



# STUDENTS' SUSTAINABILITY DEMANDS

SUMMARY REPORT FROM LUSU  
GREEN'S CLIMATE CONFERENCE



MAY 2026

# FOREWORD



## RORY O'CEALLAIGH

### LVSU PRESIDENT

*While Lancaster is leading the charge on sustainability in universities, there is always more we can do. It was wonderful to see so many passionate students coming together to influence the university's sustainability strategy with tangible ideas for what we could do to make campus a greener place. For me, it was especially interesting to see how the student experience bleeds into the top demands from the conference, with the first three not only addressing sustainability and ethical challenges, but financial struggles faced by students as well. What was great to see was the engagement from Lancaster University in this whole endeavour, which I look forward to seeing translated into real action driven by students.*



## SCOTT BARKER

### LVSU GREEN COORDINATOR

*This year's Climate Conference was a fantastic opportunity for students to make clear what they want to see different at Lancaster University and at LUSU. It's interesting to see some re-occurring demands from last year, such as the expansion of the Cheap Eats scheme and incentivising engagement in biodiversity initiatives, alongside some new ones such as expanding the growing project at the ECOHub. Students remain passionate about incentivising plant-based food and protecting our lovely campus, and I look forward to working with the University to see how we can go about this.*



# INTRODUCTION



This report outlines the sustainability demands of Lancaster University's students, identified during LUSU Green's **2026 Climate Conference**.

On Wednesday 13th May, LUSU Green hosted the second Climate Conference at Lancaster University. It aimed to provide a platform for students to share their perspectives on the University's approach to **climate action** and to collaboratively generate a set of proposals for **institutional change**.

This report firstly explains the methodology behind the conference, before outlining the **Top 5 Student Sustainability Demands** students want to see implemented. After that, other ideas which came up during the conference, but did not make the top 5 demands are shared.

## TOP 5 STUDENT DEMANDS

- 1) **Too Good To Go** scheme in all outlets and at catered events
- 2) Incentivising **plant-based food** via expansion of **Cheap Eats** scheme
- 3) A cheaper **charity shop**, containing a clothes swap scheme
- 4) Incentives for student **engagement** in nature and biodiversity initiatives
- 5) Expansion of growing project at the **ECOHub**

# METHODOLOGY

The 18 attendees were divided across four themed tables: **Food, Nature and Biodiversity, Travel and Transport, and Waste and Circular Economy.**

These themes were selected as they represent some of the University's most significant contributors to climate change, aside from Energy - a sector where Lancaster University is already making strong progress through initiatives such as the Net Zero Energy project, the solar farm, and the wind turbine. An additional table was provided to capture ideas that fell outside the main thematic categories.

Participants had **12 minutes** to discuss and respond to three guiding questions. These focused on:

**1) What's good?**

**2) What's bad?**

**3) What do we want to see change?**



Once attendees had rotated through each table and shared their insights, facilitators recorded the top three ideas most frequently suggested by students for each theme. These ideas were written on A4 sheets and displayed on a wall ahead of the final voting session.

Each attendee was given 3 **votes** to allocate to their favourite ideas across all themes. The five ideas receiving the most votes became the **Top 5 Student Sustainability Demands**, which form the core of this report.

# DEMAND NUMBER 1

(RECEIVED THE MOST VOTES!)

TOO GOOD TO GO SCHEME IN ALL  
OUTLETS AND AT CATERED EVENTS

- Lots of food goes to waste at catered events
- Too Good To Go, or similar scheme, in all outlets plus after events was the most popular idea
- Follows on from Graduate College's ECOChallenge idea from February which wanted to implement a notification-based system which would alert you when there was food available after events.

1

# DEMAND NUMBER 2

## EXPANSION OF CHEAP EATS PROGRAMME AT ALL OUTLETS TO INCENTIVISE PLANT-BASED FOOD AND REDUCING COSTS

- Students love the Cheap Eats scheme
- Anger towards closure of Pendle Brew
- Supposedly available at all outlets but not followed, and or on 'secret menu'/hidden away
- At the Deli - just soup, with examples of it being served with butter (not vg!)
- This idea is seen as easy way to incentivise plant-based eating and help tackle the cost of living

2

# DEMAND NUMBER 3

## CHEAPER CHARITY SHOP, WHICH CONTAINS A CLOTHES SWAP ELEMENT

- ReStore good, but students felt that it is more expensive than charity shops in town for same items
- Idea proposed is a new charity shop, or more realistically, providing cheaper options in ReStore, particularly for clothes
- Introduce a clothes swap in ReStore, particularly for socials.



# DEMAND NUMBER 4

## INCENTIVISE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

- Students felt that there is stigma around who sustainability volunteering is for, or that a certain level of knowledge is needed to attend (which is not true!)
- Provide incentives e.g. credits, reduced fees or extra funding
- Help empower students to not litter, get more involved and take care of campus and the planet
- Encourage more student groups to sign up to the Sports, Societies and Colleges Sustainability Competition, provide more prizes

4

# DEMAND NUMBER 5:

## EXPANSION OF GROWING PROJECT AT THE ECOHUB

- Acknowledgement that more should be done with space at the ECOHub
- Edible Campus are doing their best with their resource, but there's a great opportunity to expand this work through more support
- Sell products at Farmers Market and/or use food in uni outlets
- Builds on one of the demands from 2025 which was 'Greater support for grassroots efforts' demonstrating students feel this should continue to be a priority



# OTHER IDEAS

- Biking group set up to teach the routes, provide safety tips and build community
- Make the bike sheds on campus safer with CCTV and more bike racks
- Have more buses with more routes for the Sugar Bus
- Better advertisement of college kitchens and more supplies
- Improve marketing and scale of Don't Ditch It Project
- Improved communication between departments and students on what's being wasted so it can be used
- Regular biodiversity surveys on campus for long-term tracking
- More education on nature and relationship with sustainability
- Uni to stop working with arms companies



# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report has outlined students' sustainability views and demands to the University, captured at LUSU Green's Climate Conference. The top 5 sustainability demands from students are as follows:

- 1) Too Good To Go scheme in all outlets and at catered events
- 2) Incentivising plant-based food via expansion of Cheap Eats scheme
- 3) A cheaper charity shop, containing a clothes swap scheme
- 4) Incentives for student engagement in nature and biodiversity initiatives
- 5) Expansion of growing project at the ECOHub

## KEY THEMES

- Top 3 demands also touch on cost of living
- A lot of good at Uni - but better advertisement needed
- Continued calls for same things as last year (plant-based food on campus and incentives/support for grassroots nature-based activity)

If you have any feedback, please give LUSU Green an email at [lusugreen@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lusugreen@lancaster.ac.uk). If you have any questions for the Sustainability Team, their email is: [sustainability@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@lancaster.ac.uk)

Thank you so much to everyone who took part and helped deliver the event. In particular, the Sustainability Committee (Kiera Galvin, Andria Aloysius, Sam McCartney, Natalia Kreczmer), Zoe Detko, Darren Wilkinson and LUSU Crew.