

Introduction to SOS-UK

Grace Corn - Project Manager

Introductions

Grace Corn - Project manager at SOS-UK

BA International Relations and Politics at the University of Lincoln

- Became passionate about issues of student welfare and climate action.
- Got involved in opportunities through my Students' Union (SU).

Vice President Welfare and Community of Lincoln SU, 2018/19

- Worked to embed environmental activism in the SU and get the university to declare a climate emergency.

Joined SOS-UK in September 2019

- Project manage our 'Green Impact' and 'Student Switch Off' programmes at universities, NHS Hospitals and other organisations around London and the south of the UK.



SOS-UK IS AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

- SOS-UK is part of that **NUS family** that has been at the forefront of social change since 1923
- In 2019, in response to the climate emergency, NUS founded **Students Organising for Sustainability UK** (SOS-UK) to go further and faster with NUS' transformational sustainability work.
- SOS-UK **engages, inspires and empowers** students to lead on sustainability
- SOS-UK aims to **embed** sustainability in formal education
- SOS-UK aims to make sustainability **more inclusive**



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SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

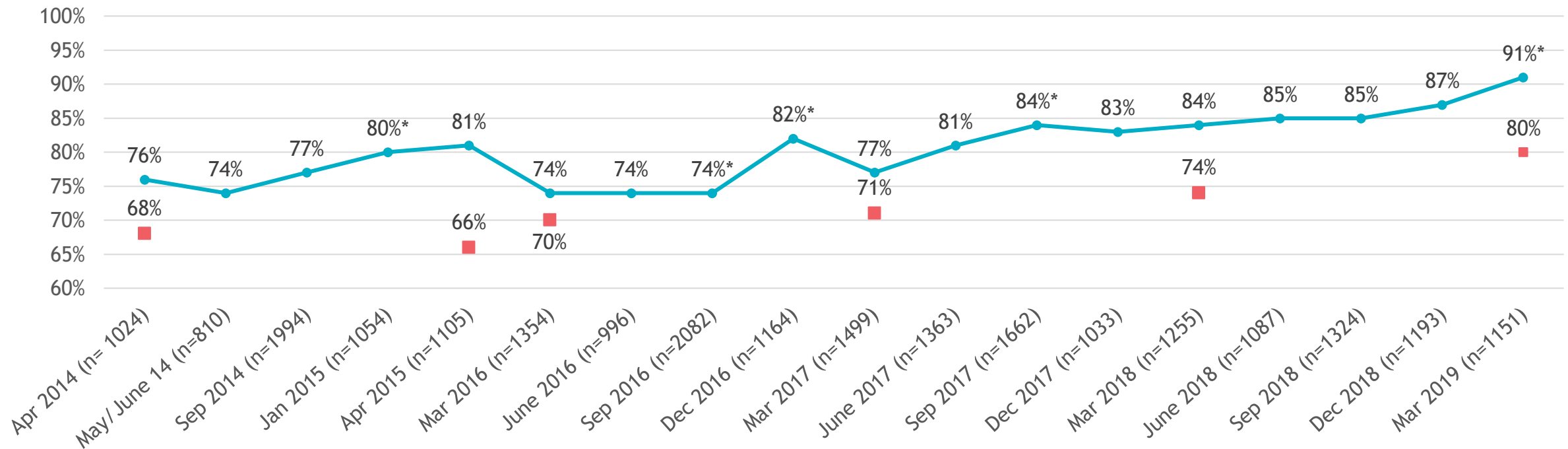
STUDENTS CONCERN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES

“The biggest problem/threat we face is climate change and pollution. We are rapidly destroying our planet and it's environment. To secure a future for the next generation we must ensure that positive change occurs” - Student respondent, NUS Skills survey 2019.

“How concerned, if at all, are you about climate change?”

[Responses shown for very or fairly concerned]

—●— NUS research ● BEIS national public attitudes tracker



OUR WORK IS DRIVEN BY STUDENT DEMAND FOR ACTION AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



88% say they agree their place of study should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development



80% would like to see sustainable development actively incorporated and promoted through *all* courses



59% say sustainable development is something they would like to learn more about

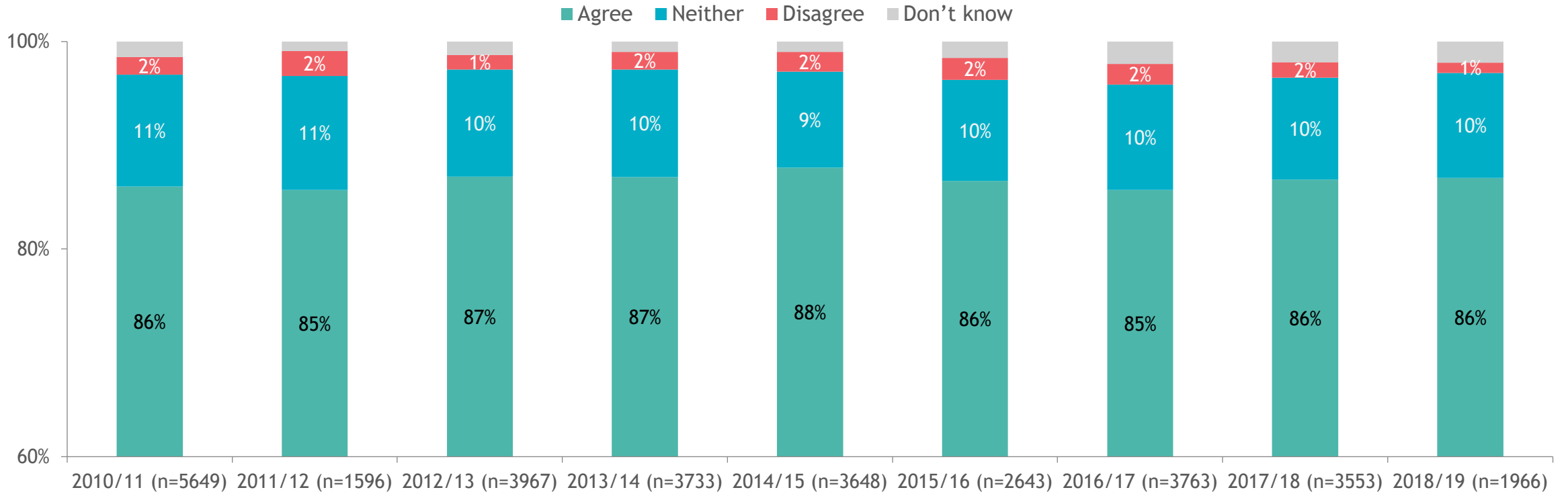
Source: NUS Sustainability Skills Survey 2018-19 | Base: c.5565 respondents in higher education across the UK



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DEMAND THAT HAS REMAINED CONSISTENT OVER TIME

“My university or college should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development.”



Source: NUS Sustainability Skills Survey 2018-19 | Base: See brackets - 1st year respondents in higher education across the UK



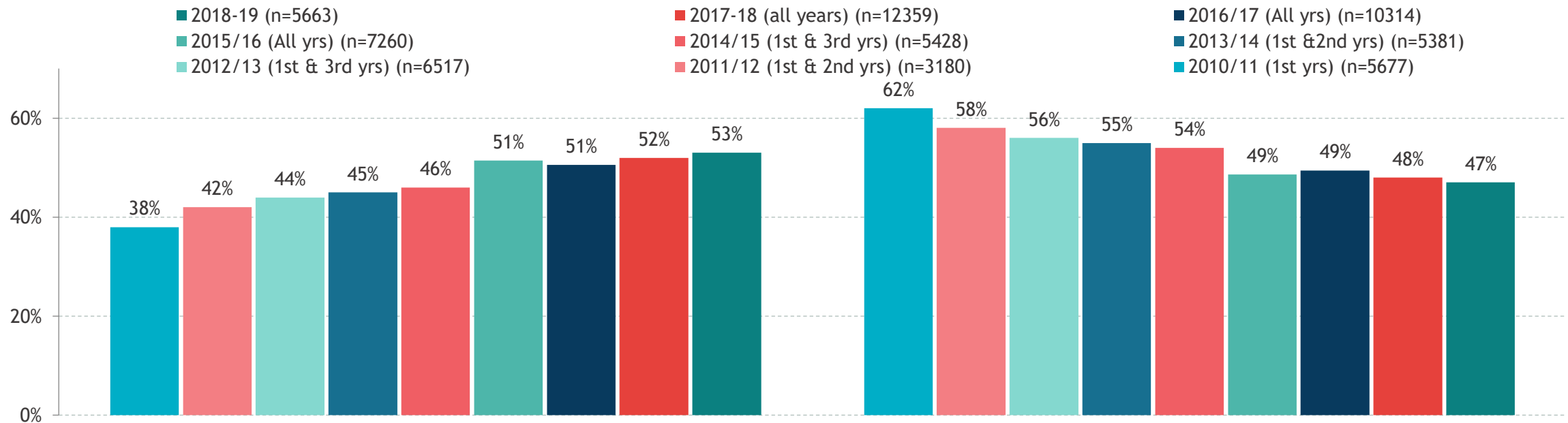
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AND THAT GOES BEYOND STUDENTS' TIME IN EDUCATION

“Assuming all other factors are equal, which option would you choose?”

Option 1: A position with a starting salary of £3000 lower than average (£20,000) in a company with a strong environmental and social record

Option 2: A position with a starting salary of £3000 higher than average (£20,000) in a company with a poor environmental and social record

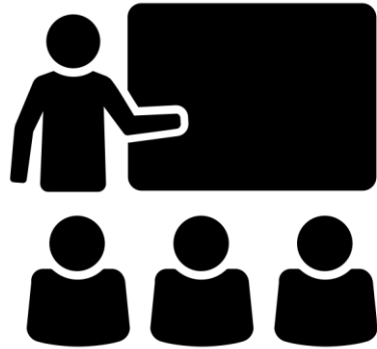


Source: NUS Sustainability Skills Survey 2018-19 | Base: See brackets - respondents in higher education across the UK



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WE SEE DEMAND AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION



68% are interested in learning more about the environment



86% think all schools and colleges should be doing things to help the environment



85% think all schools and colleges should be encouraging and helping pupils like them to do things to help the environment

Source: NUS Green Schools Project Schools Sustainability Survey 2018-19 | Base: 2990 primary (yr 5 & 6) and secondary pupils in England

School
pupils



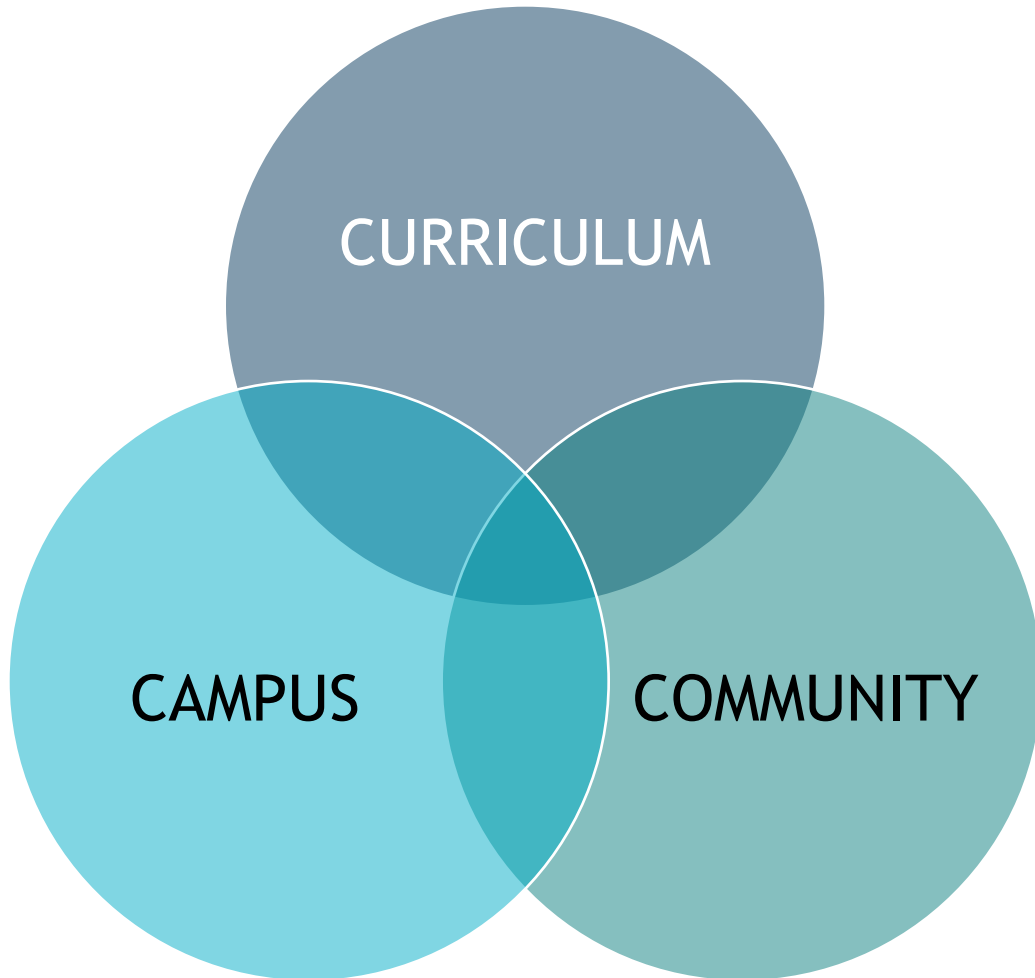
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“6% of people attend university but they take up 80% of the leadership positions.”

Chuck Hopkins, UNESCO Chair



SOS-UK PROGRAMMES



CURRICULUM: We want all students to leave education as part of the solutions to our social, economic and environmental challenges. That's why we work to get sustainable development into the curriculum of every student across every discipline.

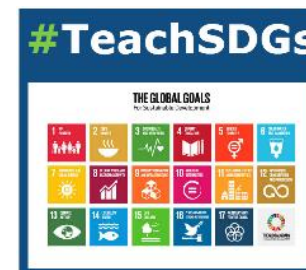
CAMPUS: By making sustainability part of everyday life across universities and colleges, we support students in adopting responsible behaviours which last long beyond their time in education.

COMMUNITY: All students' unions should be hubs of sustainability at the heart of their wider community. We help students to thrive as global citizens, as active participants in society and democracy, and as future leaders on sustainability.



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SOS-UK PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS



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**Get involved and take action
with us!**

Use your dissertation, placement or project as a force for good



**Dissertations
for Good**



Research for Good

Find out about & offer impactful research collaborations

Placements for Good

Find out about & offer impactful placements

Projects for Good

Find out about & offer innovative and creative projects

“Dissertations for Good has given real meaning to my University studies.”

<https://forgood.nus.org.uk/>



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Join our free food growing network

Join the Student Eats Growing Network- it's free- and you'll receive the following benefits:

- Access to exclusive resources and discounts included 90% off Charles Dowding's no dig online course 1.
- Chances to take part in closed competitions e.g. our annual Water Conservation Trust competition for up to £1500 to improve your growing site
- Opportunity to win free tickets to our annual conference

All you need to join the network is a growing site at your institution or plans to have one within the next 3 months.

Complete the joining form on our website: <https://www.sos-uk.org/#take-action>

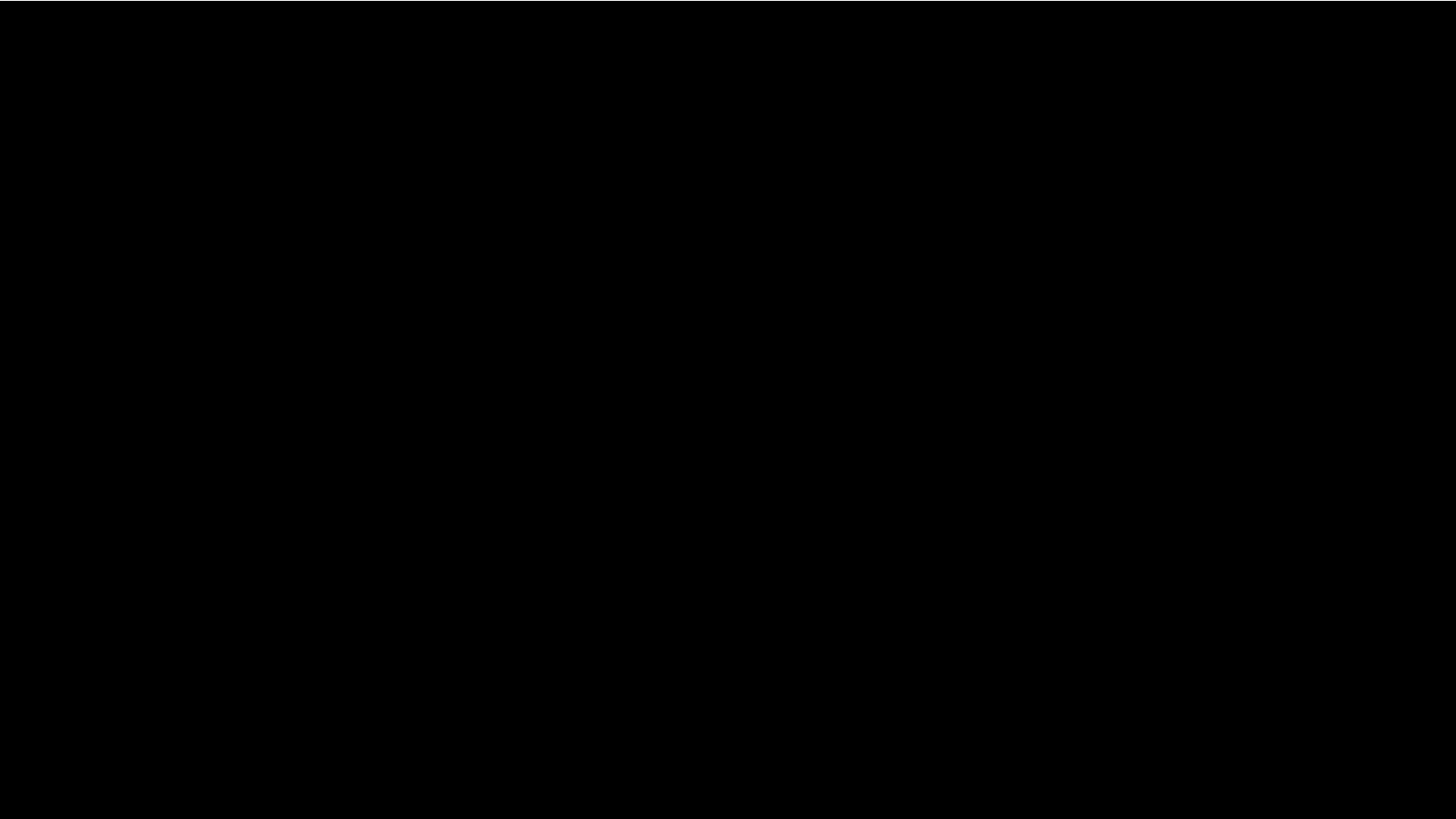
Check out our new sustainable food guide: <https://www.sos-uk.org/post/leading-the-way-on-the-climate-and-nature-crisis-through-food>



Banking With Who?



Invest for Change campaign



Email your University Finance Director

UK universities have over £15 billion that is frequently invested against the interests of students and the world they will graduate into.

As part of our Invest for Change campaign, email your University's senior management to ensure their investments are funding environmental and social justice solutions and engaging with investments to change corporate practices.

Use our [template](#) to write your email, and see our [resources](#) for further support.

We can run introductory workshops, introducing the issues with the current financial system and how students can change this through an Invest for Change campaign on campus. We also offer more detail campaign planning sessions, to kickstart your campaigns! We tailor workshop each workshop to your group, so let us know what you need.

Head to our website (www.investforchange.uk) to book a workshop via our form at the bottom of the homepage.



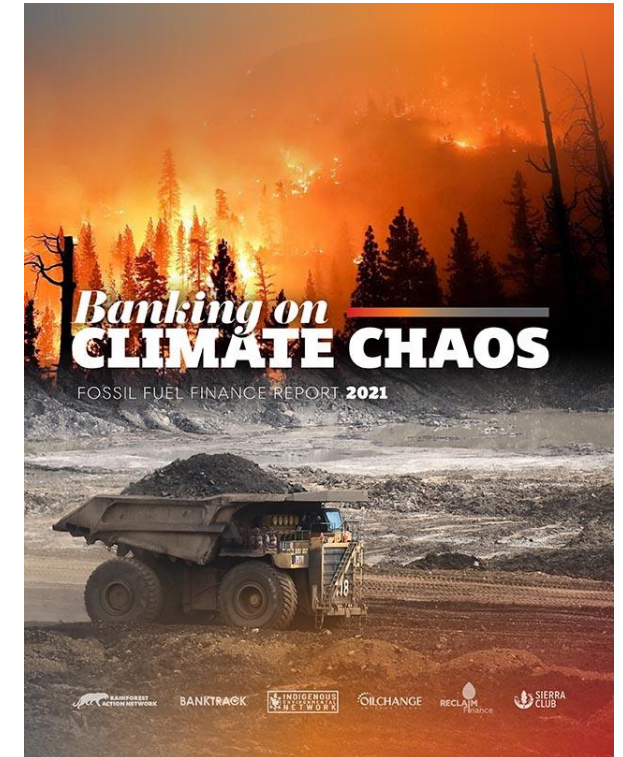
Take AGM action

Lots of universities hold investments in companies, known as shares. Anyone who invests in a company, has a say over how the company is run. We're calling on universities to use their power as shareholders to actively engage - and vote - at company AGMs.

This year, campaigners are calling for [HSBC to stop funding fossil fuels at its AGM on June 28th](#).

Since the Paris Agreement, Barclays and HSBC, two of Europe's biggest fossil fuel financiers, have funnelled over US \$255 billion into to the coal, oil and gas sectors, according to the Banking on Climate Chaos report.

Call on your university to support the resolutions and [take AGM action!](#) Use this template email to join our email campaign, or visit our website for more information.



Support climate education: Teach The Future

Teach the Future is an inclusive, well organised and persistent campaign by secondary and tertiary education students to greatly improve education on the climate emergency and ecological crisis in the UK.

- Follow on twitter @_teachthefuture
- Sign the petition www.teachthefuture.uk/petition
- Write to your MP and ask them to support broad climate education
www.teachthefuture.uk/action/rep
- Start having conversations about sustainability and the curriculum at your school!
- Volunteer with the campaign! Email hello@teachthefuture.uk to find out more.



Support the #SDGTeachIn

Every year, SOS-UK runs the Global Goals Teach In, where educators are encouraged to include the [UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs) in their teaching and learning, across all stages of education and all disciplines.

Students can support the campaign by sharing your experiences of sustainability education, letting us know why you want to see more sustainability included in your teaching and learning, or encourage teaching staff at your institution to take part.

Details on the 2022 campaign will be released soon, but you can email Rachel.Soper@sos-uk.org if you'd like to discuss the campaign before then!

<https://www.sos-uk.org/project/global-goals-teach-in>

#TeachSDGs

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Look up your institution's carbon target

SOS-UK, alongside the National Union of Students (NUS), the University and College Union (UCU) and People & Planet (P&P) are calling for all UK universities and colleges to publicly commit to being net zero emissions for scopes 1, 2 and 3 by 2030 to tackle the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

Check out your institutions target, and compare across the sector, at www.carbontargets.uk. Register your interest in the campaign via the website, and we'll keep in touch with any events and updates.

CARBON TARGETS

How ambitious is your institution?

University of Lincoln

39 / 100

Institution type: **HE**

Mission group: **University alliance**

<https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/abouttheuniversity/governance/universitypolicies/environmentalsustainability/>

Score Breakdown:



Target type:

Reduction

This is the type of target the institution has set. The ideal target type is zero or net zero.



Commitment year:

2020

This is the year by which the institution aims to reach the above target. The earlier the date, the more ambitious the target.



Scope:

N/A

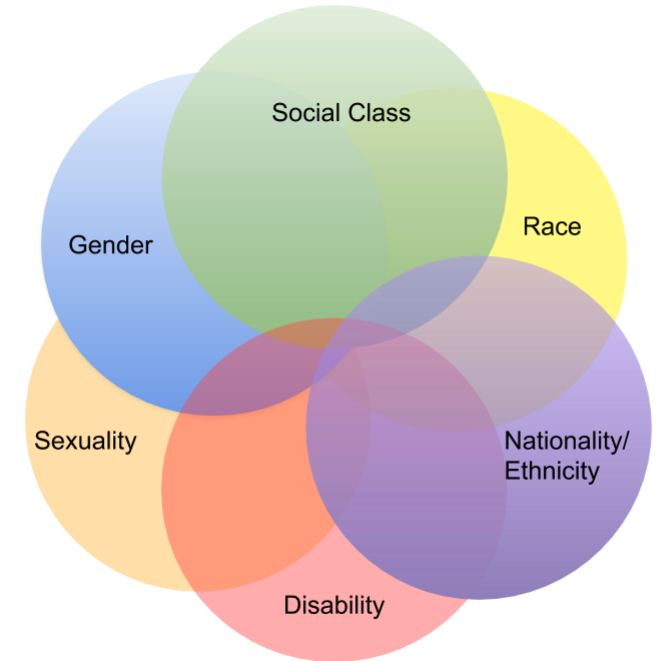
Scopes are the sectors that the institution's target covers in its target. Scope 1 is emissions from direct activity by the institution, scope 2 is the indirect emissions from energy generation and Scope 3 is all other indirect emissions. The ideal carbon target scope is 1, 2 & 3.

Read about links between sustainability & intersectionality

Inclusivity is central to sustainability but it is acknowledged that some sustainability campaigns and initiatives do not meet the needs of liberation groups and often fail to address interlinking issues such as colonialism.

We have grouped resources into each liberation group to help organise them and guide you but several resources draw on the intersections across liberation groups. You could also view the [NUS decolonise education library](#).

[Check out our Sustainability and Intersectionality Resource Hub](#)



Listen to the ‘Liberating Sustainability’ podcast

In each episode, field-leaders from student liberation movements and academia deconstruct the exclusivity of sustainability activism and education. Episodes cover sexuality, disability, gender, class and race.

Listen on Spotify!

<https://open.spotify.com/show/270vPnR0xFjRaBqxfyrNIM>



COP26 Action Week

You're invited to take part in **SOS-UK's COP26 Action Week competition** this week, for the chance to win an ethical food box worth **£15 or £35**.

At COP26 we want the UK to commit to ambitious climate action. Share an action that you are taking too by commenting on our social media competition posts (Facebook, Twitter or Instagram)- whether you're aiming to learn more, raise awareness, lobby for changes or carrying out practical actions.

One individual winner (£15) and one group winner (£35) will be picked at random from across all our social media accounts on 8th November. Share a photo as well- via direct message, email (learningacademy@sos-uk.org) or by tagging us in your post, and we will double your entry!

On 30th November, we will also be holding a webinar, '**What happened at COP26?**', where we'll discuss some of the outcomes of COP26, and share examples of some of the on-the-ground action happening across our programmes!

Register for free here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/sos-uk-webinar-what-happened-at-cop26/>

A promotional graphic for SOS-UK COP26 Action Week. The background is a solid teal color. At the top left, the text 'SOS-UK' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, 'COP26 Action Week' is written in a slightly smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of this text, a red speech bubble contains the text 'WIN £15 or £35 of ethical food items' in white. Below the main title, the dates '1st - 7th November 2021' are written in a white, sans-serif font. In the center, there are three white line-art icons: a document with a magnifying glass, an open book, and a potted plant with a shovel. At the bottom right, the SOS logo is displayed in white, with the text 'STUDENTS ORGANISING FOR SUSTAINABILITY UNITED KINGDOM' to its right. The graphic is decorated with several light blue circles of varying sizes.

THANKS FOR
LISTENING!

Any Questions?

Stay in touch!

To keep up to date with SOS-UK's programme and campaign news, sign up to our newsletter:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sos-uk-mailing-list>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sosukcharity>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sosuk_charity/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sosukcharity>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/28837542/>

