



FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future

Celebrating our first year of FutureProof

FutureProof was officially launched in June 2018. Since then we have held 6 workshops around key sustainability issues at Canterbury and Medway and built a network of 65 sustainability champions representing 43 teams and departments from across the University. 52 of these champions are actively engaging with sustainability issues and activities, with 32 of them working on their own projects developed in their own departments. Please take a look at the rest of the poster series below to see what kind of things the champions have been doing.

For further information please email sustainability@kent.ac.uk



FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future

Welcome to the Kent Community Oasis Garden

KentCOG is a partnership project between the University of Kent, Kent Enterprise Trust, Kent Union and the Whitstable and Herne Bay Beekeepers.

The garden is undergoing a six year development project to create a fully accessible, mixed use site that is centred around community growing, health and wellbeing, and learning and teaching.

For further information please come along to one of our open sessions (every Wednesday 10am -2pm; find us online at blogs.kent.ac.uk/kentcog; or email us at kentcog.ac.uk

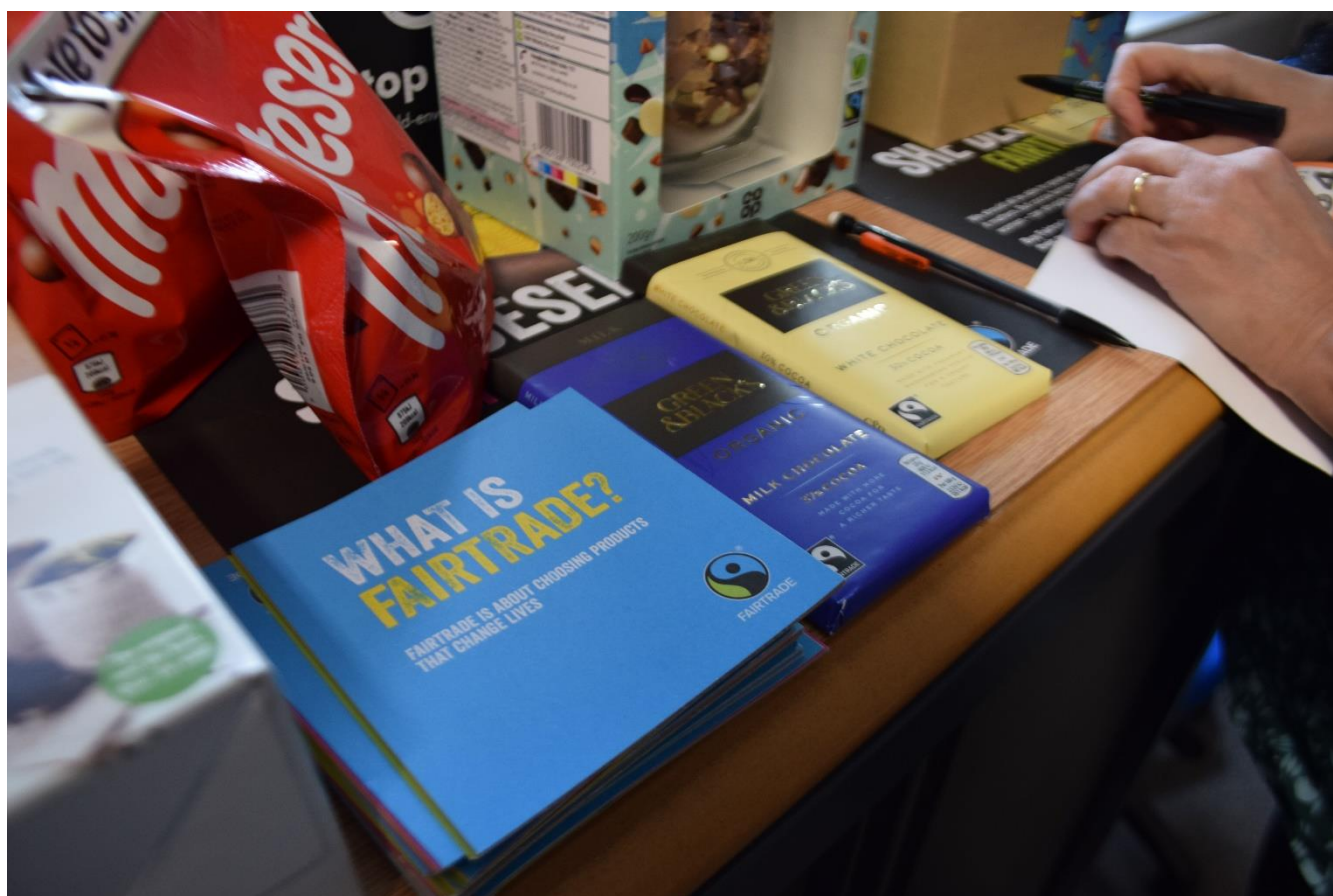
FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future

Medway Green Space – The Medway campus has a patch of green space that is underused and not particularly relaxing to spend time in (it is next to a busy road). However, the Medway sustainability group made up predominantly of champions from Student Services knew it had great potential to be developed into a space that could provide an alternative to an otherwise urban environment.

Working with the Estates Department they have come up with a series of ideas and designs that utilise the campus' small patch of woodland as a focal point for a wellbeing and art trail, incorporating music and natural sounds to break up the noise from the road.

This will provide a unique space for alternative outdoor therapy for students accessing the University's mental health services, and a space for all campus users to get away from it all. The project has now received funding and work is due to start this summer.



Bringing a department together – The Medway Student Services team have been taking part in sustainability projects at Kent since 2010. For the team, working on sustainability projects allows them time together as a team away from their desks to enjoy something separate from their jobs. This year they held a Fairtrade tasting event at their offices and raised money for the Fairtrade Foundation through a raffle. A good amount of chocolate was consumed and the group discussed various sustainable food topics including ethical trade, the use of palm oil and composting food waste.

As the most active sustainability staff on the Medway campus they will form the basis of a new Medway sustainability network in partnership with the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christchurch University.



Find out more information:
E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future



Sustainable Food Strategy – October 1st 2018 saw the launch of the University's first ever sustainable food strategy. It is a road map for increasing the sustainability of our food offering from field to fork and beyond, and has been co-written by sustainability champions from Kent Hospitality, Kent Sport, The Gulbenkian and the Estates Department, along with the Kent Union Environment Officer and student and staff reps. The strategy supports the University's aim to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into our operations and meet ever increasing demand for more sustainable options across our campuses' menus. The steering group hope that this strategy is the first step for us to use our buying power to encourage healthy and sustainable food production and consumption.



Project Zero – The Gulbenkian have been on a mission to reduce all waste where possible from their café, theatre and cinema operations. This year there has been a focus on plastics and so far they have:

- Removed all single use plastic bottles in the café, saving 29,379 plastic bottles since August 2018
- Switched to re-usable plastic pint and half pint cups which significantly reduced their single use plastic cup buying
- Partnered with 'Too Good To Go' and over the last 2 months have sold over 150 magic bags worth of food. This is food that would normally be thrown away
- Sent all their milk bottle caps to a company that reuse the plastic, that's about 300 caps a week

The Sustainability Team at the Gulbenkian will be continuing Project Zero into the next academic year and will continue their focus on waste as well as looking at carbon.



© Jim Higham

Find out more information:
E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future

Greening Keynes – As part of Keynes College's 50th Anniversary the Master's Office at Keynes wanted to celebrate sustainability. They launched a sustainability scholarship, supporting a student to develop a sustainability community at Keynes centred around growing food and wellbeing. With help from the grounds team in Estates a design has been developed for a wellbeing courtyard that incorporates: raised beds for growing; pollen rich planting for bees and other pollinators; and screened off seating that allows people somewhere quiet to sit. Funding has now been secured and work on the space should start over summer.



Engaging students in the climate crisis – Champions from the School of Anthropology and Conservation (SAC) perhaps know best what the current crisis associated with anthropogenic climatic change means for people and planet. For their FutureProof project they sought to engage their students into the discussion and set up an informal sustainability group within SAC that staff and students could use as a forum to discuss this issue and take action.

The group has been a success with regular meetings and a consistent, large student attendance. They have begun discussions with the school management on how the school itself can significantly reduce its own impact; what direct action could students and staff take to raise awareness of the climate crisis across the University; and how could the school demonstrate and support other schools in transitioning to a low carbon future.



Find out more information:

E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk

T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future



Using student research to inform sustainability action in Sibson – The Sibson Green Team is made up of champions from Kent Business School, the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, and the Sibson café. The Sibson building, rated BREEAM excellent, is one of Kent's most sustainable buildings, however, champions noticed that users of the building were not always acting in the most sustainable way. Issues included: high usage of single use disposables; low understanding of waste segregations; and choosing the less energy efficient doors when entering and exiting the building.

Rather than design their own interventions that may or may not work, the Sibson Green Team decided to use this as an opportunity to embed sustainability into the curriculum of a particular cohort of students. Every year, students taking the KBS marketing and market research modules are given 'real life' challenges to work on. Generally these challenges, under the title Pitch It!, are set by external business contacts who have a business problem they would like students to come up with solutions to. This time, Dr Rachel Duffy set Stage 2 market research students a challenge to look at attitudes to sustainability in the Sibson building. Students received an initial briefing on the University's sustainability work from the sustainability team, and were set the challenge of researching use of single-use plastic, recycling and energy consumption in the building.

Working in teams, students were given a month to research the challenge and propose marketing deliverables to help to cut use of single-use plastics; improve recycling rates – particularly within the café; and drive better energy efficiency across the building. These teams then pitched their ideas to a panel made up of the Sibson Green Team champions explaining their methodology, findings and solutions. The challenge was valuable, not only in the findings which came out of it, which the group are now working on implementing in the building, but also in helping to spread the word to our student body about Sustainability work going on at the University and encouraging them to be a part of it. Students taking part in the Pitch It! challenge reported that by undertaking the research they had found their own behaviours changing as a result.



Find out more information:
E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future

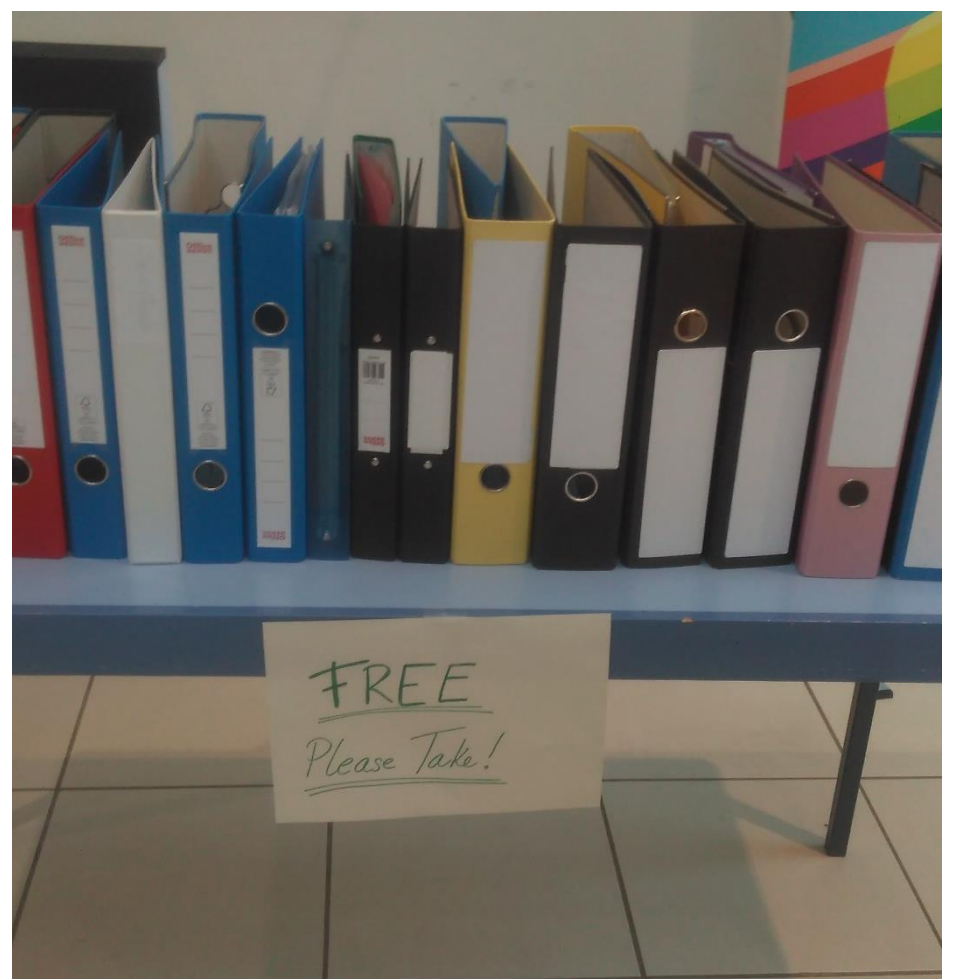


Kent Bunny gives back – If you have spent any time on campus, especially around Easter, you may have seen a familiar face wandering round, the Kent Bunny. Kent Bunny whose home is found in the Development Office wanted to do something that would allow the University to connect with our local community, and in particular its hospitals. In the development office, they had been thinking a lot about mental health and how it is just as important as physical health and yet often not talked about. They wanted to do something to try to bring some happiness to children and parents who were going through particularly stressful and difficult periods whilst accessing hospital services.

As it was Easter they decided to utilise the University's mascot, Kent Bunny, collecting over 40 eggs donated by University staff, students and alumni. Bunny delivered these to local hospitals to delighted children who really enjoyed meeting him. Parent said how nice it was to have something a bit different to break the day up and there were smiles all round.



The road to paperless – The Student Services Directorate office was over-run with lever-arch folders full to bursting with paper copies of minutes and agendas of meetings gone by. Space was running out! Student Services Sustainability Champion Kelda decided to review the entire filing system and found that almost all of it was also kept electronically either by their own department or by colleagues across the University. With this reassurance the shredding began! 20 shredding bags later the office was overwhelmed with empty plastic wallets and lever-arch folders. A quick email to the department and within a few days staff had collected around a quarter of the folder-mountain. Another email to the Master's Office gave them the go-ahead to put the remaining 80 or so folders in the Keynes College Atrium for students to take. The 5 minutes it took to email the staff and put folders in the foyer has saved the department the cost of buying new stationery, saved the students the cost of a few folders each and saved the University the cost of getting them recycled. Looking at the future of filing in the office, they are printing far less and keeping electronic copies on file rather than paper. Although not completely paperless yet, they are moving in the right direction.



Find out more information:

E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk

T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future



PROJECT 13

Taking action against climate change



Project 13 – Project 13 was a student energy competition that champions from the Estates Department and Kent Hospitality designed as a trial for the 18/19 academic year. Students from the Parkwood Flats were challenged with the task of reducing their energy with up to date normalised meter readings available online for each flat allowing them to see how they were doing. The trial was designed as a novel way of encouraging students to engage with Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action, whilst reducing carbon emissions at the University and saving money. The competition ended in March 2019 with the winning flat using 20% less energy than the average flat. The winning students were invited to Tanglewood to receive their prize – £1000 to be shared amongst them. The students reported actively switching things off to reduce their energy consumption and generally being low users as they were engaged with the issue of Climate Change. The sustainability champions will now review how everything went and what lies ahead for Project 13.

Tripling recycling rates – The Sustainability Champion for the School of Biosciences has led on a project that has seen recycling rates increase threefold. Alex identified a problem in research labs where the layout of bins and lack of clear information meant that researchers were placing the majority of their recyclable waste into general waste bins (this waste goes to incineration with energy recovery). On initial assessment 99% the waste in the general waste bins was recyclable.

Due to the nature of the waste produced in a research lab and the lack of space Alex and colleagues from the Estates Department came up with a trial new waste scheme to test what would work for the lab users.

New small desktop bins were installed to help researchers with ease of correct disposal at their fingertips, without taking up precious desk space. The main lab bins were relabelled to ensure they were clear and to reflect how many recycling bins there should be to general waste bins. Clear communications through posters and labelling were designed to showcase the top ten lab recyclables that should be going into the green marked bins. All labelling was checked by the Safety, Health and Environment Unit to ensure that it was clear what to do with hazardous/contaminated waste.

The Kent Fungal Group were the test lab and the results after a month of trialling have been extraordinary. On the last observations the ratio of full recycling bins to general waste bins is 3:1. This figure was the other way round at the beginning of the trial. This trial is now being rolled out throughout the department.



Find out more information:

E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk

T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future



Reducing the impact of the Kent Student Awards– The Kent Student Awards is a collaborative scheme where the University of Kent works closely with Kent Union to recognise non-academic student achievement in a variety of areas. This year Student Services who help organise the event, did so with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in mind.

Kent Student Awards aims to be as inclusive as possible by doing the following: all dietary requirements were catered for to the same high standard as the rest of the food; prayer spaces were available and dishes were served after sunset to those observing Ramadan; the dress-code for the event has changed from 'black tie' to 'dress to impress', which keeps the celebratory element of the award whilst being more inclusive to different styles of dress and budgets; and physical accessibility was ensured using rooms and spaces with disabled access and a stage built to include a ramp rather than steps.

This year Kent Student Awards aimed for responsible consumption and reduction in carbon impact. Changes to the menu this year were: a plant based sharing starter; a plant based chocolate orange torte dessert; and organic vegan wine. It is widely known that animal agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss so by increasing the number of plant based courses the menu reflected this. The vegan and meat options for the main course were made known to guests at the point of RSVP which meant that although only 15% of our guests specified vegan/vegetarian dietary requirements, 34% of the food served was vegan rather than meat.

The wine was changed from an Australian imported mass produced wine to an organic wine from a smaller European company, thus reducing the miles the wine travelled and supporting organic vineyards, which support ecosystems of insects and birds and do not inadvertently add pesticides to local water ways.

Changes to the decor this year were: the majority of decorations are re-useable so can be used at the event year after year. The light-trees, drapes, and centrepieces will be stored away and used for future events; the beautiful flowers used on the stage and in the centrepieces were sourced through a local independent florist helping to support our local community. The flowers selected were long-life and therefore were able to be re-used the next day to decorate an area of the summer ball and others were taken home to be enjoyed by staff who worked on the night and can be composted at the end of their life; all the batteries used to power LED fairy lights were rechargeable so can be used repeatedly; and no balloons were used.

There were no printed tickets for the event this year, saving not only money but also hundreds of sheets of paper and lots of printer ink. The guest brochures were replaced by shared table-cards this year saving even more paper and subsequent waste from discarded brochures.

All of these small steps were made possible by departments across the University and Kent Union coming together and thinking a little outside the box and considering whether there was a more sustainable option for each of our decisions. Next year they hope to do even more!

Find out more information:

E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk

T: 01227827119



University of
Kent

FUTUREPROOF

Building the University of the future



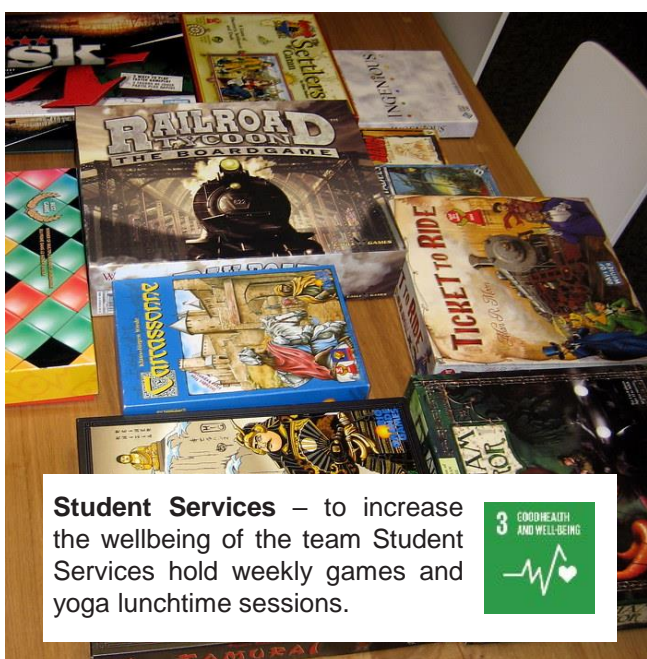
Estates Department – the department are actively encouraging staff to get out of the office at lunchtime and get walking.



Solar Energy – Our PV solar arrays across the University produced 113,487kWh of energy. That is enough to power, on average, 366 homes.



Sustainability Annual Report – the sustainability team published their 3rd annual report detailing how the University is embedding the Sustainable Development Goals.



Student Services – to increase the wellbeing of the team Student Services hold weekly games and yoga lunchtime sessions.



Projects Team – The Kennedy building is officially open and is the 2nd building on campus to achieve BREEAM excellent.



Waste Team – This year saw the return of the GumDrop bins that once full see your chewed gum recycled into an array of products – including wellies!



Grounds Team – mini meadows have been popping up all over campus as the Ground's team work to increase forage for our pollinators.



Sustainability at Kent

What is sustainability? Find out here!



Blog What is Sustainability? FutureProof Sustainability Champions Contact the Sustainability Team! Get Involved!

"WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH BUT WE CAN"

Coms– 12 blogs and news stories about sustainability have gone out this year helping to raise the profile of sustainability at Kent.

CATEGORIES
Select Category

RECENT POSTS
It is time to talk about what we put down



Development Office– Kent Bunny is set to help his woodland friends by leading on Kent's commitment to become a Hedgehog Friendly campus.



Find out more information:
E: sustainability@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227827119



University of
Kent