Green Gown Awards
International

Winners’ Brochure 2020
Awarding Sustainability Excellence | Since 2004

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The Association of Commonwealth Universities

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HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE
Contents

The International Green Gown Awards are supported by UN Environment and are open to any university or college across the world. In the following pages, we are delighted to showcase the 2020 International Green Gown Awards Finalists and announce the Winners.

Endorsed by UN Environment, we are looking for inspirational sustainability leaders. Recognising exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by the world’s universities and colleges, the International Green Gown Awards set the bar and put every learning institution at the heart of delivering the UN Global Goals.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), L’Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), International Association of Universities (IAU) and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative.

The International Green Gown Awards are administered by EAUC.

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Sharing Best Practice
The Sustainability Exchange

As the ethos of the Awards is to ensure the lessons and examples of good practice are shared within the sector and beyond, regionally, nationally and globally, we work with all our Winners, Finalists and regional partners to produce case studies and short videos around their projects. Our current showcase of 600+ case studies and short videos can be accessed via the Sustainability Exchange.

To find out more, visit: www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk

Regional Green Gown Awards

The Green Gown Awards, recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges. They are delivered on a regional basis in Australasia, UK and Ireland and French-speaking regions.

The Winners of each region go automatically through as Finalists for the coveted International Green Gown Awards. The Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are respected by national Governments, funding councils, senior management, academics and students.

There will be institutions that show the below icon alongside the SDG logos. This icon shows that this Finalist is a Green Gown Award Regional Winner.

GET TWEETING ABOUT THE INSPIRATIONAL FINALISTS AT @GREENGOWNS

2020 International Green Gown Award Judges

The judging panel are representatives of sector organisations and/or specialists in a particular area and represent all international regions. It is their substantial experience in the sector that truly makes the International Green Gown Awards sector owned. We thank the judges for their time, commitment and valuable contributions.

The Green Gown Awards/International Green Gown Awards are administered by the EAUC. For more information please visit www.greengownawards.org

Disclaimer: The information provided within this publication has been provided solely by the applicant as defined by the Awards through the application process. No member of the Green Gown Awards team or steering group will be liable for any misrepresentation.
On September 25th, 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.

We asked each of our International Finalists to select up to a maximum of four goals that their application particularly delivered against. These are shown alongside their individual listings, showing the impact education has on a global scale.

Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goal

Want to be our headline sponsor?

Join us and be a part of the global innovation and problem-solving power of students, universities and colleges.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with the creativity and impact of the only global university, college and student sustainability leadership award.

As Headline Partner of the International Green Gown Awards, you will be a part of the solution. We want you to influence and share student, university and college global sustainability excellence in teaching and research, leadership, campuses and employability. Our partnership will show how students can benefit the quality of life for us all in our businesses and communities.

Work with us and let’s make a future fit for life.

The Awards are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and supported by the UN, national governments and education bodies.

For your valued partnership you will receive:

• Global profile with universities, colleges, governments and United Nations - a committed, well-connected and influential community
• EXCLUSIVE ‘in association with’ status – you will be the sole sponsor of the International Awards with your logo on all Award communications
• Present an Award and speech at the International Green Gown Awards Ceremony
• Work alongside winning students and institutions to create new placement and research opportunities
• Connect your organisation with world-leading research and practice, tell your sustainability story and have the opportunity to present in webinars relating to the Finalists over the next twelve months

The exclusivity and prestige of these established Awards, combined with the commitment and connections of influential applicants make this a hugely attractive partnership opportunity. We will work with you to maximise business value through access to entrants and the wider global Green Gown Award community.

Want to be a part of the solution? We would love to hear from you.

greengown@eauc.org.uk
www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards

Sign the SDG Accord www.sdgaccord.org
Benefitting Society

This category recognises the powerful and innovative ways education institutions are realising their purpose in today’s society to benefit the lives of individuals, communities and wider society.

54%

of the finalist institutions in this category chose Sustainable Cities and Communities as one of their project’s top 4 SDGs.
Winner - Small Institution
Ayrshire College
UK

What the judges thought...

#PassingPositivity Mental Health United

Mental Health United is an ongoing physical activity initiative that has been developed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the students, staff and wider community within Ayrshire.

In East Ayrshire alone suicide levels have doubled in the last 12 months. In the town of Cumnock, with a population of 12,000, 8 young people took their own lives in a 6-month period. Many of these young people are students of or have connections with Ayrshire College via family and friends.

Using sport and physical activity as a ‘hook’ the initiative engages with the community to highlight the issue and encourage those who might be emotional vulnerable, to seek the help that is available to them.

This was done in partnership with the Kris Boyd Charity. Kris is a former Scottish international footballer and captain of Kilmarnock Football Club. Kris started this charity after the tragic death of his young brother.

Through a series of student-led community events, Ayrshire engages community, media and sporting celebrities to promote physical activity’s contribution to mental health & wellbeing, directly addressing the significant issue of suicide in the local area. The judges particularly liked the hands-on approach towards the importance of mental health.

Top 3 learnings

1. #PassingPositivity.
2. It’s okay not to be okay.
3. Teamwork makes the dream work.
Student Law Office – facilitating access to justice in the North East

First established in 1993, Northumbria’s Student Law Office was one of the first legal clinics in the UK. Since then, its activities have grown exponentially, providing free legal advice and representation to approximately 300 people each year through the work of our students. The Student Law Office breaks down the barriers between academic study and real-world engagement to make a direct contribution to SDG 16 – providing legal representation and access to justice to those who might otherwise have none. The SLO works closely with Partners to maximise its impact as well as questioning and challenging current practice to influence law reform. The projects of the SLO not only provide Quality Education to our students through experiential learning and professional insight, but also address inequalities within education and social mobility – enabling a diverse range of students to advance their careers regardless of their own background and networks.

What the judges thought...

This exciting and innovative community engagement project has high engagement of students, longevity, scale and impact. This initiative allows law students to gain real-world skills whilst also benefitting the community by offering legal support to those in need. Excellent and well-rounded program!

What it means to win

“I’m delighted that the Student Law Office has won an International Green Gown Award. As well as providing law students with hands on legal practice experience, the SLO offers pro bono legal advice and representation to the public and demonstrates our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, including justice for all.”

Professor Andrew Wathey, Vice Chancellor

Top 3 learnings

1. Start small and let things grow.
2. Develop mutually beneficial partnerships to ensure project longevity and the best outcome for all.
3. Keep the project central to the School’s mission.

University activism for the conservation of ecosystems

The project stands out mainly for the reforestation activity of the mangrove forest through the social mobilisation of students and teachers from Universidad del Norte. The university campus becomes a space where society can be empowered about the importance of ecosystem goods and services. During the last 6 years, Ecocampus has promoted a space in which students, teachers and citizens in general can get involved on harvesting mangrove seeds (propagulos) in the Mallorquín swamp, planting and care of the mangrove plants during the growth period in the Living Classroom of the Universidad del Norte and the subsequent phase of reforestation in the natural park: Isla Salamanca. More than 2000 people have participated in all the processes, including students, teachers and citizens in general. The students who participate are from different careers and each year they organise and look forward to the beginning of the project.

What the judges thought...

It is inspiring to see students, teachers and community members not only contribute to the conservation of the ecosystem, but acquire skills and knowledge about it that go beyond their field of studies. This project recognises the importance of integrating people from different disciplines around environmental issues.

What it means to win

“We believe that this recognition can enable the activities we carry out to reach more people in the region and the country to form a network that works for the conservation of ecosystems and that the students of the universities recognise their active role in this.”

Joachim Hahn, Vice Chancellor

Top 3 learnings

1. We are a benchmark in the Caribbean and we encourage social mobilisation around environmental issues.
2. Our project seeks to promote the conservation of ecosystems through student engagement and activism.
3. Recognise the importance of integrating different population groups to environmental stewardship and conservation activities.
Green for Life: One Million Trees and Beyond!
De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) together with 15 other member schools of De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) responded to the call for positive climate action and to stop forest cover loss in the country. The One Million Trees and Beyond (OMTB) program was launched in 2006, with the aim of planting and nurturing one million trees all over the Philippines by 2011. The DLSP schools have surpassed their target and to-date have planted over 1.4 Million trees all over the Philippines. De La Salle Lipa, being 40-km from the coast of Batangas Bay, made a commitment, continued the program and adopted a 9-hectare area for mangrove reforestation. In partnership with the local government of Barangay Palanan, Lemery, Batangas, DLSL to-date planted a total of 34,911 mangroves over an area of four (4) hectares. Beyond mangrove planting, DLSL’s partnership with the local community is an essential component of the initiative. Not only has DLSL contributed to the greening of the Philippines, it has likewise helped a community grow in resilience.

Facens University Center
Brazil

LIS – Flourishing humanised professionals for the 21st century
At the moment we all live with exposed long-term issues that have been established as normal, such as extreme poverty, inequality and climate crisis. The new generations need much more than technical knowledge to face the complex challenges of the 21st century. They ought to have inner resources for self-management, resilience, compassion and empathy. Aiming at offering complementary skills to the technical education, LIS – Social Innovation Lab has been developing human-centered programs based on Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) Learning. These professionals will be the next generation of leaders who will help their communities to overcome future crises, as well as achieve social and environmental well-being.

International Islamic University Malaysia & Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia
Malaysia

LIGHT: Leadership for Social Empowerment
LIGHT is a leadership programme for university students with the theme “Leadership for Social Empowerment.” The programme is conducted through a community-project approach where students and academics from various disciplines engage with four local communities to produce cultural heritage products in Gombak, Malaysia. This serves as a very dynamic learning platform for the students to structurally apply the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom to the real world. More than that, the program is built upon strong synergies among academics, business players and the community itself, which forms the whole co-learning ecosystem.

This project’s impacts are not only for the students and communities but to shape a balanced and harmonised individual, in order for them to be responsible towards themselves, to God, to society and to all humankind. This is what the acronym of LIGHT stands for: L–Leadership, I–Intuitive, G–Giving, H–Humility, and T–Tenacity.
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through Leadership: The Eco-Rangers student movement at Quest International University Perak (QIUP)

In April 2019, a research-oriented student workgroup (Eco-Rangers) QIUP, Malaysia was established to design, develop and implement environmentally friendly activities for the campus and QIUP communities through a student-led initiative following the ESD approaches at QIUP. The Eco-Rangers workgroup consists of pre-university, undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as academic and administrative staff from QIUP in handling both on- and off-campus projects with the other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) like WWF-Malaysia and Axiata Foundation. A strong emphasis of self-volunteerism, self-motivation and leadership are observed among the participation of Eco-Rangers in a myriad of environmental related activities, e.g. Zero Straw, Waste Recycling and Upcycling, Environmental Documentary Screening and Environmental Poetry. We share our important collaborative learnings widely, through documentary film, research publications, policy interactions, and social media.

Quest International University Perak (QIUP)

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1. Many hands make light work in making the environment clean for everyone.
2. A small contribution will never be negligible as it adds to make a big difference to the environment.
3. It starts from you and it will influence others like a chain reaction.

Atención a la Diversidad Visual (ADVVI)

Atención a la Diversidad Visual (ADVVI) is an initiative that works to foster social inclusion, health promotion and prevention about visual disability. The project aims to develop vision care for the university community and people who live in marginalised rural localities of the state. ADVI also looks to create conditions where people with visual disabilities are able to take part in social and cultural activities, education and contribute to the professional world as much as possible. The actions aim to reduce the negative impact of society for the community with blindness and low vision by: awareness-raising and informative workshops, conferences, events and visual diagnostics in the University as well as rural localities.

1. We promote personal and professional development of people with visual disability.
2. Pioneers in a university program for promotion and prevention of visual health.
3. We foster a focus on vocational training based in social responsibility.

Yanama budyari gumada – walking with good spirit on Darug Country, western Sydney

The Yanama budyari gumada ‘walk with good spirit’ research collective is based on Darug Country, at Yellomundee Regional Park, Western Sydney. Led by Indigenous Darug custodian Uncle Lexodious Dadd, and involving NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and researchers and students from Newcastle and Macquarie universities, together we run the Darug Caring-as-Country project. We work hard to rekindle Indigenous ‘Caring-as-Country’ mechanisms on the national park’s estate, and have facilitated 17 Darug cultural camps between 2016-2019, enabling 450+ people to enhance environmental stewardship of Yellomundee by connecting deeply with Darug Country, culture, knowledge and language. We share our important collaborative learnings widely, through documentary film, research publications, policy interactions, and social media.

1. Communities are keen to connect with local Indigenous peoples, knowledges and cultures.
2. Enable new ideas, practices, processes and challenges to emerge.
3. Collaboration enables other groups to learn from our experiences.

Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (UAQ)

Comprehensive Interventions: Community diagnosis and intervention proposals

The project generates intervention proposals through a diagnosis that recognises the current situation of 14 communities and neighbourhoods in the city of Querétaro in needs, problems, social demands and areas of population development. Under an interdisciplinary perspective, the consultative participation of the citizens who inhabit the localities and the work of professionals from different formations who contributed their experience and knowledge, worked on advocacy proposals appropriate to the conditions of the selected localities. An interactive digital platform was generated to support the understanding of the data obtained and the proposals for intervention, which allows us to read the results of the project graphically, in addition to consolidating collaborative work links with localities, students and institutions, enhancing research and social intervention from the University.

1. Access to the urban reality and concrete intervention proposals appropriate to the context.
2. Prioritise community work and strengthen social ties.
3. Encourage community organisation actions which allow learning for all involved.

Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (UAQ)

Top 3 learnings

1. We promote personal and professional development of people with visual disability.
2. Pioneers in a university program for promotion and prevention of visual health.
3. We foster a focus on vocational training based in social responsibility.

Top 3 learnings

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CoordiNet: Large scale campaigns to demonstrate how TSO-DSO shall act in a coordinated manner to procure grid services in the most reliable and efficient way.

CoordiNet aims to demonstrate how DSOs (Distribution System Operators) and TSOs (Transmission System Operators) shall act in a coordinated manner to procure grid services in the most reliable and efficient way through the implementation of three large scale "TSO-DSO-Consumer" demonstrations, in cooperation with market participants and end users.

Three complete value chains of TSO-DSO-market participants constitute the backbone of the project in three demonstration macro-areas (Spain, Sweden, Greece) with ten demonstration pilots (four in Spain, four in Sweden and two in Greece).

The project will provide a pathway towards a seamless pan-European electricity market with non-discriminatory access to all market participants.

Top 3 learnings

1. I will demonstrate how DSOs and TSOs shall act coordinated to procure reliable and efficient grid services.
2. I will provide a pathway towards a seamless pan-European electricity market with non-discriminatory access.
3. I will define the building blocks for a future European platform.

The ACU is an international organisation dedicated to building a better world through higher education.

We believe that international collaboration is central to this ambition. By bringing universities together from around the world – and crucially the people who study and work within them – we help to advance knowledge, promote understanding, broaden minds, and improve lives.

We champion higher education as a cornerstone of stronger societies, supporting our members, partners, and stakeholders as they adapt to a changing world.

For the lives we can lead
Sustainability Institution of the Year

This category recognises sustained, whole-institution commitment and impact to becoming a sustainable organisation. Four main areas must be achieved: Leadership and Governance; Estates and Operations; Learning, Teaching and Research and Partnership and Engagement.

78% of the finalist institutions in this category chose Quality Education as one of their project’s top 4 SDGs.
Building a better future through USIL’s sustainable management model

USIL has been a sustainability institution since it was founded 25 years ago. Over the years, it has provided a quality education service within the framework of comprehensive sustainable management, which benefits the local and global community by shaping responsible, ethical citizens, educated with high professional, technical and human quality, who are capable of proposing sustainable and innovative solutions for Peru and the world. The process of making USIL a sustainable organisation began in 1996, when a group of students did volunteer work in favour of the least advantaged. Over time, these efforts were consolidated in an official area called the Office of the Vice President of Sustainability. In 2016, within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda, and with support from the university’s senior management, it was decided to align USIL’s policy and strategic plan with the SDGs and to implement them in three dimensions: academic management, social impact management, and environmental and governance management.

What the judges thought...

This is an excellent and innovative whole institution approach that has achieved a lot with restricted finances. Excellent integration of sustainability as a whole but also a good reach within communities and diversity in student enrolment. This is a long-term institutional engagement, promotion of partnerships and engagement of all sectors of the community. That this initiative was initiated and co-founded by students makes it stand out from the crowd – it ticks all the boxes!

What it means to win

“It would enable us to share our university sustainability model and education efforts aligned with the SDGs, to educational institutions worldwide for a greater positive educational impact. We will assume the challenge of making a difference with our model to improve the sustainable development of Peru and the global community.”

Miahong Huang Li, Vice President of Sustainability

Top 3 learnings

1. The commitment of university authorities, faculty, students and administrative staff is key.
2. Integrating sustainability in the DNA of the organisation’s strategic and operational management is vital.
3. The Sustainability Plan must be aligned with the organisational strategy to achieve the objective.

Winner - Small Institution
International Islamic University Malaysia

WIT for HUMAN (W-hole I-nstitutional T-ransformation for H-umanising U-niversity, M-aking A N-ovelty)

The continuous change in the higher education landscape has forced universities to respond with a diverse model of university to make themselves relevant. Despite a more demanding need for a contextualised model, the predominant force of neoliberalism still significantly influences and shapes the outcome. Against this trend, IIUM has embarked on a journey to showcase a Malaysian model of university that addresses Sustainable Development issues in a holistic manner, taking the whole institutional transformation (WIT) process as its approach. This WIT model hopes to change the university ecosystem by pushing the university agenda to systemically and systematically serve the community, together with other stakeholders - government agencies and industries/ business players.

What the judges thought...

Showing strong leadership with efforts to consolidate sustainable development approaches as part of the structure of the organisation, leading to long-term and institutional commitment. Engaging with the local community to identify areas of research is an excellent way to work collaboratively with others outside of the higher education realm and has the potential to have major impact for those communities.

What it means to win

“An international recognition of our initiative is very critical to sustain our momentum to consistently mainstream the Sustainable University agenda and leading the way towards it. This recognition indicates that we are not alone in pushing for change towards achieving sustainable development goals.”

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector

Top 3 learnings

1. We transform our institution into a sustainable, Sejahtera and HUMAN University (humaniversity).
2. We break the silos of different disciplines and unite as IIUM community.
3. We engage, empower, bring smile to the community and learn from them.
Highly Commended
Charles Sturt University

Creating a world worth living in
When Charles Sturt University adopted the Learning in Future Environments Index in 2012, and embedded as a KPI in the university strategy, the path was set for an ongoing commitment towards best practice across the whole-institution. Headline achievements include: being the first certified carbon neutral tertiary institution; Graduate Learning Outcomes incorporating sustainable practices; our Research Narrative framed around ‘creating a world worth living in;’ establishing in one of Australia’s largest rooftop solar energy systems by 2019; and investing $996,000 in sustainability and research grants between 2009 and 2018. Charles Sturt has demonstrated improvement each year.

What the judges thought...
This application shows a real will to integrate sustainable development in every aspect of the institution’s activity with convincing results. A well-rounded and comprehensive approach with thorough reporting and measuring mechanism. CSU’s effort is remarkable in the breadth of activities and achievements and scale of impact over many years.

What it means to win
“This is recognition that our structured approach to continuous improvement, as guided by the LiFE Index, is generating positive behaviour change and ongoing financial savings. This Award gives Charles Sturt further recognition and credibility as a University committed to a sustainable future and providing inspiration to our students, staff and regional communities that are so critical to our success”.
Professor Andrew Vann, Vice-Chancellor

Top 3 learnings
1. Human relationships are everything. Involve key decision-makers.
2. Measure, measure, measure – set your baselines.
3. Continue to set targets and strive for continual improvement.

Highly Commended
Universidad Tecmilenio

¡Happy Greenniversary!
Since it was known that the decade 2000-2010 was the one with historically the most CO2 emissions, Tecmilenio decided to take action in order to reduce this impact on the environment by changing the resources that enable the proper operation of the Campus, from large scale activities e.g. the energy supplied to its buildings, to smaller ones e.g. the cleaning products the staff use for daily tasks. With this scope, the university began to look for opportunities of waste removal in every area, establish with alternatives, and share the results with its brother University, its personnel, and student body, so these groups could consider sustainable practices when developing academic or social projects, such as personal ones. Even though the University has applied several measurements and initiatives to conquer its goal of being a sustainable Campus, it is developing new strategies for reducing its emissions, and will continue to do so.

What the judges thought...
These sustainability procurement practices we are taking are a step to have a positive impact in the entire society around us. Winning is an honour and a big responsibility for us to share efficiently our practices and processes in order to become a guidance pillar for developing more Happy Sustainable Campuses around the world.”
Bruno Zepeda Blouin, Rector

Top 3 learnings
1. We acknowledged the importance of job positions that may lead the institution into a sustainable future.
2. Every product and action has an impact on the environment - it is possible to reduce this impact.
3. Activities introduces more people of our community and creates a deeper bond among us.
Highly Commended
University of Worcester

Small but Mighty - University of Worcester punches above its weight

The University of Worcester may not be one of the largest universities in the UK but it was ranked first in the UK for Quality Education and Gender Equality and 33rd in the world in the recent THE University Impact Ranking. For many years it has consistently featured at the top of the People and Planet league and is known for the sustainable practices of its building (renovation and new buildings, such as The Hive), our integration of sustainability into curriculum, and notably our work with the community and with students. It is consistently innovating and collaborating, showing much can be achieved with few resources. The University is deeply committed to a democratic culture of inclusion, educational excellence and beneficial impact in society. Strong, sustained and supportive leadership, transparent educational excellence and beneficial impact in society.

Top 3 learnings
1. We found new synergies available across the regional community in developing your vision.
2. We can’t do this on our own. Little by way of innovation occurs in isolation.
3. When it’s interwoven and inspirational more people can feel motivated.

What the judges thought...

The incentives provided to educators to work sustainability into their teaching is a brilliant way to bring it into all aspects of the institution. The campus is a living laboratory for developing, testing and implementing solutions incorporating trans-Atlantic learning and innovation with long-term engagement. A very ambitious, well-rounded project that deserves to be commended!

What it means to win

“This award is wonderful recognition for the commitment, dedication and imagination shown by students and staff over many years in creating a truly sustainable university and society. It is a powerful springboard to contributing much more to the movement needed to tackle the climate emergency and protect our planet.”

Professor David Green CBE, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive

De La Salle Lipa (DLSL)
Green Energy, Green Schools

As early as May 2016, De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) anchored its mission-vision, among others, to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and set one of its strategic directions to Creating Sustainable Futures, its commitment to environmental sustainability and reduction of carbon emissions. This has empowered the institution to shift close to 80% of its power mix from conventional sources to renewables starting the Academic Year 2017-2018. The pivot to renewables in DLSL’s power mix led to an average saving of PHP333,456.00 (approximately US$6,538) per month and a 78.5% reduction in carbon emissions. This Green Energy (shift to renewables) initiative forms part of the Power and Energy Roadmap and Smart Cities initiatives whereby DLSL hopes to share its experience, provide a working model and accompany the local government units of the province of Batangas, Philippines to adopt similar technologies that will reduce the overall impact of our urban communities on the environment and mitigate the main cause of climate change.

Top 3 learnings
1. Our larger mission is the transformation of the community.
2. We are in the business of creating learning experiences.
3. We reimagine education by driving real world solutions to actual community problems.

NYU Abu Dhabi

startAD - Sparking startup sustainability – startAD and its environmental entrepreneurial work

startAD is an entrepreneurship accelerator, anchored at NYU Abu Dhabi and powered by its partner Tamkeen. startAD supports Abu Dhabi and the UAE’s goals of becoming a knowledge-based economy by equipping students, startups, and corporates with the necessary tools to build innovative new products that serve a global need, collaborate across organisations, and develop entrepreneurial capacity.

At startAD, we have focused on not only working with start-ups and students to develop their skills, but also to broaden their thinking and ambitions to include goals in line with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Over the course of our existence, we have worked with over twenty start-ups who are committed on providing sustainable solutions to investors.
To be sustainable is to live sustainability in a conscious manner: Sustainable UV
The Universidad Veracruzana’s (UV) sustainability programme is a 10-year old institutional project dedicated to integrating the human and systemic sustainability approach to the university’s core functions (teaching, research, outreach and campus management) with the broad participation of its community. It consists in 5 interwoven working themes with several projects: healthy nutrition and responsible consumption; sustainable institutional management; water, energy and waste management; sustainable urban mobility and campus spaces; and education and communication for sustainability. Under a scheme of social responsibility, the university has promoted sustainability, interculturality and gender equity practices among its community and the most vulnerable sectors of the state of Veracruz through its intercultural branch (UVI), its social service brigades and the collaboration with the productive, public and social sectors.

Examples of projects
Action pour l’Innovation Francophone (ACTIF) – SDG 17
An international and multi-partner collaborative system for social and solidarity innovation.

- Collaborative intelligence workshops between universities
- Development of a label for responsible innovation in Francophone universities.
- Creation of an academic network and a think tank on responsible innovation.
- Creation of a fund to support responsible and inclusive innovation projects with a positive impact.

Annual international meetings on major societal issues
These conferences gather academic, professional and public stakeholders from all five continents.

- SDG 8: The University-Business Relationship, 2016, Montreal, Canada
- SDG 4: QA in higher education and research, 2017, Beirut, Lebanon
- SDG 3: Public health, 2017, Brussels, Belgium
- SDG 11: Sustainable cities and urban mobility, 2019, Dakar, Senegal

www.auf.org

University of Oviedo
The present and future of the University of Oviedo in regard to its commitment to Sustainable Development Goals
The 2030 Agenda has given the University of Oviedo the chance to rethink its role in society and has led, for the first time, to a full awareness to manage and implement strategic actions between 2016 and 2019 linked with the Sustainable Development Goals. This focus has never been given to the University’s strategic roadmap before, or in other education settings and institutions in their geographic/ surroundings. With this challenge, the University of Oviedo is one of the pioneering Spanish universities in going a step further. It is making the community more responsible and calling for collective actions for the commitment of sustainable development, as well as increasing awareness that the University of Oviedo has multiple roles to play in this (in education, research and as institutions in a specific economic and social ecosystem).

Top 3 learnings
1. The 2030 Agenda: Our responsibility as a university.
2. Local community engagement.
3. SDGs - A global challenge.

AGENCE UNIVERSITAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE - AUF
The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) brings together 990 French-speaking universities and grandes écoles, academic networks and scientific research centres in 118 countries. The AUF is also the higher education and research agency for the Sommet de la Francophonie. The AUF was established almost 60 years ago, and fosters active solidarity between higher education and research institutions, in order to implementing projects that transform the university system.

AUF, IAU/AIU and ACU have joined forces to promote the role of higher education and its contribution to the 2030 agenda

www.auf.org
Student Engagement

This category reflects that students and staff must work together to achieve goals using “top-down” and “bottom-up grass roots” methods to achieve maximum understanding and engagement across an institution. It must be clear that initiatives include both staff and students (not just one party) working in partnership.

64% of the finalist institutions in this category chose Climate Action as one of their project’s top 4 SDGs
UK

Strathclyde’s Global Student – Using Vertically Integrated Projects to make a difference through ‘useful learning’

By 2025 it is reported that the global student population in FHE will reach over 260 million. Undergraduate students represent a force that is ready and waiting to be mobilised; to apply their new-found knowledge and skills NOW; and shape a sustainable future for themselves and all of us.

This is the guiding principle for the University of Strathclyde’s credit-bearing “Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development” (VIP4SD) programme. The programme uses the “Vertically Integrated Projects” approach to Research-Based Learning that emerged from Georgia Institute of Technology, as a mechanism for embedding Research-Based ESD in our undergraduate curricula.

The VIP4SD programme provides a platform for staff and students to partner with each other in setting up and running SDG-based research teams.

What the judges thought...

The judges particularly liked the global impact and how this project can be replicated easily. Working across disciplines to solve real-world sustainability problems is such an effective way to increase students’ employability and skills while also making a difference in the community and the education of students cross-dimensionally. An excellent program!

What it means to win

“I am delighted that the University of Strathclyde has received this prestigious award, which recognises our commitment to engage our students in new ways of teaching and learning that enable them to work in partnership with their peers, researchers and academics to make a difference to sustainable development through ‘useful learning’.”

Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal and Vice Chancellor

Top 3 learnings

1. Start small and build – convince those who need convincing by doing!
2. Work with like-minded people and the others will follow in time!
3. Follow the (other) 3 P’s - Be passionate, persistent and proactive!

Brazil

ECOGING – Empower to Change the Game

Pupils from public schools in Brazil often face issues such as bullying, lack of life perspective and poor environmental education. Aiming to address these problems ECOGINC was created as a game developed by university students for high-schoolers to discuss and get in touch with environmental issues in a creative and fun way. During 3 days of activities, volunteer University students play the role of mentors which allows participants to connect and promote environmental awareness, also practice teamwork and develop standards of respectful behaviour towards others, from which collaboration can follow on. The University is not doing this activity on its own and the partners for this project could not be more adequate, as they have their core business based on the practices ECOGINC wishes to disseminate, such as sustainability and high impact on the life of others. This project benefits not only high school and University students but also prepares teachers and principals with techniques that can be applied in other subjects and the cultural change becomes perennial.

What the judges thought...

The judges welcomed the holistic approach from primary to tertiary education. The innovative approach connects environmental awareness to a sense of community whilst fostering a better and more respectful co-existence. This project is an innovative and dynamic way of engaging students from different levels on sustainable development and SDG implementation.

What it means to win

“Winning the International Green Gown Award emphasises the efforts we put towards cultivating students as changemakers with broad-based skills beyond their subject area, such as systems thinking, empathy, collaboration and creativity, increasing the opportunities for multi-disciplinary, blending theory and practice and integration with local communities.”

Paulo Carvalho, Dean

Top 3 learnings

1. Be the change can be fun!
2. Facing an interesting challenge mobilises all parties to make the difference: Facens students, professors and also the school pupils.
3. Discovering hidden talents can be an important weapon in tackling complex problems.

Winner - Large Institution
University of Strathclyde

Winner - Small Institution
Facens University Center
Highly Commended
Universidad del Norte

University activism for the conservation of ecosystems
The project stands out mainly for the reforestation activity of the mangrove forest through the social mobilisation of students and teachers from Universidad del Norte. The university campus becomes a space where society can be empowered about the importance of ecosystem goods and services. During the last 6 years, Ecocampus has promoted a space in which students, teachers and citizens in general can get involved on harvesting mangrove seeds (propagulos) in the Mallorquín swamp, planting and care of the mangrove plants during the growth period in the Living Classroom of the Universidad del Norte and the subsequent phase of reforestation in the natural park: Isla Salamanca. More than 2000 people have participated in all the processes, including students, teachers and citizens in general. The students who participate are from different careers and each year they organise and look forward to the beginning of the project.

What the judges thought...
It is inspiring to see students and teacher from different disciplines coming together to create positive change for the ecosystems in their community. The students not only contribute to the conservation of the ecosystem, but acquire skills and knowledge about it that go beyond their field of studies with long lasting effects for the community.

What it means to win
“We believe that this recognition can generate the activities we carry out reach more people in the region and the country to form a network that works for the conservation of ecosystems and that the students of the universities recognise their active role in this”
Joachim Hahn, Vice Chancellor

Top 3 learnings
1. We must encourage social mobilisation around environmental issues.
2. Our project seeks to promote the conservation of ecosystems through student engagement and activism.
3. We recognise the importance of integrating different population groups.

Highly Commended
University of Graz

How “Greta” is our University? - Sustainability Days of the University of Graz
Since 2016, the Sustainability Days of the University of Graz has been the biggest sustainability event of the year. For this year’s topic, How “Greta” is our University?, the focus will be on creating awareness among students, employees and university stakeholders on sustainability topics with the addition of encouraging the university to become a carbon-neutral institution by 2040. The event takes place in December on campus and all activities are provided for free. The programme offers a large variety of activities including a panel debate, a poetry slam, a “sustainable campus” guided tour and workshops. An additional highlight is the Sustainability Design Thinking Challenge. The Sustainability Days were initiated five years ago by proactive students and its organisation is now strongly supported by the university. The mission is to inspire other organisations to support student initiatives, empower future leaders, and be a role model for a more participatory campus life!

What the judges thought...
This great initiative raises awareness amongst students and reaches a wide audience, with a very diverse programme involving arts, workshops, exhibitions and panel discussions. This initiative brings diverse community members together around sustainability and intensifies the learning component and creates links to the economy. This model is highly replicable.

What it means to win
“It is an honour for our university to receive an International Green Gown Award and to be recognised as a pioneer university for sustainable achievement of our students. We are gratified to encourage our academic environment, stakeholders and other universities to unfold their potential towards the SDG’s, especially the mentioned ones.”
Dr Martin Polaschek, Director

Top 3 learnings
1. We experienced how to communicate sustainability attractively to larger groups of students and academics.
2. We learned to transform academic capacities into applicable sustainable innovations.
3. We formed interdisciplinary teams that were able to realize their potential in creating sustainable innovations.
Highly Commended
University of Wollongong

Australia

Desert Rose – A House for Life Demonstrating Sustainable Dementia Friendly Design

The Solar Decathlon competition challenges teams of university students to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are innovative, energy-efficient and attractive. The University of Wollongong’s “Desert Rose” project involved students and staff from all five faculties and TAFE NSW. This team of students and staff have worked tirelessly to demonstrate the possibility of building a sustainable energy-efficient home that also meets the needs of an ageing population. Team UOW achieved second place overall in the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018 competition, along with 8 other awards. “The Desert Rose” is the first dementia friendly home in a Solar Decathlon.

What the judges thought...

This project stands out because of its multi-disciplinary collaboration of students, staff and external partners and a very innovative outcome. This project stood out due to its innovation and hands-on approach to engaging students. The reach of this project is also very impressive with huge capacity for mobilising partners and connecting health and environmental protection.

What it means to win

“The University of Wollongong aspires to drive awareness and commitment to sustainability in Australia. To have our students, researchers and collaborators recognised for their outstanding contribution to this mission with an International Green Gown Award - the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the tertiary education sector - is exceptional. I am delighted!”

Professor Paul Wellings CBE, Vice-Chancellor

Top 3 learnings

1. The economic game ‘Family Economy’ clearly emphasises the problem of poverty.
2. We have designed interdisciplinary lesson ‘Water Philosophy’.
3. The web-quest allows each one of us to connect a large number of people around a single SD-problem.

Belarusian State Pedagogical University (BSPU)

Belarus

Green Volunteer School: 17 SDGs

Green Volunteer School: 17 SDGs

The Green Office BSPU staff will conduct a number of master classes on each of the 17 SDGs. In cooperation with students of BSPU, classes on sustainable development will be designed and tested using effective pedagogical approaches and forms, such as business games, mini-conferences, intellectual games, discussion lessons, STEAM-classes, web-quests, design workshops, volunteer actions, open cinema shows, etc. The focus of work forms will be on youth. The Green Volunteer School (GVS) was the continuation of the successful project ‘17 days - 17 SDGs’, which was implemented among students in middle and senior classes in 2018-2019. GVS is aimed at preparing future teachers for the promotion of ideas and principles of sustainable development in their professional activities. As a result, a methodological and interactive guide will be created to promote the ideas and principles of sustainable development among young people.

Top 3 learnings

1. System-wide commitment and ownership results to significant change in consumption practices.
2. Disruptive positive change is possible with full support from school heads empowering student mobilisation.
3. Communication and hand-holding of stakeholders are key to projects that have positive impact.

De La Salle Lipa (DLSL)

Philippines

Campaigns on Creating Sustainable Futures: Bring Your Own Container

In Academic Year 2017-2018, as a practical response to the increasing of environmental degradation and risks posed to human health, De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) took a stand to reduce its generation of plastic wastes by (1) banning plastic bottled water and beverages on the campus; and (2) encouraging all stakeholders to bring their own water containers and make use of the available water hydration and drinking fountains found all over the campus. In the last three academic years, DLSL has successfully brought down plastic waste generation between 50% and 80% relative to a base of 4,066 kg per year in AY 2016-2017. Encouraged by this, the DLSL community is making improvements in its waste generation monitoring systems.

Top 3 learnings

1. Dream Big. The power of big dreams helps give students the drive and initiative to solve complex problems.
2. Diversity. Think outside the box and ask other disciplines and cultures their thoughts.
3. Consult Early and Wide. Don’t try and solve problems without involving people as they are the solution.

Top 3 learnings

1. 1. System-wide commitment and ownership results to significant change in consumption practices.
2. 2. Disruptive positive change is possible with full support from school heads empowering student mobilisation.
3. 3. Communication and hand-holding of stakeholders are key to projects that have positive impact.
Saves2 – Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2
Saves2 aims to encourage sustainable energy behaviours among 219,000 university students in seven European countries, between 2017-2020, to help them reduce their exposure to fuel poverty and install good sustainability habits. It incorporates two strands that engage students living in university accommodation and in the private-rented sector. Students living in university accommodation are encouraged to participate in inter-dormitory energy-saving competitions at their university; 38,000 students living in 14 universities participate each academic year. With the help of student ambassadors, the campaign motivates students to save energy and win prizes as a result. Social media is used to tap into student communities and raise awareness of how students can save energy in a fun way. A specifically designed energy dashboard is used to feedback to students in near-real time on the performance of their dormitory encouraging further action.

Lycée d’Akwa-Nord Bonamoussadi
Cyprus
African Network for Sustainable Development Education (ANSDÉ) - Students’ action for environment and climate
It’s a project based on the struggle against pollution through education, sensitisation and training. Students are at the heart of the project; they are members of the environment club and police of their schools and they are still educating their school friends on the importance of keeping their environment clean by tackling plastic usage, especially single-use plastic. Their school environment will be plastic free before the end of the school year 2019-20. First of all they are trained by their teachers on sustainability before acting on the school field.

University of Cyprus
Cyprus
Top 3 learnings
1. Sorting through waste, organic and plastic.
2. Transforming organic waste into ecological coal.
3. Planting flowers and trees with this coal.

University Institute of Technology of Saint-Etienne
France
Top 3 learnings
1. The UIT is a remarkable site in terms of its eco-responsible approach.
2. Eco-responsibility - a civic commitment and a community investment for the UIT.
3. Acting is now, not 10 years from now!

Yale University
USA
Top 3 learnings
1. One size does not fit all. Plans should reflect the unique context of different communities.
2. Fully engage and earn the trust of stakeholders. Culture change takes time.
3. Welcome change and innovation. Action plans provide a foundation, but they are evolving.

University Institute of Technology of Saint-Etienne
France
Students - actors of the eco-responsible approach at the UIT of Saint-Etienne!
For several years, the UIT has been committed to an approach in favour of sustainable development. The originality lies in the fact that this work has been carried out based on pedagogical projects. The commitment of the students through these projects has enabled the UIT to set up numerous actions on the campus and the challenge this year was to organise a sustainable development week in which the students of the Business Management and Administration department (organisation, event management), and those of the Biological-Environmental Engineering Department (shared garden project) were involved.

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IAU brings together higher education institutions from different parts of the world, sizes and contexts as a truly global community, where sharing common challenges helps grow from each other’s experiences and fosters collaboration to come up with innovative solutions to transform our societies.

IAU aims to be the most representative and influential global association of diverse higher education institutions and organizations. It advocates for a dynamic leadership role of higher education in society and promotes policies that respect diversity and promote social responsibility.

IAU strongly advocates for higher education’s contribution to sustainable development by:

- maintaining a global portal mapping sustainable university practices around the world (iau-hesd.net);
- monitoring global trends and conducting surveys;
- animating a Global Cluster of IAU Members undertaking collaborative initiatives to achieve the UN SDGs.

IAU is also proud to support the Green Gown Awards, that recognizes the uniqueness and diversity of universities’ engagement towards sustainable development.

IAU organizes global networking events, provides advisory training and capacity-building programmes, conducts research and engages in advocacy activities. IAU focuses its work on four strategic priorities:

**LEADERSHIP**
IAU helps universities strengthen their capacity, to develop a values-based leadership and maximize their impact on communities.

**INTERNATIONALIZATION**
IAU supports universities in implementing internationalization processes that enhance quality of learning, research and outreach for all.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
IAU assists higher education leaders wishing to embed sustainable practices and policies in their institutional strategic plan.

**TECHNOLOGY**
IAU promotes technological advances that improve the quality of higher education and increase access to knowledge & education for all.

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The Alliance is working on:

- Developing a new “Little Book of Green Nudges”
- Connecting the cogs to create more green jobs
- Providing nature-focused educational content for students, parents and teachers around the world through Earth School.
- Mobilising student groups and partners in Junior Achievement, Girl Guides and the Scout Movement to inspire millions of young people to complete the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge
- Engaging the video gaming industry – which reaches 1 in 3 people on the planet – to build environmental awareness into games and to support the industry to go carbon neutral by 2025

UN Environment’s Youth and Education Alliance (YEA!) aims to work with both Universities and partners in youth movements to inspire action and leadership by young people for the environment and Global Goals.

The Alliance works through higher education and youth networks with the goal of reaching as many institutions as possible.

UN Environment’s door is always open to new partners, ideas and suggestions.

Get in touch by dropping the team an email at unenvironment-yea@un.org

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The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector’s Collective Response to the Global Goals