

Sustainability Forum

JM
SU

23.10.25



Chair: Miles Craven [MC]

Officers: Josh Darley [JD]

Student Attendees: 14

Sustainability Ambassadors: 1

JMSU Staff: Emma E. Ashman [EEA]

LJMU Staff: Jennifer Stokoe [JS]

MC welcomed everyone, inviting everyone to introduce themselves.

MC then provided the room with an overview to Sustainability Forum, Sustainability Ambassadors and Sustainability at JMSU.

MC then invited JS to provide an overview of Sustainability work at LJMU. MC highlighted four aspects of the response in summary to the large document shared with the group.

MC and JS both welcomed all ideas, and open discussion around Sustainability on campus.

Discussion Notes

Housing

- Unite was mentioned on that they were poor on initiatives. Unite has updated the processes that is law but there is more that could be done. Students asked how LJMU work housing companies; LJMU collect data on efficiency and energy.
- Recycling Guides in all flat noticeboards could help with communication. They could highlight what and how you recycle in halls/housing. Emphasis on which bin for what as it is not often clear. More information on this for private housing could be communicated via JMSU/LJMU. Link this to wider council work and communications for students.
- Legal requirements are changing for example food waste, as they will be rolled into homes by April.

@johnmoressu

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On Campus

- Period products were discussed with reference to Menstruation Matters projects across campus including the trial use of Egal in toilets in SLB and James Parson proving more green alternatives at LJMU. Students encouraged to use feedback mechanisms on the pad holders in toilets.
- Is it possible to add to a scheme on campus with recycling to claim back i.e. like other European countries? LJMU will be looking into this, logistics and will they be required to offer this with changes to legislation. It might make it more appealing to recycle. MC suggested this could be pushed at accommodation as that might be easier initially. Suggestions were made that this could be something for café's to take up on campus to earn extra stamps.
- MC updated the group on changes to cafes with coffee, Costa and Starbucks will be replaced with Change Please, that supports other local initiatives across the city.
- Sports kit swop much like a clothes swop -i.e. hockey sticks etc. MC mentioned clothes swop is something that JMSU are hoping to bring in areas on campus but having specific days/areas could be a great idea. JD mentioned that they is an orange bin that you could donate old kit.
- Discussion on repairing old kit/clothes. Often people will just buy new as they do not have the skills to repair them. EEA mentioned workshops previously held at JMSU. Maybe we could more workshops? LJMU looking into repairing programme/café.
- Food bank/ food pantry/eco conscious shops i.e. bring a bottle and refilled rice etc. MC is keen to do more in this area. As well as creating a guide on this as well with information on ways to be more sustainable – moving away from single use plastics.
- Book swop this could be a project with Library Services and VP Education.
- More water stations across campus are needed or better signage about where they are. Students also mentioned they are often out of order. Suggestions to have QR code near points to raise issues. JD mentioned a tier system how estates access and repairs things around campus. LJMU to investigate how students can access to report issues across campus.

Freshers

- Freshers Fair was mentioned as source for lots of waste. With students been given lots of paper flyers, and often many items that are not wanted and end up in the bin.
 - Dominoes hand out lots of paper bags with paper flyers in them, even though staff have QRs on their backs, so the bags are not needed. Often staff were giving them out to students even when they already had been given one and said no.
 - Students commented on to have to insistently say no to promoters who were trying to force freebies and tote bags on students.
 - JMSU to look and review sustainability with Native who they work with on events such as Freshers.
 - Instead of giving rubbish out as freebies, why not give students useful items for the home, sustainable related goodies or food.
 - Student Groups often had leaflets to get members, could this be changed to be more sustainable going forward? JMSU to investigate this and review options.
 - Students also feedback that changing from one long day, it could be good to change to split into smaller events like the Guild. Internal one day and external the other.

MC thanked everyone for coming, their ideas and closed the session.