Our Project

GreenPad focuses on creating sustainable, good quality student accommodation and teaching students how to live sustainably in their everyday life.

Our project has two main focuses:
1. Local Student Homes - encouraging landlords to make their properties more energy efficient, and carrying out environmental audits of local student homes.
2. Positive behavioural change – encouraging students to save energy and live more sustainably within their local homes, as well as educating them on how to live sustainably in their everyday lives.

Key achievements and successes

- Over 200 Environmental Home Audits completed within our first 4 months.
- Created the first Green Week 2014 and delivered in partnership with Student Staffs Union team.
- Recruited student models to film the launch for better recycling facilities for students in the local area with nearly 200 names signed.
- GreenPad featured in the HEFCE Annual report 2014.
- Hired and trained a team of 12 student environmental auditors to carry out environmental audits of local student homes and begin to spread awareness of the project via on campus events.
- Placed partnerships with the local council and housing association to ensure we were working in partnership with local accreditation schemes.
- Planned and released the Housing Survey 2014 which received over 1,000 responses from students across all levels of study to map student attitudes toward sustainability and energy efficiency in housing, as well as the local housing stock condition.
- Launched our bespoke GreenPad website and social media to begin to raise awareness of the project, as well as to ensure students had access to top tips on how to reduce their energy consumption as well as boost their awareness around sustainability in general within their everyday lifestyle.
- Planned and delivered our first Housing Fair in February 2014 to build relationships with landlords and begin to get studios into our GreenPad homes as well as educate them around the importance of energy efficiency and the misleading “affordable” label system.
- Released final Greenhouse home listings in March 2014 to students via our own GreenPad website and listing site, showcasing only GreenPad energy efficient student homes.
- Planned and release the Housing Survey 2014 which received over 1,000 responses from students across all levels of study to map students attitudes toward sustainability and energy efficiency in housing, as well as the local housing stock condition.
- Released handover from the University to run all private house listings across both campuses and worked alongside Studentpad to incorporate brand new “sustainability” section onto the properties as well as an overall website index to represent the GreenPad ethos. We also re-launched our own GreenPad website ensuring information was easily accessible for students remotely containing multiple top tips on all aspects of sustainability as well as all project information.
- Began to deliver events in partnership with the University Sustainable team such as the Blackout to widen our outreach and engagement to students.
- Opened the new EcoHub space in partnership with the University to deliver all on-campus sustainable events and the space from which the Greenpad sustainable lettings agency will be run.
- Hired and trained a new GreenPad Sustainability Volunteer team of 7 students as well as the new GreenPad Administration Assistant and introduced the remaining 6 student auditors alongside the new team to continue home audits.
- Received handover from the University to run all private house listings across both campuses and worked alongside Studentpad to incorporate brand new “sustainability” section onto the properties as well as an overall website index to represent the GreenPad ethos. We also re-launched our own GreenPad website ensuring information was easily accessible for students remotely containing multiple top tips on all aspects of sustainability as well as all project information.
- Began to deliver events in partnership with the University Sustainable team such as the Blackout to widen our outreach and engagement to students.
- Opened the new EcoHub space in partnership with the University to deliver all on-campus sustainable events and the space from which the GreenPad sustainable lettings agency will be run.
- Released the Housing Survey for the second time to map any attitudinal or behavioural changes.

Key lessons learnt

Students are the best change agents. If you want to make your campus more sustainable, let your students lead.

Focus on their values: events are key to boost project awareness, ensure these are done as an immediate activity after starting the project and regularly throughout project duration to maintain project presence on campus.

Having a dedicated student team (whether voluntary or paid) helps to boost awareness of your project and helps to maintain outreach to students, have one from the word go!

Students want to get involved with sustainability via campus activities and to learn more about it in general, they just need the opportunity to do so.

Contact us

Website: www.staffsunion.com/greenpad
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