

## Highlights

- 37 entrants for the Sustainability Degree Show [Prize](#) (29 last year)
- Inaugural Graduate Sustainability Degree Show Prize with 11 entries
- Cross School [Course](#) for 325 1<sup>st</sup> year students on UN SDGs, with 150 students attending a sustainability tutorial
- SiAG awarded £13,261 to support student, staff & operational projects
- 63 individual meetings with students regarding their practice 2017-18
- Attended all student UG & PG student inductions at Freshers Week 2017
- Presented to PDE3 on businesses and waste
- Presented to MRes students and discussed environmental and social issues
- Attended Forres to speak to graduate students
- Attended Freshers Fair and funded Freshers Week workshops with [MEND](#), [Tubular](#), [Replastico](#), weaving for [Social Wellbeing](#), [Terrarium Making](#) & [Yoga](#)
- Attended as many SSCCs as possible each term (some overlap)
- Worked with S&J on the ethical silver procurement [pledge](#) for Scotland's FHEIs
- Supported new Responsive Art and Design (Re-AD) [Society](#) activities
- Worked on and judged the [ANIMATE](#) video project
- GSA students' association hosted [Go Green Week](#), 500 students from all universities in Glasgow attending with funding support from SiAG
- Attended [EAUC Scotland](#) and Glasgow forums, and helped organise and attend the EAUC Scotland conference
- Attended the EAUC UK conference, for the first time giving three workshops
- Took part in Climate Week at the Winter Gardens Sept17
- Held four Dr Bike sessions on campus
- [Climathon](#) Hack with 40 participants, including GSA students Sept17
- Working with MEARU, developed a Reid building user energy guide
- Supported films and talks by the Re-AD society, including [True Cost](#), [Ady Gasy](#), [A Plastic Ocean](#), [Frontline Fashion 2](#), [Riverblue](#), [Holly McQuillan](#)
- GSA S&J alumna [Karen Westland](#) presented on ethical S&J making
- Supported garden development at the Forres campus
- Hosted [Fashion Revolution Week](#) main event in Glasgow at the GSA
- Student [wellbeing](#) support expanded, working with the student association
- Halls excess items collected in May and distributed for free at Freshers Week
- Over 400 active student members of re-use charity [Glasgow Scrap Store](#)

## The Sustainability in Action Group

The Sustainability in Action Group continues to attract more student attendees. Any GSA staff member or student may attend, present, listen and discuss social, environmental and ethical (SEE) issues at the GSA.

SEE issues are a powerful tool for positively developing our work and practice and should be delivered as an integral part of GSA life through our study, practice and work roles. Being efficient, careful with resources, mindful of their lifecycle, and better understanding how our use of things has social consequences supports and enhances GSA as an institution, and students' future careers and practice. It connects an emotional bond to climate change and humanity that can lead to real change in our global system.

SiAG encourages this integrated approach, supplying ideas, direction, and support via [our strategy](#). Delivery is positive and enabling, creating a safe space for a disruptive, innovative and questioning creativity.

## Funding

SiAG has developed [funding criteria](#) to guide students seeking support. We publish funded projects and other best practice from across all GSA's schools [online](#). Work also regularly features on our website through "[Featured](#)" and on our [Tumblr](#) feed.

The SiAG budget in 2017/18 was £31k, of which we spent £27k, with most of the short-fall being unclaimed grants made to students. £13,261.24 was awarded and claimed by students and staff. A list of awards appears in the appendix below.

## Degree Show Prizes

This year saw 37 students enter, the most so far. [Winners](#) included students from Architecture, Textiles, and Sculpture & Environment Art, with Morag Seaton from Fashion Design winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

The inaugural graduate Degree Show Prize attracted 11 entries, saw Jack Cardno take 1<sup>st</sup> prize (MDes Design Innovation & Interaction Design) and four students as runner's-up or commended.

In addition, we awarded prizes to PDE3, and Architecture stages 3 & 4.

## Working with Others

We've worked with a [long list of external partners](#). This has included Cycling Scotland, Bike for Good (nee Glasgow Bike Station), other Scottish universities and colleges, the Garnethill community, APUC, and others as well as GSA depts.

With the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges ([EAUC](#)) I have helped organise the UK and Scottish conferences, sit on the Scottish forum, help formulate EAUC advocacy policy, and convene the [community engagement topic support network](#).

This external working is important for a small organisation like the GSA. Our resources are limited, but our national standing opens the doors to work with others and present ideas for change on a wider stage. We build relationships both within and without the GSA, bringing in new voices and specialists to help our community, giving students access to relevant, specialised support and to host more live, real-World projects.

## Challenges & Opportunities

There's a full list and SWOT [online](#), but below are some areas where we are working to involve more of the GSA community.

Demands on staff time means it is difficult to deliver some areas of work, for example in developing environmental policies. Draft [policies](#) were drawn up, but have yet to be properly discussed and adopted by the GSA management. Our Carbon Management Plan has expired, and we need to better integrate SEE values into GSA's strategy which is due for renewal. SEE issues need to cascade down into all GSA policy and departmental policy, curriculum planning and assessment.

It would be useful to integrate SEE responsibility into all job descriptions, and to create an Exec Management Group Green Champion.

Until we are certain we can deliver it, we have withdrawn from [EcoCampus](#) membership. This is part of our SFC Outcome Agreement & in our GSA strategy.

Calculating targets and reporting our results are vital: we need to do more to set targets and to collate and report in a timely fashion to the Scottish Government's [Required reporting](#), [AUDE report](#), and People & Planet's [University \(Green\) League](#).

Our buildings are not as efficient as they could be. Comms and SiAG led a behaviour change energy saving campaign in Autumn/Winter 2017/18 which for the first time integrated a sustainability campaign into a formal, central GSA marketing campaign. This is only part of a wider systematic organisational approach which is needed to

audit our campus energy infrastructure & energy use We're continuing to work with [MEARU](#) on identifying areas where we can improve efficiency.

The GSA journey for many students starts in [Halls](#), and halls management is leading the way with better waste management, re-use and energy & water efficiency. We support the student-led [ResLife](#) activities, the halls end-of-year clear-outs and an annual Freshers [Rummage](#) of excess student stuff.

A dynamic student president has led to increased co-working, with GSASA hosting free Dr Bike sessions to promote active travel, and SiAG supporting the student association's [Self Centred](#) mental health well-being month last May.

I am assisting HR with staff wellbeing activities, and starting a GSA staff mindfulness group network.

Reducing the amount of cleaning [chemicals](#) and off-gassing of toxic chemicals from furniture and carpets/paints within the GSA (as is common in organisations) continues to be a concern. I'm promoting better purchasing of furniture/paint/carpets, better monitoring of air quality across the GSA and attempting to get permission for a chemical-free cleaning trial. We've screened "[Underkastelsen](#)" a film that clearly illustrates the dangers of current chemical use (the good news is that climate change may not be the biggest threat to humanity)

In the face of major operational change, my focus has been on influencing the GSA's curricula. Much of what is already delivered takes account of SEE issues, but student pressure is needed to push those boundaries and be more innovative, free thinking and questioning of the status quo in design, architecture and art. I aim to show the relevancy of SEE issues within these areas, and to improve the overall experience of students, working with Enterprise and Careers managers to offer better post-GSA opportunities. There is a lot of good content already in the curriculum, and initiatives such as [Missing In Architecture](#) are promoting change.

For the second year running I worked with accountants at University of Glasgow and CommDes year 3 students on [creatively visualising](#) complex environmental data for Glasgow City Council.

Some students have extra-curricular interests that highlight and support SEE issues. We support the [GSA Beekeeping](#) Society, GSA Yoga, and offer logistical support to GSA's [Throwawaygourmet](#) Society.

## Priorities for 2018-19

[SiAG's strategy](#), along with a full list of priorities is available below. Highlights:

- Support staff and student wellbeing
- The further development of the [Sustainability Clinic](#) where students can book appointments to discuss their work 1-2-1, expanding this to fortnightly
- Continue to support students with advice and [funding](#)
- Supporting groups such as [throwawaygourmet](#), and [BKGSA](#)
- Attending student inductions and organising events at Freshers Week
- Introduce the [Degree Show Prize](#) earlier in the academic year to help students get the most out of their practice development
- Offer the graduate prize again, and an inaugural PhD prize in 2019
- Develop [curriculum engagement](#) with academics and students, including cross-school and departmental projects
- Work with the new 100% externally funded GSA Cycling officer Georgi Gushlekov on Next Bike membership, pool bicycles, electric bike trials and e-bike procurement, Dr Bike and bike police registration, led rides and maintenance and confidence training for staff and students
- Conduct a follow-up to the 2009 travel survey in early 2019
- Work with [MEARU](#) and departments to help the GSA community reduce their resource, energy & water use
- A greater emphasis on studios organising their own storage of excess materials, mini-rummages within depts, & student-led initiatives on waste
- Promoting safer operational alternatives such as [chemical-free cleaning](#)
- Use a [psychosocial](#) approach to explore how creative approaches can help us address climate change
- Support campus redevelopment teams as requested
- Undertake [University Green League](#) reporting, and support the Scottish Government's [Required](#) reporting and AUDE reporting
- Regularly communicate our efforts and promote opportunities to the GSA community through newsletters, social media and our website (for example supplying [best practice examples](#))
- Develop a staff induction for HR
- Support community garden and project spaces with [FROGGS](#) the Garnethill environmental group
- Support and work with other external partners

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**APPENIX: Financial Awards to Students 2017/18**

Students' work and other best practice is published here:

[www.gsasustainability.org.uk/resources](http://www.gsasustainability.org.uk/resources)

**TOTAL £13,261.24 awarded and claimed.**

## APPENDIX: SiAG Priorities 2018-2019

Curriculum	Extracurricular student & staff support	GSA operations	Developing partnerships: Raising GSA's SEE* profile
Sustainability Clinic: 1-2-1 meetings with students	Staff Wellbeing: working with HR & unions, supporting national and international wellbeing and mental health 'days'	Energy saving campaign working with Comms	Support the EAUC** Scottish & UK conferences, community engagement TSN***, Small Institutions TSN,
Attendance at SSCCs and student forums	Support HR in developing staff inductions & wellbeing initiatives	Support Required Reporting	Climate Week 2019
Degree Show Prizes: undergrad, Graduate, PhD, Singapore, PDE3, ARCH stages 3 & 4	Support the Beekeeping Society	Support GSA's Adaptation to Climate Change	Go Green Week February 2019: working with HEIs across Glasgow
Direct funding to support student & staff projects	Conduct a 2019 travel survey and compare to 2009	GSA SEE* issues policy development	Sustainability in Action Group: 3-4 meetings annually, staff- & student-led
Featured: adding GSA student best practice examples online	Active Travel: Dr Bike cycle maintenance support, BikeRegister, social rides & maintenance/confidence training through the cycling officer role	Improving air quality, noise pollution and toxin levels in GSA buildings	Human Rights: possible event with artist Tom Block & Centre for Human Ecology, with link to creative practices
Supporting a SEE* approach to the annual cross-school project using the UN's SDGs	Developing the cycle maintenance hub at Blythwood Sq halls of residence	Chemical-free cleaning: support a chemical-free cleaning pilot, and promote less use of cleaning and fabric chemicals on campus	Climate Psychology Alliance Scotland: using socio-psychology to understand reactions to climate change and explore creative responses
Support Fashion Revolution Week	Support the Throwawaygourmet Society	Advising on GSA redevelopments	Support Garnethill Community Council in local environmental and social improvements where links to student and staff life

<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>Extracurricular student &amp; staff support</b>	<b>GSA operations</b>	<b>Developing partnerships: Raising GSA's SEE* profile</b>
Offer eco-crit and student talks on greening their curriculum	Mindfulness workshops for staff	Rummage: annual clear-out and collections in halls	Liaising with the Enterprise and Careers Managers on joint projects to promote 'green' career paths
Support feminist and other social justice approaches to creative practice	Student Wellbeing: working with GSA Student Association and Self-Centred events	EcoCampus: potentially re-joining to monitor GSA environmental impacts	Promoting and attending Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) Green Tease events
Support use of Glasgow Scrap Store	Support halls of residence to deliver ResLife SEE events & initiatives	Sustainability Coordinator's annual report and year-ahead plan	Support Friends of Garnethill Green Spaces community garden and other initiatives
Develop Biophilic design resources within ARCH	Support the Blythwood Sq halls of residence garden	Contributing to GSA Strategy	Attending EAUC UK, EAUC Scotland and the Green Gown judging and awards
Create & Sustain film & talk series: student and staff led through the Responsive Art and Design Society	Develop Next Bike, pool bikes, electric bike trials and procurement, to better link GSA campuses	Continue to push for use of unchlorinated, recycled paper across the GSA	Engaging with leadership courses and initiatives with the EAUC
Freshers Week: Inductions, workshops working with GSA students' association and Re-AD society	Support Impact Arts to deliver GSA student/local community art events and workshops	Promote Greener Meetings guidelines across the GSA	Support GSA student association in their social justice and environmental programmes
Studio clear-outs: moving to department-led mini-rummages and storage	Support GSA Halls SEE-focused initiatives	Eat More Veg: support catering outlets to reduce meat consumption	Forres: supporting sustainability