

Student demand for sustainable food on campus

Odette Wills, Senior Project Manager - Food



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM



Student Eats: putting sustainable food at the heart of university and college campuses across the UK

Student Eats - enterprise & food growing

64 student-led social enterprises traded:

- Sold **+£144,000** of sustainable food
- Diverted **~ 8 tonnes** of food from landfill
- Created or improved **58 growing sites**
- Enabled **2800 young people** to improve their employability skills
- Students volunteered **+33,000 hours**



WHAT DO STUDENTS REALLY THINK ABOUT FOOD ON CAMPUS AND SUSTAINABILITY?

WHAT DO STUDENTS REALLY THINK ABOUT FOOD ON CAMPUS AND SUSTAINABILITY?

SOS-UK are carrying out a student survey designed to gather information on:

- Definitions and understanding of sustainable food
- Current behaviours and practices
- Awareness of existing action on sustainable food on campus
- Expectations and aspirations for action on sustainable food on campus

There's an opportunity for individual universities to participate in the national research:

- All universities with 100 or more responses will receive anonymised data and a summary report of their students' responses
- Promotion and communication resources provided
- Gather useful insight for your own work on sustainable food, and see how your students compare to the national picture
- Survey timing is likely to be in October 2020 - hopefully when students have returned to campus although we will be monitoring the situation and adjusting our schedule where needed

WE'RE LOOKING AT SUSTAINABLE FOOD ON CAMPUS FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES..

- After the student survey, we'll be carrying out focus groups to delve into the detail of attitudes and behaviours around sustainable food on campus
- We also plan to carry out research with staff working on sustainable food issues (e.g. sustainability staff, catering and commercial staff) to gain their perspectives on sustainable food on campus
- With these two elements of research we hope to have a better understanding of current attitudes, behaviours and actions on sustainable food across the sector
- We aim to use this research to develop campaigns and projects to support universities, students' unions and students make progress on improving food sustainability on campus

Please get in touch with Rachel Drayson,
Head of research and impact, and the
Student Eats team at SOS-UK, if you're
interested in being part of the student-
facing survey:
rachel.drayson@sos-uk.org /
studenteats@sos-uk.org [n.b Please copy
in both email addresses]