlands in Spring



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND







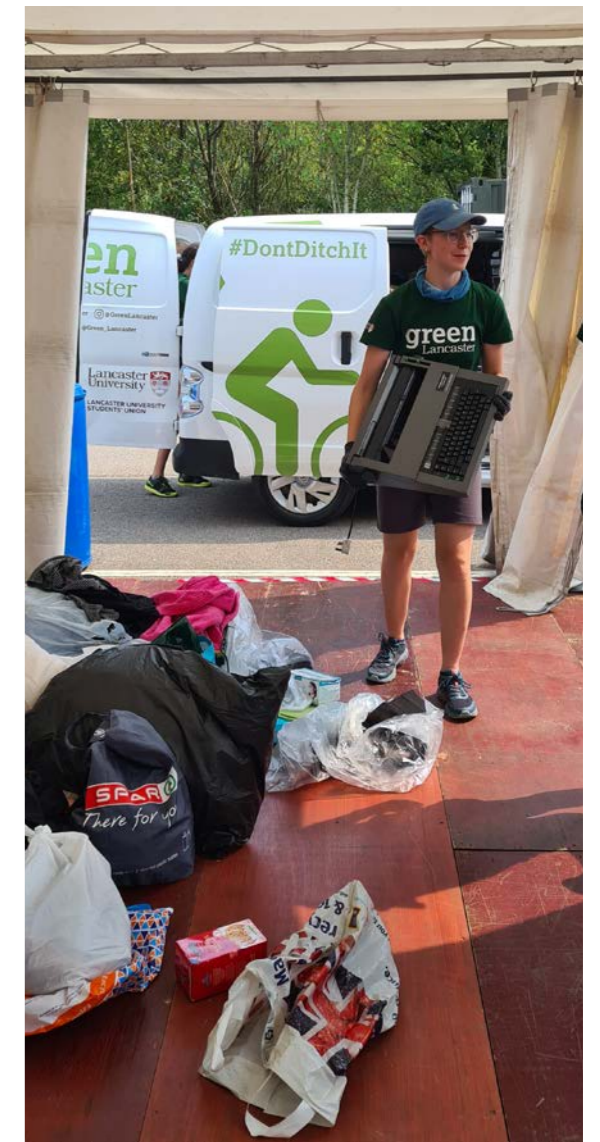
Don't Ditch It

One of our most recognised initiatives on campus and in the local community is 'Don't Ditch It'. With a project legacy spanning 13 years this circular economy project aims to intercept and upcycle redundant household goods at the end of the academic year. Each summer a team of students are deployed to promote the benefits of upcycling, oversee operations, and collaborate with a network of charity and third sector organisations in distributing the goods. Once again, the project was delivered from the dedicated Circular Resources Hub on campus. This project base incorporates circular design practice hub, with 10 shipping containers for storage arranged as a series of spokes around a central sorting up formed of an upcycled 9 x 6 metre events marquee.

In summer 2022, a team of 15 students were deployed, with over 31 tonnes of donations received and distributed to 36 local, regional, national, and international organisations. The beneficiaries include local branches of national charities and local community, educational or social projects. In addition to the main project delivery throughout 2022, the team implemented smaller scale operations at the end of the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

ECOShop

First launched in 2018, the ECOShop is now a household name during the arrivals period at the start of each academic year. Entirely student-led and located in Alexandra Square at the heart of campus, this provides new and returning students with a pop-up shop bursting with upcycled household goods donated by previous students. The shop is operated on a pay as you feel basis. In October 2022, ECOShop generated £7,856. This income is directly reinvested to the Green Lancaster budget, providing circular finance to catalyse further action across our portfolio.



ECOChallenge

Delivered in collaboration with Work in Progress and the nine colleges at Lancaster, ECOChallenge is our annual sustainability competition. As a team-based challenge, students are encouraged to join their college team to define, develop, and pitch an innovative sustainability idea to a panel of judges. The challenge brief encourages teams to bring forward ideas that could be developed into active projects for implementation at Lancaster.

The challenge was launched in 2016 and has produced many new ideas. Some of these have gone forward to the implementation stage, with projects such as the ECOHives (bee keeping) and Community Fridge being well-known across the campus.

The 2023 winners were the County College team with ECOEats. This project proposed an innovative solution to build community, tackle food waste and in the context of the cost-of-living crisis. ECOEats would provide regular student-led cooking and meal preparation classes, with ingredients sourced from leftovers or end of line food products from on- or off-campus catering and food retail outlets.

Following the win, the project went forward to receive funding from Lancaster University Commercial Services, with implementation of the idea currently underway in academic year 2023-24.

ECOChallenge builds college community while inspiring collaborative ideas and innovation around the Sustainable Development goals. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all 2023 participants and stakeholders involved in delivery.



Sustainability and Leadership

Our sustainability and leadership programme inspires and equips our student leaders with knowledge, skills and approaches to navigate contemporary challenges and mobilise positive change networks that cross traditional institutional boundaries.

In 2022-23, we delivered 2 iterations of this programme. Our long-established residential programme on the Isle of Eigg, Scotland plus the brand-new, week-long Switzerland based iteration.



Isle of Eigg

The programme on Eigg provides a professional development training experience for the Green Lancaster student team, Don't Ditch It project supervisors, the political lead for Sustainability in the Students' Union (Vice-President Union Development) and student leaders from the Edible Campus society, our main stakeholder group at the ECOHub.

Travel to/from Eigg entirely by public transport: train, bus, ferry, with the final 5 km across the island completed on foot. The trip embeds self-sufficiency into the design of the experience. The team are based at Eigg Organics and Tigh an Sithean, both traditional crofts within the community of Cleadale on the rugged west coast of Eigg. All meals are prepared from scratch by the team, with 100% plant-based ingredients sourced from the island shop.

We are incredibly grateful to the island community on Eigg, with whom we have collaborated on various iterations of this student experience since 2011.



During the 4 days spent on Eigg, the team undertake an intensive programme including:

- Exploring the natural and cultural heritage of Eigg; from the Mesozoic sediments to the Palaeogene volcanics, crofting and the highland clearances to the community land buyout and formation of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust in 1997.
- Meeting key island stakeholders involved in modern day crofting, renewable energy, political decision making and visitor tourism.
- Sustainability and Leadership workshop programme, delivered in a range of learning environments from the basecamp to the Camas Sgiotaig / Singing Sands and summit of Beinn Bhuidhe.
- A guest lecture from Dr Rowan Jackson (Edinburgh University): Cultural Heritage of the North Atlantic.



Switzerland

This new opportunity is delivered via a brand-new partnership with Lancaster University Global Experiences and the University of Lausanne (UNIL).

The first iteration was the product of significant research, reconnaissance and relationship building to create a bespoke, international learning opportunity for students at Lancaster. The opportunity has been built with sustainability at the core, with all travel between Lancaster, Lausanne and the full diversity of in-country destinations being made by public transport. 12 students were selected to participate in the programme following a competitive recruitment process.

Workshops delivered throughout the programme drew upon two themes relevant to the geopolitical Alpine setting of Lausanne on the northern shore of the Lake Geneva basin.

The content and delivery mechanisms embraced UNESCO principles on Education for Sustainable Development, specifically priority action area 2: transforming learning environments.

Workshop themes:

- Sustainability and Leadership: navigating the Anthropocene
- Sustainability and the alpine environment: ecology, climate change, recreation, agriculture, socio-economic trends

Overview of the programme:

Day 1: Welcome to UNIL from International Team, Campus Tour, Sustainability at UNIL with Delphine Douçot, Rectorate, Ecological Transition and Campus, Lausanne City Tour.

Day 2: Meet UNIL Erasmus Student Rep, tour of Lavaux vineyards UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 3: Excursion to Les Pleiades Alpine meadow (1,300m altitude), above Montreux exploring the themes of altitudinal zonation of the alpine ecosystem, agriculture and recreation in the Alps.

Day 4 & 5: 2-day trekking excursion in the Valais Canton. From Champex-Lac to the Cabane d'Orny (2,825 m) in the Mont Blanc massif, exploring contemporary themes in the high-Alpine environment: glacial systems, climate and ecological changes, recreation and heritage.



“My favourite part of the trip was the hike to la Cabane d’Orny will most likely be one of the best experiences I will forever remember in my life. Having a first-hand experience of seeing glaciers and the opportunity to learn alpine ecology in its breathtaking scenery, whilst accomplishing a long hike felt like such a lifetime achievement for me. It has inspired me to want to continue adventures in the environment in a sustainable manner and hopefully become a leader who could share this experience with other people.”

Participant feedback

Green Lancaster Graduates: Case Studies

In this section we celebrate the achievements of some of our recent graduates who have engaged in our programmes alongside their formal studies at Lancaster University. Investing in the development of our student leaders is our priority and it's inspiring to see how our graduates can capitalise on their experiences at Green Lancaster as a springboard to a career in sustainability and societal change.



Naomi Young

Roles held:

- BSc Earth and Environmental Science, 2016-19
- Don't Ditch It Team Member, September 2018
- Environmental Sustainability Team Member, September 2018 - June 2019
- Don't Ditch It Project Supervisor, May 2019 - September 2019
- Green Lancaster Project Coordinator 2019-21

What was your entry point to Green Lancaster?

I first became involved with Green Lancaster when I was starting my dissertation on the 'Impact of short-term student residence on waste generation and sustainability'. After meeting with Darren Axe in June of my second year, I decided to apply for the Don't Ditch It Team Member role for the Grad College move-out in September. I got involved with the data collection and reporting for the project and then used this data in my dissertation, providing recommendations to Green Lancaster afterwards. I really enjoyed this role and from there, joined the Green Lancaster team as student staff for my third year of university.

What attracted you to getting involved?

I was initially attracted by the opportunity to get hands-on experience to support my dissertation. However, I continued to stay involved because of the positive impact Green Lancaster has by implementing change on campus through physical projects and events.

Highlights of involvement with Green Lancaster

My favourite time of year was always Don't Ditch It, as I found it really rewarding to be part of creating a circular economy and I loved spending my summers sorting through the donations to give to local charities or sell back to students at ECOShop. My other highlights were organising trips for students, such as to Hardknott Forest in the Lake District and delivering Carbon Literacy training to students.

Current workplace and career

I am currently an Environmental Advisor at Orbit Group, a Housing Association based across the Midlands, South and East of England. I deliver an Environmental Advisory Service across the three regions to monitor compliance with the Environmental Management System on construction sites, Independent Living schemes and offices.

How has your time with Green Lancaster helped with your job and career path?

I gained so much experience at Green Lancaster across the different themes, which allowed me to apply to the role I hold currently. I also gained valuable teamwork skills through all my roles and leadership experiences.

I am so grateful for all the opportunities I was given, and Green Lancaster has set the bar very high for any future jobs I apply to.

General comments

I would encourage anyone to get involved with Green Lancaster, whether through attending events or applying for a paid role as it completely shaped my time at Uni and my career after Uni.



Emilio García Padrón

Roles held:

- BSc Theoretical Physics, 2020-23
- Edible Campus Volunteer
- Edible Campus Maintenance Coordinator
- Edible Campus President

What was your entry point to Green Lancaster?

Getting involved with the Edible Campus society and collaborating with Green Lancaster in the delivery of our projects and community building at the ECOHub.

What attracted you to getting involved?

Originally it was the idea of a getting involved with a gardening society, to provide something very practical and outside, to disconnect from a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths) degree. This later evolved into the community and experiences enabled by the ECOHub which inspired me to get further involved!

Highlights of involvement with Green Lancaster

Taking on the role of Edible Campus President changed my career path when it made me realise what kind of leader I wanted to be. This was influenced by meeting a wonderful team that believed in me and making many friends as well meeting my partner. I made national connections within the Royal Horticultural Society and the Students Organising for Sustainability UK Food and Farming network.

At one of the events at the start of the academic year, we had 35 volunteers turn up – a first time for the society. I had to improvise, plan and supervise 5 distinct groups simultaneously. At the end of the session, when I walked into the community zone and saw 35 people laughing, talking, and creating bonds and I realised all the human value, especially connections, that my leadership had enabled.

Current workplace and career

I am undertaking Postgraduate studies at Imperial College London. Alongside my degree and work on Edible Campus at Lancaster, I was the founder of a software publishing startup which I continue to pursue.

How has your time with Green Lancaster helped with your job and career path?

Green Lancaster has had a substantial impact in my future aspirations in my personal life, having met most of my closest friends through Edible Campus, and my professional life, by making me realise I am suited to the role of leader and giving me the tools and experience to handle my current startup team. It has inspired me to pursue values beyond the economical by showing me that social values are also hugely rewarding. Green Lancaster has also guided me in my journey to become an entrepreneur and shaped my business model. It has demonstrated the potential of gardening for building resilient and tightly bonded teams. It has also helped me better my mental health by opening the doors to wonderful opportunities.

General comments

I believe that Green Lancaster and especially Edible Campus hold a tremendous potential within them – the infrastructure carefully put in place to form the ECOHub has induced a beautiful culture of student volunteers. Despite their varying passions for the environment and unique perspectives this collective of students decide to leave their differences aside and fight for a goal bigger than the sum of its parts. Fundamentally, Green Lancaster and Edible Campus inspire me with hope by standing as a symbol to what a sustainable future may look like.

Looking forward to 2023-24

As we publish our annual report celebrating our achievements in 2022/23, we are already underway with the delivery of our action plan for the new 2023/24 academic year. As environmental sustainability continues to move up the strategic agenda at Lancaster and beyond, our projects and activities hold even more value in building the conversations that will steer future decision making. Our priority remains the empowerment of our members with the skills and attributes to navigate the multi-dimensional challenges of the Anthropocene. Our strength is in collaboration and building positive networks with unilateral engagement.

Our new and expanded team of core staff and student leaders have an exciting programme of events lined up that build on the successes of 2022/23 and invite even wider collaboration in the planning and delivery.

2023/24 will also see the development and launch of a new strategic plan for the period 2024-27. This will build upon our original 10-year steering document for the critical decade on sustainability and the climate emergency. We look forward to working with all of our members and stakeholders to define the next chapter in our story.



green Lancaster

 @GreenLancaster

 www.lancaster.ac.uk/greenlancaster

 @GreenLancaster

 green@lancaster.ac.uk

 @Green_Lancaster