

Objective / Overview

• **What is your project?**

ESIC (Edinburgh Sustainable Innovation Conference) is a day long conference, at Dynamic Earth which hosted leaders from the sustainability sector on Scotland. The content was given through presentations, interactive workshops, panel discussions and exhibitions. This was to allow collaboration around the topic of sustainability and encourage wider engagement and create a platform for student input. Some examples of the content included were presentations by Maurice Golden MSP on the circular economy, Jo Green from SEPA on One Planet Prosperity, Jenny Hogan Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables, Neil Kermode, Managing Director European Marine Energy Centre. Workshops by the 2050 climate group, Creative Carbon Scotland, Aurora Sustainability Consultancy, The Buchanan Institute and Martin Valenti from SEPA. The breaks took place in an exhibition area which had over 20 exhibitors, cross sector and based in Scotland.

• **Who's in your team?**

Members from The Buchanan Institute.

The aims and objectives of ESIC was to open up a dialogue around sustainability to develop an integrated and cross sector approach, with collaboration as the key underlying theme. Aiming to forge a powerful bridge between students of the University of Edinburgh (and students from other Universities)* with NGOs leaders, professionals, academics external students, politicians and third sector workers. Through the lens of 'sustainable innovation' to bring these groups into contact by working together on a given theme.

*We had students from Glasgow Caledonian, Heriot Watt and Robert Gordon in Aberdeen attend.

Outcome / review

• **Was it a success?** Yes, I would certainly say that it was a success. We had a good turn out in numbers and everyone on the day was engaged. At the after drinks reception, over 100 people showed up to continue discussing the day. Each table was talking about topics from the conference, networking and having a nice time. That was when we realised that the day was successful as people wanted it to continue past 18:00, after they had been there since 09:00.

You tube link to live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYhK1N1Kebo>

• How many people you engaged with/signed up?

- The Facebook Event page engaged 756 people. The Eventbrite sold/ had reserved 317 places. On the people showed up.

• **Testimonials / feedback:**

Feed back from the day was very positive, with members from SRS, students and people in the sustainability sector asking if the event could be run again the next year and if they could be involved. Below I have included some quotes from the feedback sheets:

"- The variety of speakers in attendance, and the ability to chose workshops that focused on a specialist subject, allowing a variety of topics relevant to me to be covered "

"- The variety of people attending! It was a very diverse range, not just young people or hardcore sustainability people ."

"- I liked the fact that it was student run and led. A lot of effort goes into events that are purely volunteer led (in between other commitments). It was very professional "

"- Really liked the range of speakers you had, especially the fact that they were from diverse sectors and (seemed to me) to have different views on what sustainability means. I think it's important to consider and represent this in discussions around sustainability. "

"- The structure of the day was very good, as it helped to break it up a bit, and get us engaging in different ways throughout the day. The Aurora workshop on the circular economy was very good and there were a lot of good stalls in the main foyer. The general running of the event was very very good and very well-organised - there was always someone available to help if needed, and the catering was great. "

"- Professional and inspiring "

"I liked the youthfulness of the event, it felt that a lot of people got inspired and were starting to forge new ideas/partnerships "

• **What we would do differently:**

- Two aspects stood out. Firstly, more content diversity. In the feed back that we were missing content on environmental law and speakers from social enterprise and grassroots organisations presenting in lectures. Secondly, it would be organisation in the morning, allowing the participants to be more in the run up to ESIC we should have advertised to the general public earlier (press releases). Allowing more cross sector engagement.

The Process

Stages of the project: 1) Confirming the venue 2) Forming the idea and creating a sponsorship brochure and finding sponsors (emails, meetings, phone calls). 3) Creating content and finding a diverse range of speakers and workshop leaders. (Research, emailing, meetings, attending events). This involved constant communication and the sharing of ideas. 4) Finding exhibitors that are diverse and ensuring their presence is mutually beneficial. 5) Advertising and inviting attendees—graphic creation, event pages, press releases, social medial, personal emails, research to make sure that all relevant stakeholders came. 6)Event logistics: 1)answering questions and communication wit attendees. 2) organizing the day: spaces, rooms timing, layout, volunteers (recruiting and briefing), catering, finding photography and live stream on the day, venue for after drinks. 7) Creating content for our workshops and speeches as well as follow up events.

• **Collaboration:** Collaboration can be split into two halves. 1) Working within a small team where people are juggling studies, jobs, personal lives whilst organising a day long event involved a lot compromise, communication and joint efforts to resurrect hit—ups and enact tasks that none of us had done before. 2) Collaboration with professionals such as the RSA, SEPA, the Scottish Government and the ECCI, in creating trust and helping each other to achieve both our aims.

• **Project team:** The project team included 6 Key members: Ewan Tennant, (Event Organiser), Meyra Coban (Event coordinator), Sinead McNulty (Event coordinator) Maazin Buhari (Media and communications) Angus Leung (Events Director and volunteer leader) and Peter Mac-Phail (Graphics). However, other members of Buchanan were very supportive and heavily involved, including Caillean Osborne (Treasurer), Vanessa Ho (Graphics and ESIC workshop leader), Liv Mould (media and communication, and discussion panel moderator) Charlotte Stockton (proofreading), Adam Noach (support and guidance) On the day we had 15 volunteers from inside and outside of the Buchanan Institute. We also worked with Product Forge to livestream the event and Stevie Powers Photography to document the day.

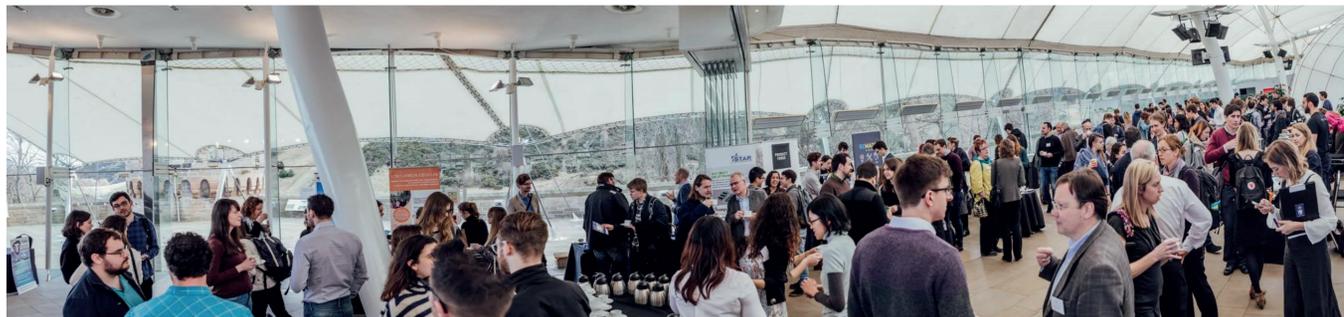
Looking ahead

• Looking ahead we have lots of plans that we have already started to put in place. We recently ran a successful follow up event where people showed up to discuss projects that Buchanan could take forward, drawing on ideas from the day. A member from "Remade in Edinburgh" showed up to discuss circular economy policy. This is part of an ongoing collaboration that Buchanan is forging with people who participated in the day. Others include the RSA, SEPA, Common Weak and Aurora Sustainability Consulting. (to name a few). Ongoing collaboration also emphasises a high amount of student engagement, allowing those who are interested to take part and providing them a platform to execute their ideas. Since ESIC Buchanan has seen project group sizes grow and volunteers from the day become members.

• With regards to SEPA we are focusing on collaborating on a major land reform policy.

• For welcome week we would like to run a Buchanan workshop focusing on Sustainability and ideas from ESIC. Looking to address negatives in the feedback and let more students become involved Buchanan and learning processes that it provides beyond studies.

• Finally, we hope that such workshops will engage new members so we can create a stronger team to run ESIC again, building on connections, within and out-with the University (especially relevant societies). Hopefully this means that event will improve year on year and benefit a wider range of students.



Holyrood Herb Garden

Holyrood RA Sustainability Committee

RAs Marina Moya, Andi Cutspec, Monique Hooley, Manni Vattapally, Katerina Talianni and RLC, Stamatis Kandris

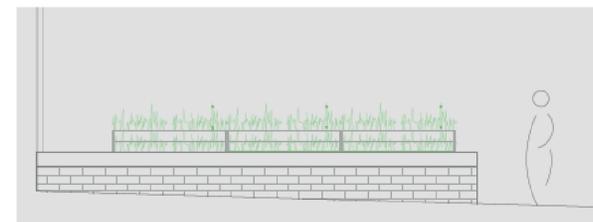
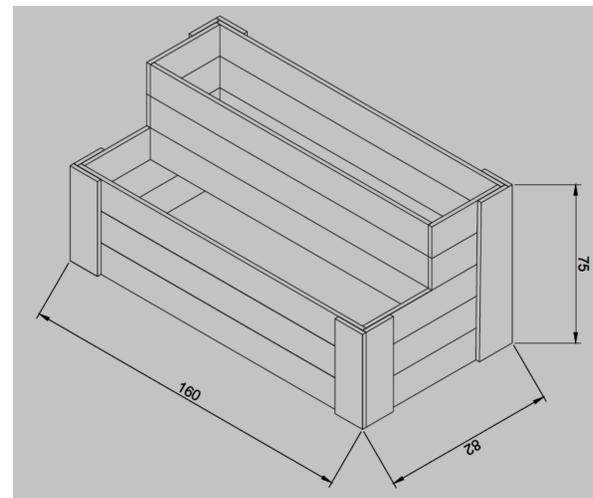
Objective / Overview

- Our project is to build a herb garden at Holyrood Student Accommodation.
- Our Herb Garden will be available to all Holyrood residents.
- Our Herb Garden will stimulate and strengthen the sense of community we have built for our residents. It will be a resource for healthy cooking, it will contribute positively to our residents' mental health and it will provide them with a satisfying project they can work on with their own hands.



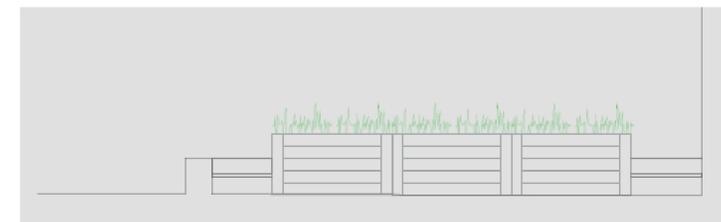
The Process

- The RA Sustainability Committee started the work in October:
 - We polled all site Facebook groups to gauge resident engagement with the project and then started researching. Approximately 100 people expressed interest in the project and 60 said they would be actively involved.
 - We consulted with experts and we presented our case to the Holyrood stakeholders.
 - We applied for and secured the £500 SRS Project Grant toward the garden.
 - We are currently collaborating with local carpenters who will help us with construction and arranging for the H&S audit between Engie, Balfour Beatty, and ACE.
- We have collaborated with SRS, the ACE H&S and Sustainability Officer, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust and the Grass-market Community Project.



Looking ahead

- We are planning to plant our first herbs in April and involve our residents in the maintenance of the herb garden via organising a welcoming event later in spring.
- We want to introduce our herb garden to our residents and involve people in the everyday upkeep of the garden. In this way we will promote healthy and sustainable habits.
- In the future we plan to promote our plan for wellbeing and sustainability to our newcomers with special events around our herb garden during future Welcome Weeks.



Shine

(Sustainability Hub IN Edinburgh)

OVERVIEW

The project:

Online forum to link students to sustainable volunteer and project opportunities.

The team:

Audra Congress, Emily Dawson, Immie Terry

The vision:

To unite students of Edinburgh in creating a more sustainable cities. Creating an online community to facilitate learning, discussion and action around sustainability.

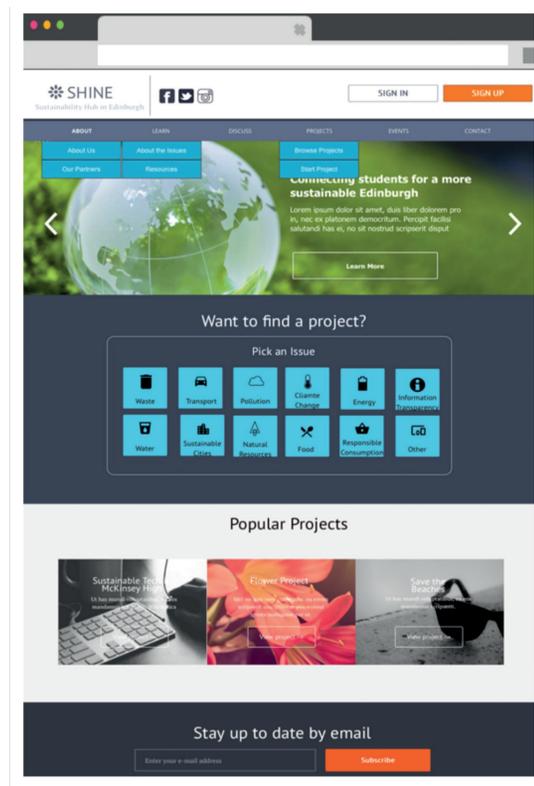
OUTCOME

The project is still in its development stages but will be gathering momentum in the next few months.

We have had a lot of support, e.g. from EUSA but we are still trying to engage with more supporters to ensure we expand as effective as possible.

POTENTIAL MONOPOLIZATION STRATEGIES

- 1) Adverts on the website
- 2) funding and Grants
- 3) online shop
- 4) offline conference to invite brands to advertise
- 5) contests with a prize draw



PROGRESS

Designing the brand > Website designer
> Social media > Networks > Launch event

Collaboration plans:

- 1) Working alongside all the societies and projects within Edinburgh University to gather opportunities for student to get involved in.
- 2) Possibly expand beyond the university to the wider city.

SHINE

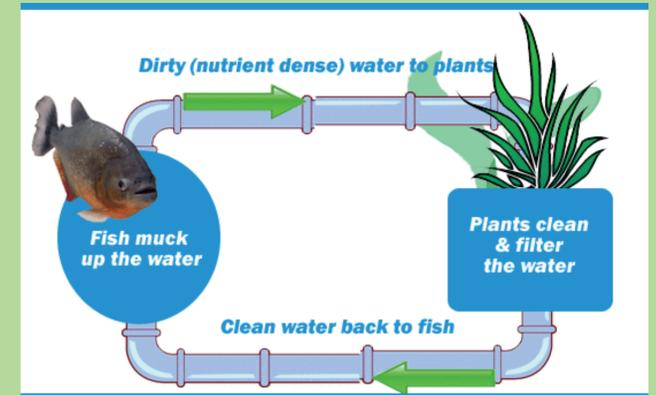
Project Cambodia

Who Are We?

We are a team of 10 engineers who aim to research and develop efficient and sustainable methods of farming in Cambodia, specifically aquaponics farming.

We work closely with Community First Initiatives, an NGO based in Cambodia, sending a team every summer to assist them in designing systems to help rural villages access food resources and help to combat malnutrition prominent in the region.

Aquaponics is beneficial as it is unaffected by the adverse weather conditions Cambodia experiences, and utilises far less space than traditional farming methods.



Achievements

Last summer in Cambodia we completed technical drawings including a drainage system at the NGOs farm school.

We also assisted research into sensor technology and constructed the aquaponics system, shown above, to expand our knowledge.

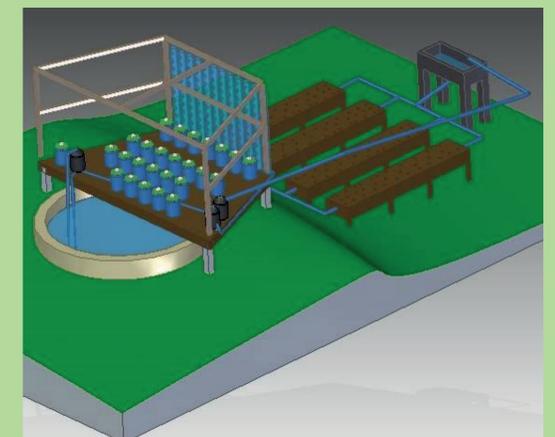
In Edinburgh, we have finished our first prototype model and through the society have increased our interest and raised sufficient funds to continue the project.

The Process

As part of The Engineering For Change Society, we organize and take part in a number of fundraising and promotional events such as ceilidhs, bake sales, flat crawls etc. All funds raised contribute to our international efforts, as well as local resources.

We meet weekly in Edinburgh to discuss ideas and work on our prototype. Research is done into materials, costs, theoretical calculations and overall system design.

Our team regularly attends fairs and networking events to increase exposure to the theory of aquaponics and its importance. This also helps us generate support for our project.



The Future

We will continue working with Community First Initiatives by sending out a new team each summer to work on their systems. This will involve more fundraising and publicity events for us to organize.

Locally, we expect to expand our prototype model onto a larger scale and improve our outreach within the community. This could include running workshops at local schools and for current students.



SUSTAINABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA CONFERENCE



The Process

At our initial meetings, tasks were defined and divided between working group members, with later help from the EUSDA committee. Key tasks included contacting speakers and the school, and arranging a venue and catering. Critical stages involved exact scheduling of the two sessions, working with the school on their involvement, and fostering links to the university (through the SRS) and EUSA to arrange the logistics of the event, and marketing. The team consisted of the EUSDA committee and the Sustainability Executive of the Latin American Society.

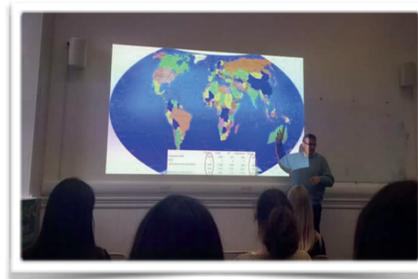


"It was great how the event linked sustainability with current important issues in Latin America, as these topics are not often jointly in focus. I felt inspired to get involved in the project next year."

Juan Pablo Lobo-Guerrero, UoE student

Overview

Our conference was held on the 10th of February, 2017, by EUSDA and the Latin American Society. Initiated in 2016, this event was considered a great opportunity to promote interest and spread awareness on sustainability issues in Latin America, as well as to create a space for discussion on the topic. The conference was divided into a morning session aimed at engaging with students from Boroughmuir High School, while the afternoon included talks from various speakers who shared their knowledge and predictions on sustainability in Latin America.



Looking ahead

The event was a great success, with all free tickets booked and the Boroughmuir students demonstrated valuable skills like critical thinking and public speaking. They showed real interest in further engaging with the topic of sustainability. Aspects to improve may be enhanced advertisement of the event, discussion panels between speakers in addition to the Q&As, and aiming for all speakers to present live, as they are more engaging (since we had two video presentation this year).

The plan is indeed to maintain it as an annual event, and to further collaborate with local high schools, as the students showed great enthusiasm and interest in learning about these vital issues.



EDECO BOTTLES

Our project's main aim is to reduce plastic bottle waste across campus. We gave out free, reusable plastic bottles so that there is less of a need to buy (and subsequently) waste disposable water bottles.



27th Feb – 3rd March
Main Library
-
300 REUSABLE water
bottles

*"I love this idea, I can
use it everyday!"*



We reduced disposable plastic bottle consumption across campus by 72,000 bottles per year. We marketed the event via Facebook, twitter and Instagram to encourage people to come along and learn more about plastic waste. As it was such a success, we hope to do another campaign next year in freshers week with more bottles!





THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Student Project Grant

Social Responsibility
and Sustainability

Each year the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability, in partnership with the Students' Association, run the Student Project Grant which provides a small amount of funding to support student-led projects focusing on sustainability and social responsibility.

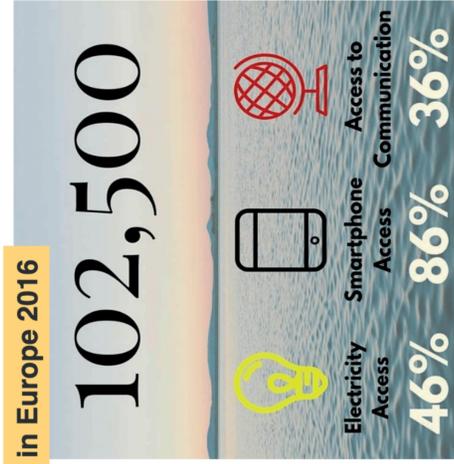
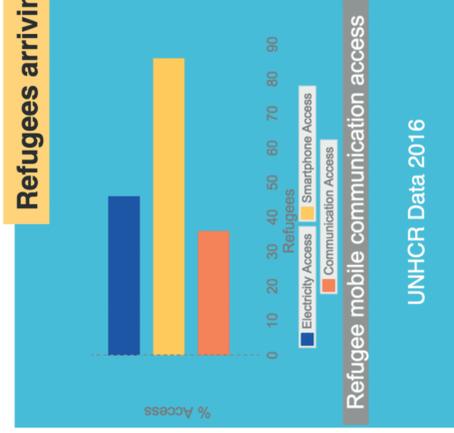
Find out more: www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/students

PROJECT ELPIS

Emergency aid for refugees in Greece through solar-powered mobile charging devices.

Greece is struggling with an influx of over 850'000 refugees, more than 102'000 have arrived this year.

We act on the problem now!



OUR SOLAR-CHARGER

120 people benefit per day.

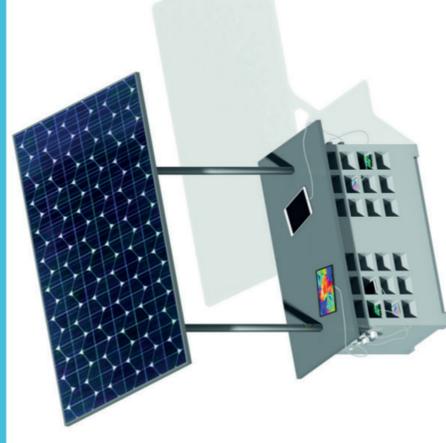
Our unit has been prototyped in collaboration with our industry partners in Greece and Germany.

Off-Grid Solution
Our solar installation is energy autonomous.

Universal support
Wi-Fi and 3/4G capabilities can be enabled.

Portable & Lightweight
Weighing approx. 60kg makes for an easily transportable unit.

Measurable impact
12 plugs per hour provide electricity (3600 per month).



Arrivals by sea have reached over 155,000 this year.

