

# An expedition through Green Week at Bournemouth University:

Influencing young individuals to make, smarter and greener options for a fruitful future.

Anika Islam 1/12/23



## What is Green Week?

13th November - 22nd November  
2023

Green Week 2023 is a week packed with events that teach, inform and get students engaged and involved with sustainability and how to implement a sustainable way of living, hosted by SUBU and BU sustainability. From hands on activities to film screenings, there's something for everyone! So, why not get involved to make a change!



## Welcome to Green Week

During Freshers, the events were endless so why not dedicate a week to what really matters – Sustainable living and saving the planet! At Bournemouth University we celebrate many things which are all inclusive and accessible for all students and staff who attend BU however, this year's Green Week was packed and loaded with many things ranging from informative talks about Marine Conservation and hands-on activities like tree planting at Chapel gate. To some, this may just be another 'thing' that BU is contributing towards but it's much more than that!



# Recycling Roadshow

During Green week, there were many things that were beneficial for students which they could get involved with; the first event was the Recycling roadshow which showcased different ways to dispose of waste for those students who have moved out for the first time, although it was incredibly informative for all staff and students. The event was hosted by the community wardens; they were ready to inform and educate Bournemouth University students about how recycling and waste collection works in Bournemouth and how BCP council are making changes in the foreseeable future. The community wardens were originally established by an ex-pilot from Manchester before they were implemented permanently in Bournemouth.

## What can't be recycled?

Whilst engaging with the activities at the Recycling roadshow, I had learned that some items cannot be recycled for a plethora of reasons for example:

- 1. Takeaway boxes and containers cannot be recycled since the fats in the interior can contaminate other recyclable items**
- 2. Disposable vapes cannot be recycled or disposed of since they are a fire hazard and can set other things in the bins.**
- 3. Crisp packets cannot be recycled either due to their packaging as the interior is made from a metallised plastic film.**

## So, where do these items go?

For crisp packets on campus, there are locations and bins that are designated for crisp packet disposal. Since they have to be recycled in a separate way, these bins help keep the waste separate and help avoid contamination.



For disposable vapes, there are currently no designated areas on campus to dispose vapes since they are a fire hazard. However, these should not be disposed in any recycle bin or general waste bin to reduce the risk of fire.



For takeaway boxes, these should be disposed in the general waste bin since they are not recyclable due to the fats inside.



## Action taken place

The University has employed a crisp packet recycling station in Poole House and in the SUBU building. There are recycling stations found around campus, including liquid waste, cup waste and general waste. The main purpose for this event was to educate students and staff about different types of waste and how to recycle certain items.

The event was a really good way to start off Green Week since it informed us that the small things matter first. This allowed BU to reduce general waste and encourage separating recyclable waste into their designated bins.



The Community Wardens, The Recycling Roadshow, photographed by Anika Islam

**Helpful Information for Recycling and Rubbish**

Scan the QR codes to find out what you can put in your bins.

**RECYCLING RUBBISH FOOD**

**RECYCLING ROADSHOW**  
... From Halls to Home

**GET YOUR BINS RIGHT**

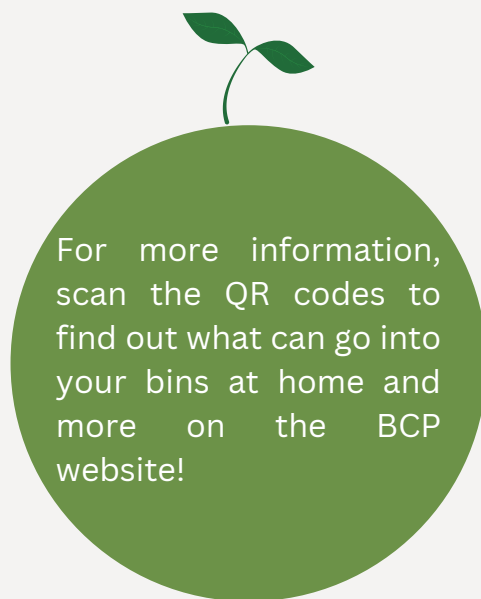
Find your bin collection days and more on the BCP website.

Please don't put stuff in your recycling bin in rubbish bags - Keep it all loose.

Please don't put bags of rubbish out next to your bin - The bags will not be collected. They can also attract vermin, and end up littering roads and pavements. It will be your responsibility to take stuff to the recycling centre that is not inside your bins.

Note - If you leave bin bags out on the pavement, effectively this is fly-tipping and you could receive a fine.

BCP Council, SUBU STUDENTS' UNION, BU Bournemouth University



# Environmental mindfulness

hosted by **Linda Ward**

Environmental mindfulness, hosted by Linda Ward, was an event that diverged from the norm. How were the environment and mindfulness linked? Linda began with breathing exercises which she described as giving back to the trees that gave us oxygen to breathe. Throughout her session she made links to how we can be mindful and consider the environment we live in since we are all caught up with work and our busy lives with technology. The environment has many aspects that tend to get lost within our digital age, the world of technology takes away from the beauties of the planet. Linda allowed us to stop in our tracks and think about our stresses and let it go “into the oceans,” as she described. Our emotions and experiences fluctuate like a tempestuous ocean and the only way we can move along with it is by surfing with it rather than sinking in it.



*“Take a deep breathe and take in the oxygen the trees have given us and exhale the carbon dioxide to give back to them...”*



This session was incredibly engaging and different from what is to be expected during Green Week however, it made the entire experience unique. Having this session enlightened us about meditation and being considerate and mindful of the world we live in. Linda’s knowledge about mediation, which was learned from Thai monks, was well executed and left the members that took part in a calm and refreshed. Staff and students can also get involved with environmental mindfulness by simply taking a moment to reflect on the world around us.



**SUEZ Team, photographed by Izzy Chalk**

We also asked what Bournemouth University has implemented on campus to encourage the students to recycle more and what Jennifer mentioned was that they have recycle stations in Poole House, Fusion and SUBU with signage that shows what goes in each of the bins. Already, this encourages recycling habits although what the SUEZ team have mentioned that was a challenge for BU was students putting wrong things in the wrong bins and as mentioned prior, this causes cross contamination. Furthermore, there are other schemes that have been introduced that have encouraged students to reduce, reuse and recycle, for example the reusable cup scheme. If you buy 9 drinks with a reusable cup, you get the 10th for free. This is a good incentive to encourage students to use their own cups and reduce waste.

## SUEZ

**Bournemouth University's waste contractor** SUEZ was the next event; this organisation is the waste contractor for the University. SUEZ work for many institutions and organisations, managing how the waste is collected and what else could be done to improve it. The aim of this event was to promote waste awareness to university students since, for some, it may be the first time they are living alone. I had asked about the liquid bins that are scattered throughout the campus which are used to dispose unfinished drinks and coffee cups and whether they have become a success. They mentioned that the liquid bins implemented have become useful especially in high-traffic areas such as the Fusion Building and the Student Centre. They provided intel on what can and cannot be recycled and why; recyclable items have to be thrown in dry bins and if they are cross contaminated with wet waste, it would not be able to be recycled correctly.



**SUEZ quiz and information desk, photographed by Anika Islam**

# Greenwashing and social media



When it comes to social media, SUEZ have mentioned that the internet has a big impact on how young people see and view things and how the internet can be persuasive. Greenwashing is a huge issue that has become more common, for example, 'compostable' packaging isn't compostable, bamboo cutlery is also not compostable however many believe they are.

# So, what do BU do?

So what has been done at Bournemouth University to implement a greener approach to waste disposal? SUEZ had mapped out areas of the campus where the recycling stations would be best fit to have recycle station which is now situated in Fusion building, Poole House and SUBU. These make sure that it is accessible for all students to recycle since they also have signage to indicate what can be disposed in which bin. Crisp packet bins have been a new addition to the recycle stations although have only been located in Poole House and SUBU. Interestingly, Jennifer had also mentioned that a new law would be added which states that in 2024 food waste bins would have to be provided to all residents. This would reduce the amount of food waste that goes to the landfill and would instead be used for other things such as fertiliser for agriculture or can be turned into energy. Furthermore, nothing on BU is sent to the landfill and instead are sent to be recycled. This impacts the university positively since it shows how eco-friendly we are as a community and conveys the efforts we put in to save the environment.



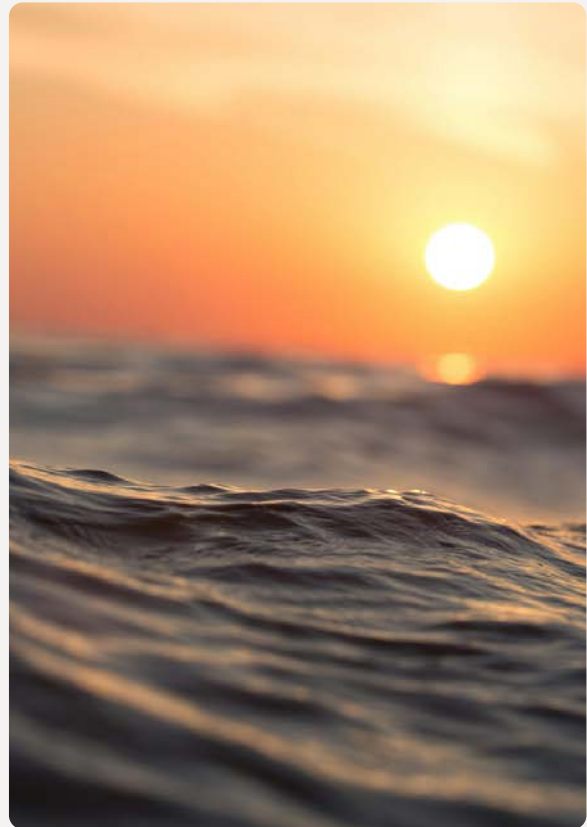
SUEZ waste guide, photographed by Anika Islam

Since Bournemouth University is by the sea, we have to be mindful of the oceans and how they can be affected which takes us onto the next exciting event!

# Love the oceans

hosted by **Francesca Trotman**

For the ocean lovers reading this, the 'Love the oceans' was a great opportunity to learn about marine conservation. This event was hosted by Francesca Trotman, who has done work in Mozambique to help the oceans, the local community and also teach them about how they can save and love the oceans. Love the oceans mission is to establish a marine protected area, Jangmo Bay, and create a successful conservation strategy that can be replicated down the coastline.' By providing education to the locals and empowering them with skills to successfully manage the protected area, they are able to make a change as a community. The foundation provides ocean literacy programmes, swimming lessons, upskilling and gender equity. The presentation was informative and provides us with information on how the coastlines are being protected and conserved in great depth and considering we are a seaside town, student engagement with talks like this would be highly beneficial.



**Scan the QR code to learn more about 'Love the oceans' or to get involved!**



**Coral reef research, Photograph from 'Love the oceans'**



Small steps count to paint a bigger picture after all! The Love the Oceans foundation also contribute to sustainability as they assist in helping provide training and opportunities for alternative sources of income. The Aqua culture project educates the locals about growing and harvesting oysters and mussels to help food security and income, this ties in well with the sustainable fishing project. By encouraging a sustainable approach to harvesting to more locals and the community this can alleviate the pressure on the oceans. The information relayed within this presentation was captivating; indeed, the education to teach the local community of Mozambique about crucial skills such as swimming or harvesting in a sustainable way to save the oceans.



**Community outreach, Photograph from 'Love the oceans'**



**Fisheries research, Photograph from 'Love the oceans'**

There are many things that the Love the Oceans foundation does to protect the coral and fish from disease, monitoring them frequently however this is open to any volunteers which can be beneficial to students that are interested in Marine conservation and volunteering which could furthermore be beneficial to students at the university. I would definitely recommend coming to these talks and engage with the organisations if anyone is interested in saving the oceans.

## How to get involved!



**Scan this QR code to learn more about the programs that Love the oceans provide and contribute to helping the oceans!**





**GAIA**

**promoting sustainable consumption,  
hosted by Matt Cosier**

If you like to save money then GAIA card is for you! GAIA card are an organisation that provide a subscription that helps you save money whilst encouraging sustainable consumption. GAIA were established in 2020 pre-pandemic, starting off as a taste card although they wanted to expand the deals further especially with vegan foods. One of the founders, Matt, was vegan for a period of time so searching for vegan options was a challenge. They also figured that vegan food was expensive, so they decided to create GAIA and officially launched on March 21st 2021.

## What does GAIA do?

What was the purpose of this event, you may ask yourself? Well, overconsumption and unsustainable consumption is common since individuals tend to buy whatever they find due to the price or accessibility of it but what GAIA provides are deals and discounts to spend less on products and services that are sustainable. Not many students are aware of sustainable consumption, so every year GAIA visit to raise awareness. GAIA's mission statement infers that they want to make consumption and sustainable living more accessible, appealing, and affordable, although students are unaware of this. They provide student memberships which allows many students to enjoy a myriad of deals and money off. From some places like coffee shops, you can get 15% to 20% off with the card which is an incentive to sustainable consumption.



By having an incentive can drive students to making healthier and sustainable choices and what's even better is that it is no longer just a physical card since GAIA are creating an app so you can add your card to your apple wallet and have it on the go. The convenience of having a GAIA card in your pocket can remind students that they can get great deals and support businesses that are contributing to the environment.

## Getting involved

During Green Week, GAIA had a competition – 30 days of GAIA – which encouraged individuals to buy from sustainable businesses and win products and other prizes from brands GAIA are partnered with. Whilst talking to Matt, he mentioned that the engagement with GAIA in 2023 was 46% but drops throughout the year since students don't use the card although this could be for a multitude of reasons and one reason that comes to mind is that some forget to bring their cards with them.



With the new app, you can have your GAIA card on you at all times! By having the app and the ability to put the card on your apple wallet, students will be less likely to forget their cards therefore getting those deals whenever and wherever. Also, GAIA don't only provide food and drink options, but they are also partnered with gyms and other movement and health-based brands which gives a variety to students. Signing up for GAIA is super easy for staff and students. Students have their own membership which is affordable but still allows access too all the deals - this will encourage young people to integrate sustainable consumption into their daily lives.

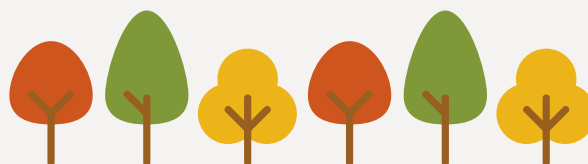
## How to sign up?

Not sure where to go to sign up to get those discounts and money off? Scan the QR code to take part and get involved with sustainable consumption!



# Tree planting at Chapel Gate

We all know how important trees are to our environment and how much our ecosystem needs them. Bournemouth University were awarded 120 tree saplings to plant at BU's Sports Campus, Chapel Gate. These saplings were kindly donated to BU by the Woodland Trust through the students for Trees campaign which is run by SOS UK. This is a great way to contribute and give back to our planet since trees are the core to many things such as reducing CO2 in the atmosphere. Not only this, it is incredibly rewarding for those who took part to plant these saplings but it benefits the environment for years to come!



This opportunity was perfect for students to get involved with giving back to the environment by planting saplings, enriching their mental health. The collaborative nature of the event allowed the students who took part to make new friends and meet new people as well as gaining a volunteering experience which can be put into their CV! It was great to see likeminded students taking part, involving themselves with the event. It was a clear day, perfect for planting saplings. We spent the first part of the session getting to know each other, followed by planting 6 different species of tree. Those who took part were very passionate about the environment and contributing to it. We felt a sense of community whilst interacting with each other. It was great to know that those who took part were willing to take part in an event like this again! The passion and keenness was amazing to see from BU staff and students. The day ended well with lunch at the Chapel Gate bar where everyone got to know each other and was a great social bonding session as much as a tree planting session!



Tree planting Information sheet, Chapel Gate, Photographed by Izzy Chalk



Want to know more about Chapel gate? Scan this QR code for more information!

## So, how is this useful to BU?

The event was coordinated by the BU Sustainability Team, working with SUBU officers which forms part of BU's Climate and Ecological Crisis Action plan (CECAP) which is our plan to address the climate and ecological crisis. We are working towards actions to support nature on campus to help our students connect and contribute with nature and to our environment.



**Read our CECAP report here!**



**Tree planting in action, Chapel Gate, Photographed by Izzy Chalk**

Overall, it was amazing to see those who got involved and took part planting trees which will grow at Chapel Gate over the years; They are a trophy to those who gave back to the Earth during Green Week.



**Staff and students that took part in tree planting at Chapel Gate,**





## COP conference

Reiner kindly invited two climate activists to form a panel for further questions and discussions.

## XR Rebellion - Cycling rebellion - Adam Osman

Adam Osman, the founder of Cycling rebellion, was one of the guest speakers for this event. Cycling had always been apart of his life growing up since his family didn't have access to a car, so they relied on bicycles and public transport. Cycling is extremely beneficial in many aspects however one issue cyclists face is not feeling safe on the roads.

***“We need people to be put before cars, not the other way around.***

***-Adam Osman, Daily Echo, 2023***

## ‘Thank you for the rain’ Film screening

This event was like no other during Green Week. Leading up to the COP28 conference at the end of November, Dr Reina-Marie Loader organised a free screening of 'Thank You For The Rain', a film about a Kenyan man who brings the struggles of his rural community to the international stage. It was an astounding opportunity as the film was ranked as one of the top 15 climate films in the world by the Guardian, so to have a screening on campus was amazing! The session being split into two allowed variety! The sessions started off with the screening of the movie which was indeed extremely moving and authentic since it was all about Kisulu, a Kenyan farmer, and his life, and how they became a climate activist. This one of a kind opportunity also allowed those who took part to meet Kisulu on Zoom. Having this opportunity to speak to him and get to know his experiences was deeply meaningful and sentimental. There was the chance to ask him some questions such as “what can we do?”.

***“become a climate activist!”***

***- Kisulu's, Zoom, 2023***

Kisulu was a very happy and positive man despite his life situation as he is dependant on the rain and lives a very simple life. Though his positivity was certainly admirable. Following the screening, the session continued to go into the COP conference.

The Cycling rebellion campaign strives to bring awareness and call for change to walking and cycling infrastructure. If more people are feeling safer to cycle around the town, more people will be inclined to cycle or walk. This would drastically change the amount of cars on the roads, therefore reduce emissions that are affecting the planet negatively, This campaign is a proactive way to get involved and show your passion for then environement simply by cycling!

## What are the actions?

Here are some of the things they call for world leaders to commit action to:

- 1.Ends the global reliance on fossil fuels.
- 2.Ensures a fair, just transition to renewable energy systems that protect and serve workers and communities across the world.
- 3.Ensures that the finance and technology needed for a just transition is made available to everyone, with rich Global North countries including the UK doing their fair share.

## War on Want

War on Want is an organisation that work in the UK and have partners around the world that fight for human rights and welfare, “as part of the movement for global justice” (War on Want). This organisation also encourages sustainable energy consumption and want to fight for climate justice by informing those who want to make an impact. COP28 is important when it comes to fighting climate justice and this is why War on Want have also highlighted this; they have an action plan that they would like world leaders to implement to reduce gobal warming.



This event was packed with discussion and debate about climate justice and climate activism. The analogy of being a parent to the Earth and taking care of it gently was definitely inspiring. I twas truly amazing that using films and moving image is just as inspirational as other forms of activism which is just as engaging. Getting involved and engaged with films such as 'Thank you for the rain' is a brilliant start to get more people of all ages involved! Being a part of a community where activism is at the core, it's incredibly rewarding and good for the soul.; Although, not only is it good for the soul, it's good for the planet too.

# An expedition through Green Week at Bournemouth University:

Influencing young individuals to make, smarter and greener options for a fruitful future.

---

## Green week 2023

Green Week at BU is an event that educates young mind about the importance of sustainable living, activism and how anyone and everyone can get involved to nurture the planet. From learning about Marine conservation and having the opportunity to take part in an expedition, sitting in on a screening about climate activism to simply putting your waste in designated bins; everything contributes to our planet no matter how big or how small you may think it is! The opportunities that BU provide are endless and Green Week is one of those events. So why not try it out and give a go next time. Giving back to our planet costs little to nothing so why not get involved at the next Green week to get involved to make an impact. Everything counts!

