Green Impact helps people understand sustainability and social responsibility, shows them what they can do to make a difference, and supports them in achieving these actions.

It has been developed over the years, using social change theory and SOS-UK expertise to produce a model that works in all environments and workplaces year-after-year. It covers the whole sustainability spectrum and is based on the themes of continual improvement, collaboration and meaningful change to establish new social norms and inspire people with the skills and passion needed to make a difference.
GREEN IMPACT TEAM MEMBERS ARE PART OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

1,545 Organisations have used the Green Impact model

6,746 Teams have formed across departments

531,222 Positive sustainability actions and projects have been completed
WE’RE DELIGHTED THAT OVER THE YEARS:

- **84%** of participants find the programme either excellent or good;
- **83%** of people said that after being involved with Green Impact they know more about how to use their knowledge to make changes to their daily life;
- **72%** of people said that after being involved with Green Impact they’re also more likely to encourage others in the sustainability agenda too;
- **88%** of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt good about themselves as a result of taking part in Green Impact.

Source: SOS-UK end of year programme evaluation surveys
THE NATIONAL IMPACT IN 2021-22

- Been used by 455 organisations ranging from students’ unions to NHS Trusts
- Been made up of 1,003 teams led by 3,249 people
- Provided 740 students with training and development opportunities
- Engaged 59,126 people in sustainability and social justice issues
- Seen 25,547 actions and projects completed, 17,144 as a direct result of the programme

Find out more about Green Impact nationally and internationally here.
Green Impact offered teams 279 sustainability actions in an online, interactive workbook. Actions could be implemented in university departments, colleges and at home. The workbook included themes such as Energy, Waste, Travel, Wellbeing, Communication, Procurement and Biodiversity...

"the workbook is really user friendly and easy to use, facilitated allocating actions amongst the team easily, everyone can log on to track progress as a source of motivation, communication from the central green impact team has also been really great." 
Cambridge Team member, 2021-22
Since Green Impact launched at Cambridge in 2012, **152 teams** have participated and **20,288 actions** have been taken.

- **57 teams** took part in the programme
- **334 people** led the teams, with an average team size of 6
- **49 students** received training and development opportunities in their roles as auditors
- The programme has engaged **4,900 people** via Green Impact teams
- **2,487 actions** have been completed, **1,313** as a direct result of the programme
GREEN IMPACT TEAMS PROVIDED SOME NUMBERS ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT THEY ARE CREATING...

- 560 items rehomed through Warp It or similar and 352 items reused as part of stationery amnesties
- 641 people are using reusable cups and reusable water bottles
- 2,760,340 steps taken in pedometer challenges
- 411 staff received environmental training and 900 students were formally inducted on relevant environmental issues in their college
- 395 people joined a community engagement initiative
An estimated potential saving of £98,912 and 213,402 kgCO2e through an analysis of 6 workbook criteria.

Green Impact teams had support and involvement from 60 students.

10 people took an online environmental calculator to find out their carbon footprint.

26 people cycle to work, 36 use sustainable travel and 333 students attended cycle training.

137 actions were taken from the working from home tab, including virtual sustainable lunches, switching banks, and wellbeing activities.
Green Impact Team Actions 2021-2022

Read about further Green Impact initiatives.

Fauna & Flora International have mindfulness champions who promote good mental health practices.

The Investment Office are promoting the use of reusable water bottles.

Robinson College have reduced ruminant meat and introduced more vegan meals.

Wolfson College are shaping the grounds so the pond and lawns increase biodiversity and benefit student wellbeing.

Lucy Cavendish College have put together a comprehensive food sustainability policy.

MML ran a photography competition, in combination with Pride Month and 30 Days Wild.

Fauna & Flora International have mindfulness champions who promote good mental health practices.

Green Genies organised a litter pick of a woodland area and tidied up a fly tipping area, collecting around 15 bags of rubbish.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment Cape Town have implemented a thorough recycling system.

John van Geest Centre have been reducing, reusing and recycling their polystyrene waste.

Scott Polar Research Centre created a garden to increase biodiversity and installed benches made out of recycled materials.

Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre are working to reduce freezer temperatures to save energy.

The Herschel Smith Building have programmed lights to automatically turn off over the weekend, resulting in significant energy and cost savings.

The Faculty of Education took part in litter pick at the local park.
MRC Epidemiology continue to reduce their energy consumption and negative environmental impacts through a range of initiatives. This has included installing new ULT freezers and ULT compression system, moving samples to different storage sites to reduce travel, and monitoring and calculating energy consumption and travel impacts. The department will also be able to rent out freezer storage space to externals, helping to use the spaces more efficiently. Read about the team’s range of actions and progress since 2013.

Darwin College have been actively minimising their negative impact on the environment by changing the beverages that they have on sale within DarBar. During the College Green Week, several more sustainable beverages were trialled, for example beers made from surplus bread or cereal; products which require much less water and produce less waste in the brewing process; and local beverages. Read more about this initiative.

Girton College launched the Sensory Garden Competition, open to staff, students and fellows to submit a plan for the whole garden, part of the garden or a planting list. Entrants were encouraged to liaise with the Gardens Team to understand what recycled materials could be incorporated into designs and were advised to consider: sustainability with minimum maintenance and watering; promoting biodiversity; child friendly and accessible; appealing to all five senses. 10 designs were received and showcased in a Garden Walk, with elements of all designs being taken forward to the final garden design. This project has also led to the creation of a Green Forum for staff, students and fellows.
AWARD WINNERS

**NUS Green Impact**

**BRONZE AWARD**
- ADC Theatre
- Cambridge Spain
- Careers Service
- Investment Office
- Kettle's Yard
- Scott Polar Research Institute

**SILVER AWARD**
- Botanic Garden
- Cambridge Enterprise
- Cambridge University Press & Assessment - Cape Town
- CEB Green Impact
- Faculty of Music
- Herschel Smith Building
- Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre
- John van Geest Centre for Brain Repair
- Maxwell Centre
- Modern and Medieval Languages & Linguistics
- MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit
- MRC MBU
- SLCU

**GOLD AWARD**
- Department of Surgery
- Department of Geography
- Fauna and Flora International
- Christ's College
- Clare College
- Hughes Hall

**PLATINUM AWARD**
- Cancer Research UK
- Department of Land Economy
- IMS-MRL
- Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- The Green Genies - DPHPC
- Cambridge University Press & Assessment
- Churchill College
- Gonville & Caius College
- Jesus College
- Lucy Cavendish College
- Robinson College
- St John's College
- Wolfson College
- Darwin College
Each local special award winner will be entered into the national and international Green Impact Awards.

**Sustainability Hero**

**Winner: Alexander Carvell**
Led on communications and a biodiversity walk, with his enthusiasm and ambition driving a whole range of sustainability initiatives and Green Impact.

**Environmental Improvement**

**Winner: Andri Johnson**
Started the Cambridge University Press & Assessment allotment and recruited a group of volunteers for a weekly session.

**Student Leadership**

**Winner: Megan Groom**
Played a leading role in Green Week, the College garden, donation schemes, film screenings, bringing together Green Officers and so much more!

**Community Action**

**Winners: Amy Budd and Ruth Carter**
Introduced and have been running regular climate cafes within Cambridge University Press & Assessment. [Find out how, and why they set it up.](#)

**Innovation for Engagement**

**Winner: Department of Geography**
Worked with students to run a ‘student Instagram takeover’ to engage more students with climate activism, followed with an open meeting.
Participants are recognised through Green Impact

All team members and student auditors receive a digital badge to showcase their personal and professional development, with some auditors sharing these on LinkedIn. Award-winning teams also receive a recycled slate award.

Today I took part in Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) ‘Introduction to Auditing and Evaluating Environmental Behaviour Change’ training programme and was given the opportunity to conduct an environmental audit on the sustainability initiatives of Christ’s College Cambridge. Assessing documentary evidence, as well as interviewing staff teams and awarding them for their efforts to reduce organisational carbon emissions and improve biodiversity in line with United Nations Global Sustainability Goals was an invaluable experience that has armed me with greater environmental awareness.

Thank you to Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), Zoe Arnold and Susannah Cook for this opportunity.

#environmentaljustice #sustainability #innovation #training #audit
Susannah Cook, Sustainability Communications and Engagement Coordinator, said the following: “Coming to Green Impact as a new member of staff, I had no idea what to expect. After working with teams for six months, what I experienced was a wide variety of staff and students going above and beyond to advance sustainability while getting used to returning to the workplace. I was so impressed by the resilience and innovation displayed by all the teams to keep on making progress in their college or department. The highlight of my time at the University thus far has been hosting our awards ceremony in person, and getting to celebrate all our teams properly.”

Zoe Arnold, Project Manager at SOS-UK, said the following: “It has been great to see a number of new teams this year and returning teams progressing with their sustainability initiatives and moving up an award level. There has once again such a breadth of sustainability actions taken, covering themes of biodiversity, waste, energy, travel, wellbeing and so much more, all whilst engaging more staff and students. Everyone taking part in Green Impact are not only supporting shifts in personal behaviors but more significantly, enabling organisation-wide changes for increased positive outcomes.”
STUDENT AUDITORS SAID…

Very interesting day, nice to be able to directly apply the training. It was great to see what friendly and motivated staff are doing to improve the sustainability of the university.

Green Impact Training was a very insightful experience. Things we didn’t consider to improve sustainability were illuminated to me and shows that saving the planet does not have to be an impossible feat!

Participating teams are doing simple at first sight, yet useful things that bring "green" impact to their work environment. I am impressed with the motivation and engagement levels of staff, fellows and students. I definitely recommend the Green Impact training as the work these teams do is truly inspiring!

I enjoyed seeing the variety of initiatives taken across the university.
Thank you to all that made this year of Green Impact a success at the University of Cambridge!

www.greenimpact.nus.org.uk/

@sosukcharity #GreenImpact