

10 years of student engagement : the Student Green Office

Led by students, for students: 2022 marks a decade of peer-to-peer student engagement and nine years of our Student Green Office (SGO).



Image: SGO officers and volunteers celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 with a pop-up Fairtrade chocolate tasting.

Piloted in 2013 as a series of three month projects initiated by a handful of student Sustainability Advocates and funded by the sustainability team, the Student Green Office (SGO) was then devised, branded, developed and launched in 2014 by three passionate undergraduates who became the very first SGO officers at Christ Church.

“Within my short time with the SGO, I have developed myself as a person so much through learning about sustainability within the University and beyond. The SGO has helped me develop professionally by allowing me to work on projects and gain experience by helping run some Carbon Literacy Training sessions.” - Max Clinch, SGO Officer 2021-22

10 years

of working side by side with students on sustainability

26 students

employed, many of whom stayed working with us 'til graduation

500+

blog posts written by students over nine years of SGO history

“If I could sum up my time in the SGO in one word it would be ‘transformative’. I now feel like I can see a sustainable way of working in everything I do.” - Amy Bayliss-Fox, SGO Officer 2019-21

The SGO swiftly developed into a permanent installation within our University community and the Academy for Sustainable Futures. Since its inception, the SGO has provided term-time paid jobs, work experience and volunteering roles for current Christ Church students. In these roles, they are supported by University staff to engage their fellow students with the sustainability issues they are most passionate about, and to develop their knowledge and experience in order to give them the confidence and skills to thrive in the graduate market.

Year on year, the SGO runs a programme of virtual and on-campus events, campaigns and communications that aim to cover a broad range of sustainability issues and contextualise the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for our students.

“This role helps you to develop your communication, teamwork and leadership skills like no other role could. I’ve gained such a huge appreciation for how sustainability fits into our wider day-to-day lives.” - Claire Nicholson, SGO Officer 2016-19



Image: Some of the many SGO teams from across the years - 2016 team (left), 2018 team (centre), 2019 team (right).

Find out more:

www.canterbury.ac.uk/sustainability

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