



STUDENTS
ORGANIZING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024



SUMMIT REFLECTIONS

From the 14th to the 16th of March, we were able to meet so many of the students and staff who work to improve the sustainability of their institution or the environment on a daily basis. By cooperating with the team at the Green Hub of University of Twente, we organised a 3-day event in Enschede, The Netherlands, where we were joined by a motivated group of international sustainability champions. Over the course of these days, we were joined by over 100 participants from over 40 organisations across Europe, Africa and the Pacific, who listened, discussed, and presented. Peter Kwasi Kodjie, president of the board of SOS International and secretary-general of All Africa Students Union, opened the Summit with some inspiring words:

“SOS International has a vision for everyone to come together, so we can learn from each other, support each other and amplify what we’re doing. Nothing will change if we don’t go out there and mobilise and act.”



During the sessions, we all joined in to bring substance to his words. On Thursday, we learned from each other on effective frameworks for driving institutional change and organising impactful sustainability events. We were inspired by a panel discussion on collective mobilisation for climate action that was facilitated by SOS International board member Zamzam Ibrahim, with panellists Scarlett Westbrook (co-founder of Teach The Future) and Bismark Amefianu Kudoafor (CTO at All Africa Students Union). On Friday, we had a long day with sessions provided by speakers who were present in person and speakers who were located halfway across the world in Nepal, New Zealand, and Singapore. The day was closed by a keynote provided by Sam Barratt from the United Nations Environment -

Programme, who reminded us that “Agency, resilience and the tenacity to never let go are the qualities we need in young people right now.” During the social programme in the evening, Django and Kristina from Green Office Wageningen UR delivered an amazing pub quiz on greenwashing that strongly tingled our sense of competition. On Saturday, we made an early start with another panel discussion facilitated by Larissa Kennedy who knew just what questions to ask panellists Sherine Omondi (CEO of Tuelimische vijana) and Jacob Blasius (policy advisor at Global Student Forum) on what is needed to implement climate action into policy. We were so glad to see everyone come together to participate so actively! We hope to be able to organise a summit like this every year from now on. If you want to be involved in the organisation of the next summit, reach out to us via contact@sos.earth.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2024

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



SOS-UK's 10th annual summit!

Calling all student activists, student officers, and students' union and college/university staff!

Join us for our 10th annual flagship sustainability event for students, students' union officers, and the staff who work with them. Where Lancaster University, Bailrigg, LA1 4YW, United Kingdom. Returning for its 10th year, the Student Sustainability Summit brings people passionate about sustainability, nature and climate justice together for workshops, talks and panel discussions with some of the UK's top environmental and social justice activists from youth campaigns, students' unions and environmental organisations from across the UK.

Hosted by Lancaster University Students' Union. 29th May 2024. Register and [find out more here](#)



Green Gown
Awards

Awarding Sustainability Excellence

Since 2004

Call for Application: the International Green Gown Awards

The [International Green Gown Awards](#), delivered by the [EAUC](#) in partnership with Allianz Global Investors, and supported by [UN Environment Programme](#), recognises exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges around the globe. Celebrating our 10th year, applications for 2024 are now open and we invite universities and colleges, worldwide, to put your innovative and influential sustainability work forward for an International Green Gown Award. Participating in the awards can bring many benefits for your institution, from celebrating your team's efforts with staff and students to gaining recognition from senior managers and peer institutions on an international stage. [Apply now for free](#) – the deadline is Monday 29th April 2024. Find out more [here](#)

2024/25 programme overview and recording for Responsible Futures

"Interested in working in partnership with students to embed sustainability in teaching and learning? Learn more about Responsible Futures International - a supported change programme and accreditation mark putting sustainability at the heart of student learning. Watch the recording of our [online information session](#) for prospective institutions for 2024/25 and read our [programme overview](#). "



SOS-International Monthly Member exchange!

Join us for SOS-International monthly member exchange

In our pursuits to deliver a sustainable and resilient future for all, collaboration and engagement is key. We are therefore excited to announce the launch of our upcoming SOS-International monthly member exchange. These catch-up sessions are an excellent opportunity for all members to come together, share updates, exchange ideas, and connect.

Whether you're a longstanding member or new to the SOS community, your participation is invaluable in fostering collaboration and driving positive change. We encourage you to join us and be part of these engaging discussions. Register for the first of these zoom meetings using this [link](#)

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out to us at contact@sos.earth

SAYING GOODBYE TO EMILY

Wishing you all the very best for whatever comes next
From all of us at SOS. Emily, has worked with SOS- International for just over 6 months as a Green Office Movement Project Manager. She has contributed greatly to GOM and SOS-International work and actively took part in the organizing of the recent summit.

The staff of SOS-UK, SOS-International and GOM wish you the very best of luck in your future endeavors.



Starting a Green Office or joining the Green Office Movement

As a sustainability champion, you might be familiar with the [Green Office Model](#). This was created by the example of the first Green Office that established at Maastricht University over 10 years ago. Since then, many higher education institutions have adopted the model to create a Green Office of their own.

At its core, a Green Office is a place where students and staff work together for sustainability in higher education institutions. They act on Education, Research, Governance, Operations and Community in varying proportions. As an open-source model, every institution is free to adapt the model to become a sustainability hub that works for their institution. Do you want to start a Green Office? Or do you want to reshape an existing sustainability hub to resemble the Green Office Model more closely? We are here to help! Reach out to Tobias (tobias.bartman@sos-uk.org) with your questions or consult [the materials on our website](#).

If you have a sustainability initiative that is a Green Office, or very closely resembles a Green Office, you can consider becoming a [member of the Green Office Movement!](#) As a member of the Movement, you are invited to various possibilities for knowledge exchange in our international network. Join in on the fun and become a member! For now, you can email Tobias to request the link to the sign-up form.



GreenOffice
movement member



The SOS-International Newsletter, a monthly global guide, sheds light on key events, initiatives, and notable updates within our worldwide community devoted to sustainability. Offering perspectives on compelling narratives and noteworthy developments across the globe, it is meticulously curated by the International Communications Team at the SOS-International Secretariat. Embrace the journey towards a sustainable future with us. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram @sos_dot_earth