

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESIDENCES

## 2021-22



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESIDENCES

This document outlines the 2021-22 Engagement Programme for student's in residences.

1. Residence Engagement Campaign
2. Wellbeing Sprints \*NEW\*
3. Recycling Audits in Residences
4. Private Rented Sector Engagement Campaign
5. Additional Support from SOS-UK
6. Next Steps

## 1. RESIDENCE ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

### 1.1 Background to Residence Engagement Campaign

Delivered under our Student Switch Off brand, or as part of your university sustainability branding, is our multi award-winning student sustainability programme - providing an engagement campaign within student accommodation to achieve quantifiable energy, waste and water reductions. The campaign builds students sustainability knowledge and carbon literacy, focusing on enhancing student experience and empowerment.

### 1.2 The Residence Engagement Campaign

The campaign runs over an academic year and includes:

#### SUPPORT AND PLANNING

- Detailed planning meeting to fully integrate the campaign into your campus culture, decide key dates and local logistics;
- On-going feedback over the course of academic year;
- Analysis of sustainability data (typically energy, waste and water data) to maintain campaign leaderboard;
- Support with the organisation of the end-of-year celebratory event for the winning hall;
- End of year impact report.

#### BEGINNING OF TERM CAPACITY BUILDING

- Warden/residential assistant/accommodation team campaign training to induct and engage key student staff members to support the programme;
- Online competition and communications to raise awareness of the campaign and to gain student participation and support;
- Campaign resources for arrival giveaways.

#### STUDENT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainability training for students living in halls in term one and two (one training in person and one online);
- Ongoing student support and online follow up sessions to continue their engagement with the programme and develop their sustainability leadership experience;
- Online residence audits to support volunteers to action and make sustainability recommendations;
- Volunteer awards and certificates to support and recognise sustainability skills and experience;
- Microgrant fund available for student volunteers to run own initiatives.

#### COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

- Regular communication with students opted in to the programme via email and social media;
- Regular social media competitions over the year including two week long targeted campaigns;
- Two online climate change quizzes;
- Template communication materials such as posters and social media graphics;
- Sourcing of prizes for a number of social media competitions;
- End of year information and advice on energy management when moving into private rented accommodation.

#### FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITY

- Campus visits to engage students in the campaign. Three visits over the year which typically include;
  - 1x attendance at arrival event to engage students as they enter halls and raise awareness;
  - 1x face to face volunteer training session delivery, followed by a visit to campus to engage students on the campaign;
  - 1x visit to campus/residences to run an awareness raising event such as halls competitions or activity stalls.

#### SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Online sustainability learning masterclasses to build on sustainability knowledge and learning
- Online webinars on topical sustainability issues

### 1.3 What we expect from you

SOS-UK staff will deliver the campaign with support required on:

- Provision of energy/waste/water data, where available, at least twice a year (usually end of winter and spring terms).
- Access to halls for face-to-face visits

- Access to room(s) for training
- Any cost incurred for the provision of engagement stands
- Sending approximately 4-5 emails on our behalf to all students living in halls at strategic times of the year
- Printing and distribution of posters in halls of residence;
- End-of-year overall prize for the winning hall

## 1.4 Campaign Costs 2021-22

Residence Engagement Campaign 2021/22 fees		
Small campus (Up to 1,500 students in accommodation)	Medium campus (1,501 - 3,000 students in accommodation)	Large campus (Over 3,001 students in accommodation)
£4,500 (+VAT)	£6,000 (+VAT)	£7,500 (+VAT)
Recycling Audits - charged at £0.80/student per audit (+VAT)		

# 2. WELLBEING SPRINTS \*NEW\*

## 2.1 Background to Wellbeing Sprints

Whilst living in residences students can be supported via our wellbeing sprints to take action, increase awareness and be engaged in a range of wellbeing topics to enhance their residential experience.

This work builds upon the 15 years of experience NUS and SOS-UK have in mobilising students to work together to create positive change around environmental and social issues. Improving student health and wellbeing is a core part of our vision for a more just and sustainable society.

Find out more about SOS-UKs work on [Alcohol, Drugs and Student Wellbeing](#).

## 2.2 Wellbeing Sprint Themes

Across the academic year SOS-UK will run three Wellbeing Sprints focused around different themes. You can choose to run one, two or all three of these sprints. The themes include:

- **Alcohol Harm Reduction**, October 2021: Providing practical advice on how to reduce the harm students face from drinking alcohol, and how they can play a role in looking after themselves, their friends and housemates when they drink.

- **Community Sprint, January 2022:** Encouraging students to take an active role in their local community from cooking together, keeping shared spaces clean to acts of kindness and volunteering.
- **Self-care Sprint, May 2022:** Helping students look after their mental and physical wellbeing and manage stress during exam season.

N.B. This sprint is not designed to provide in depth support for those struggling with serious mental health issues, but we can signpost to further help available locally and nationally.

## 2.3 Wellbeing Sprint Activities

Sprints will last for one week and will have a scheduled online activity each day. Activities will vary across the weeks and will typically include:

- **COMPETITIONS:** including topics on alcohol units, alcohol free recipes, clean space challenge, acts of kindness, self care top tips and take 10 challenge.
- **WEBINARS/VIDEO SERIES:** including mocktail making, creating change in your community, sustainable self care.
- **QUIZ:** 5 questions per quiz aimed to raise awareness and encourage action on a range of alcohol, community and self care topics.
- **RESOURCE SHARE:** Next steps guidance and resource packs.

SOS-UK will provide all social media, graphics and email templates for the sprints. SOS-UK will facilitate all activities across the week.

## 2.4 What we expect from you

SOS-UK staff will deliver the sprints with support required on:

- Sending emails on our behalf to all students living in halls at strategic times during the sprint;
- Promotion of the activities on any local social accounts (templates, graphics and content will be provided);
- Any local based additional sprint competition prizes.

## 2.5 Wellbeing Sprint Costs 2021-22

Wellbeing Sprint 2021/22 fees	
Ran as part of Residence Engagement Campaign	Ran as stand alone element
£300 (+VAT) per sprint	£500 (+VAT) per sprint

# 3. RECYCLING AUDITS IN RESIDENCES

## 3.1 Background to Recycling Audits

Recycling audits provide a visual check of student recycling at key points in the year to both feedback performance to students, and to provide a greater understanding on recycling habits. Students are incentivised and informed on how to improve their recycling to support improvement of recycling efficiency. SOS-UK deliver the audits either in conjunction with the Residence Engagement Campaign or ran as an independent stand alone option.

## 3.2 Residence Audit Activities

Recycling audits run at pre arranged key times during the academic year and include:

### SUPPORT AND PLANNING

- Planning meeting to understand current recycling behaviour and decide key dates and local logistics;
- Analysis of audit data with the option to include this as a leaderboard metric in the Residence Engagement Campaign where applicable;
- Support with arranging a celebratory or prize to reward the best recycling where applicable;
- Written audit report with details of recycling results, best practice and recommendations.

### STUDENT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Recruitment of students support to conduct the audits;
- Waste, recycling and audit training session for the recruited student auditors;
- Student auditors are paid the Real Living Wage for their time completing the audits (wage is included in the costs of the audits);
- Certificate provided to support and recognise sustainability skills and experience.

### AUDIT ACTIVITY

- Template email provided to send to students before the audit to provide a waste and recycling guide;
- Visual waste and recycling audit conducted in every residence kitchen, with a score recorded;
- Recyclometer card provided to feed back scores and recommendations;
- Kitchens segregating their waste correctly will be given Fairtrade chocolate rewards;
- Audit can record additional information where useful such as the presence of recycling posters, bin labelling, missing bins etc.;
- Audit leaderboard and feedback emailed to all students following the audit.

### 3.3 What we expect from you

SOS-UK staff, with the support of paid students, will deliver the audits with support required on:

- Provision of waste and recycling segregation information in advance of the audits;
- Access to kitchens to conduct the audits, with student access also to be arranged;
- Sending approximately 3 emails on our behalf to all students living in halls to inform them of the audit, the results and to recruit for student auditors;
- Printing of any supplementary recycling guides to be distributed during the audit;
- Prize for the best recycling, if applicable.

### 3.4 Recycling Audit Costs 2021-22

Recycling Audits 2021/22 fees	
Ran as part of Residence Engagement Campaign	Ran as stand alone element
£0.80 (+VAT) per student per audit	£1.20 (+VAT) per student per audit

## 4. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

### 4.1 Background to Private Rented Engagement Campaign

Our research shows that students living in private rented sector accommodation are likely to experience poor quality housing (60% have damp, draughts or condensation), feel uncomfortably cold (46%), struggle to pay energy bills (46%) and experience impacts on mental health as a result of their accommodation (36%). SOS-UKs private rented sector (PRS) engagement campaign raises awareness of energy topics such as saving money on bills, choosing suppliers, househunting, low/no cost efficiency measure and heating management to support students who may be vulnerable to energy poverty.

### 4.2 The PRS Engagement Campaign

The campaign runs over an academic year and includes:

#### SUPPORT AND PLANNING

- Detailed planning meeting to decide key dates, activities and local logistics;
- On-going feedback over the course of academic year;

- Engagement with university and/or union student advice teams where relevant, providing comms, advice and resources;
- End of year impact report.

#### STUDENT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainability training for students living in PRS;
- Ongoing student support and online follow up sessions to continue their engagement with the programme and develop their sustainability leadership experience;
- Online PRS home audits to support volunteers to take action in their home;
- Volunteer awards and certificates to support and recognise sustainability skills and experience;
- Microgrant fund available for student volunteers to run own initiatives.

#### COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

- Regular communication with students opted in to the programme via email and social media;
- Regular social media competitions over the year including two week long targeted campaigns;
- Two online climate change quizzes;
- Template communication materials such as posters and social media graphics;
- Sourcing of prizes for a number of social media competitions.

#### SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Househunting workshop with advice on how to look for energy efficient properties;
- Online sustainability learning masterclasses to build on sustainability knowledge and learning;
- Online webinars on topical sustainability issues.

### 4.3 What we expect from you

SOS-UK staff will deliver the campaign with support required on:

- Establishing communication channels with students living in PRS;
- Access to room(s) for training;
- Introducing relevant university/student union accommodation departments to enable sharing of our guides, resources and information.

### 4.4 Campaign Costs 2021-22

Private Rented Sector Engagement Campaign 2021/22 fees	
Ran in conjunction with Residence Engagement Campaign	Ran as a stand alone campaign
£1,500 (+VAT)	£2,500 (+VAT)

## 5. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM SOS-UK

SOS-UK offer a popular range of programmes and support including Carbon Literacy Training, our learning academy sessions, education for sustainable development, student placements and bespoke support. View more information on all of [our work](#).

## 6. NEXT STEPS

Please contact SOS-UK if you have any queries on the above outline and quote on [hello@sos-uk.org](mailto:hello@sos-uk.org).