

# SUSTAINABILITY BULLETIN

Promoting activity undertaken for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainability at De Montfort University



**DMU UNAI HUB renewed**  
Global status reconfirmed - See Page 4



**SDGs - share your activity**  
Share work for impact - See Page 5



**Real-life Learning**  
Workshops planned - See Page 6

## No Cop-Out on campus! Students and staff work together for Climate Action

**INTRODUCE** bee hives, ban the sale of meat and reduce the use of cars – these were just some of the ideas staff and students have in mind to how De Montfort University can tackle Climate Change on campus. As part of an impressive list of activity during COP 26, people came forward to suggest ways that DMU could make a difference as global leaders sought agreement on reducing carbon outputs in Glasgow. There were plenty of good suggestions following a campus wide call for '26 ideas for COP 26' in advance of an event opened by Vice-Chancellor Katie Normington and chaired by Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sustainability Simon Oldroyd (*Cont'd p2*).

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

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**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

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**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

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(*from p1*) An expert panel including Ankara Clarke, a DMU graduate working on a new business idea for sustainable fashion, Karl Letten, DMU Sustainability Manager, and Dr Angela Davies, Lecturer at DMU in Textile Technology/Garment Technology, discussed the merits of some of the suggestions that had been sent in by the campus community to seek new ways of reducing carbon outputs in the university and the ways in which people should consider lobbying



polymakers for greater changes towards a sustainable future (*See panel below*). Dr Oldroyd encouraged the audience to get involved with the opportunities presented in the university's recently released '*Strategy on a Page*', which places sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a cross-cutting theme as DMU seeks to be an Empowering University. Dr Oldroyd said: "We do not want to face the criticisms aimed at politicians who just talk the talk, we are, and will continue to walk the walk - but we need our community of staff and students to help us drive this agenda forward". More than 20 events took place on campus during COP26 involving hundreds of students and staff, including the day-long 'COP-OUT' conference organised by DMU's Youth and Community Development Team and Sustainability Team at DMU, which created an action-focussed event. Speakers, workshops, performances and exhibitions from students, young people and community groups, including pupils from Martin High School in Anstey (pictured), promoted inspiring ideas about the impact of climate change, and proposed solutions.

## DMU'S IDEAS FOR COP 26 SO FAR – CLIMATE ACTION POLICY SUGGESTIONS

- Continue to reduce the use of cars coming into campus and the city.
- Connect better with nature and use or create green spaces around us
- Develop better ways to develop a universal understanding of sustainability.
- Develop a sustainability centre of excellence at DMU.
- Create a mandatory e-learning module for staff and students on sustainability.
- Make all our marketing sustainable – reduce printing of leaflets
- Keep bees on campus.
- Let the campus to become a haven for wildlife
- Use 'agri-tech' and hydroponic systems to enable more people to grow their own.
- Ban the sale of beef, dairy and pork products on campus.
- Reduce levels of food and plastic waste produced at DMU
- Force governments to acknowledge that mass production is harmful
- Return to a more local and sustainable way of living.
- Government to set an example - not build more and drill for fossil fuels.
- Introduce a clear plan of action that the Government must take
- Governments to support and fund a switch to sustainable power
- Fund infrastructure and subsidies for heat pumps and electric transport A
- Ban all plastic packaging - starting with supermarkets.

HAVE AN IDEA TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE? Email: [dmsdg16@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:dmsdg16@dmu.ac.uk)

## Green Gown Award win as DMU's School of Fashion and Textiles leads 'Next Generation'

**STUDENTS** and staff are celebrating after De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) was named one of the country's greenest universities. DMU's School of Fashion and Textiles was named winner of the Next Generation Learning and Skills Award in this year's Green Gown Awards, which reward the most sustainable projects happening in higher education today. DMU's School of Fashion and Textiles wants its graduates to make positive change in the fashion industry. It has enhanced its courses and curriculum to ensure that graduates are empowered to create positive change and reverse the devastating environmental impacts of the global fashion industry, which is currently responsible for 10 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Vice-Chancellor Professor Katie Normington said: "The reputation and global reach of our fashion school drives us to produce graduates leading on responsible design and practice in fashion, ensuring the next generation of designers make a positive impact on our world."

The School of Fashion and Textiles, which is home to 1,200 students, has recognised that the fashion industry needs



seismic change to tackle challenges such as fast fashion, synthetic materials that take decades to decompose, and unethical supply chains. The award recognised a holistic approach, including changes to the taught curriculum, a range of extra-curricular projects and events and novel research on materials and processes that offer hope for a waste-free 'circular' fashion industry. Read more [HERE](#).

**\*For guidance on taking a similar whole-school or programme level approach to holistically addressing sustainability, contact Andrew Reeves from DMU's Education for Sustainable Development project team**

## UNIVERSITY'S 'WHAT WILL WE WEAR?' EXHIBITION ATTRACTS GLOBAL MEDIA ATTENTION

**DE MONTFORT** University features heavily in the Dubai Expo British Pavilion with an exhibition entitled 'What Will We Wear?', which was launched a few weeks ago. It has gathered a lot of press interest both locally and internationally and was featured on BBC East Midlands, and on several Middle Eastern press sites. Click on the following links to view the media:

- [DMU feature from 15 minutes in this BBC report here](#)

- [DMU's fashion courses, its catwalk show and how the university incorporates sustainability into its teaching featured on Expo TV from 39 minutes here](#)

- [Middle East in 24](#) interviewed DMU's Claire Lerpiniere (pictured) about the Future of Textiles exhibition, as did [Arabisk](#), [Everything's Experiential](#), [Zawya](#), [Arabian Marketer](#)

- [UAE's National](#) news previewed What Will We Wear? activities as one of the 11 things to do at Expo, while [Africa Zine](#) and [The Teller Report](#) published a preview of DMU's activities.



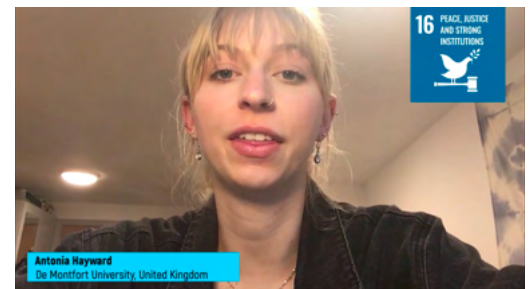
## DMU awarded second term as United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) hub for SDG 16

**De Montfort University** has been awarded a second term as a United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) global hub for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at transforming lives around the world. The accolade was announced by DMU Vice Chancellor, Professor Katie Normington, during a UN Peacekeeping event which saw two representatives of the United Kingdom mission to the United Nations in New York and a UN Peacekeeper working on operations in Mali join the discussions. DMU remains the only university in the world representing the UNAI on Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and the only SDG hub based in the UK. This gives DMU a key responsibility to encourage everyone to use SDG 16 and all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to impact all aspects of life and create a better future for everyone through research, teaching and campus activities. DMU was originally announced as the academic hub for SDG 16 in 2018 in recognition to its efforts to build a global network of universities and other organisations to share ideas and initiatives to meet the SDGs, initially around the rights of refugees and migrants. The work of the SDG hub has since evolved to include projects which have sought to tackle modern slavery, democracy deficits, local economic regeneration, organised crime and more.



## Student in video to mark UN's anniversary

**THE United Nations** reached its 76th anniversary with a wide range of global challenges that require both consensus and coordinated multilateral responses. The United Nations Academic Impact initiative released a short video asking “What Does ‘UN’ Mean To You?” to showcase the ideas and perceptions university students have about the United Nations. The film features Antonia Hayward (pictured), a final year Textile Design student, representing the DMU SDG 16 hub. See the full video, click here: <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/what-does-un-mean-you-voices-university-students>



## NEW GROUP IS FORMED TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON SDG 16 TEACHING AND RESEARCH

**STAFF** have formed a SDG 16 team at DMU to create a better flow of information to and from the United Nations in New York regarding teaching and research activity related to the [targets and indicators of SDG16](#). An initial online meeting took place on Monday November 29 to outline plans. A second meeting is planned in January. If your teaching or research interests speak to the challenges of the goal of SDG 16 please feel free to get involved.

**\* If you would like to find out more or get involved please email Mark Charlton at the DMU UNAI hub via [mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk)**



## Global conference launches call for papers on Sustainable Development impacts to ask “Why It Matters”



A NEW international conference called “Why it Matters” aimed at university staff, students and civil organisations researching, or implementing, Sustainable Development activities, is being organised by Utah Valley University, Utah, USA, in partnership with the Academic Impact Initiative of the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Submissions for the Why It Matters conference, must address key questions related to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its correspondent seventeen goals. Proposals are invited in one of three forms: a paper with a 20 minute presentation, a 20 minute oral presentation, or a poster. The proposal must be original, in English, Spanish, or French, and relate to the Sustainable Development Goals. As well as answer the question: “Why it Matters”. T De Montfort University is playing a key role in organising the event, which is the legacy of the The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City in 2019, in which DMU students presented their work to key UN stakeholders to promote Climate Action. The Call for Papers is open until 14 January 2022. All details can be found here: <https://www.uvu.edu/global/wim22/index.html>. ***\*Anyone interested in finding out more is asked to contact Mark Charlton via [mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk)***

## OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY LINKED TO UN SDGS

**THE UNITED** Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) global hub for Sustainable Development Goal 16 is leading a project to identify and collate activity linked to sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across DMU in line with the cross-cutting theme that flows through the new ‘Strategy on a Page’. It is becoming apparent that there is a lot of research and teaching activity related to the SDG agenda which is going under the radar, or unrecognised, which could potentially benefit from the opportunities and support we receive from the United Nations as part of our status as the UK’s only United Nations Academic Impact SDG hub and ECOSOC consultative status. ***\*If you feel your work impacts one or more of the 17 SDGs please contact [mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk)***

## UN Human Rights Day

**TO MARK** World Human Rights Day, scholars from across De Montfort University will discuss t their



research to the twin themes of equality and social justice in 15-minute presentations followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. A representative of the United Nations will open the event before expert talks on Human Rights from Dr Funmi Adewole, Senior Lecturer in Dance, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, Professor Jonathan Payne, Professor of Work, Employment & Skills, Dr Peter Butler-Pogorzelszyk, Senior Lecturer in Employment Relations, Leicester Castle Business School, Tim Hillier, Head of Leicester De Montfort Law School. And Dr Amanda Berlan, Reader in Business & Sustainability, Leicester Castle Business School. Details of how to join the event can be found [here](#)

## More news and activities from the Education for Sustainable Development Project at DMU



### Save the date: SDG Teach-in February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

**THE** 'SDG Teach-in' is a two-week national event where lecturers are invited to link taught sessions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This can be anything from highlighting linkages within an already-planned session, or running a dedicated session exploring sustainability challenges related to a module or subject area. Staff in all DMU schools and programmes are encouraged to sign up. You can find out more [HERE](#) or email the Sustainability Team to express interest in taking part ([sustainability@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@dmu.ac.uk))

### DMU welcomes new Sustainability Scholars for the 2021/22 year.

**FIVE** new international students have recently started their studies at DMU as 'Sustainability Scholars', taking advantage of a competitive scheme whereby students receive a fee reduction scholarship for courses that will help them address sustainable development challenges in their home countries in their future careers. You can read short introductions to this year's cohort of scholars here <https://esdg.our.dmu.ac.uk/blog/>

### More than 20 DMU students join prestigious SHAPE programme

**MORE** than 20 DMU students have signed up to the SHAPE extra-curricular programme this

academic year, run by the British Council and Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK). The programme uses insights from the social sciences, arts and humanities to address sustainability challenges within the university community. At DMU, student teams will spend the 2021/22 academic year looking at three current challenges: engaging the Leicester community in taking action on climate change; developing an online community centre for local citizens; and making DMU's campus and urban areas in Leicester more friendly to wildlife. More information on SHAPE is online [HERE](#).

### Real-Life Learning Conference and follow-up workshops

**DURING** November, DMU staff shared a wide-range of practices related to 'Real-Life Learning'. This concept has been put forward by DMU's Public Engagement Team, Education for Sustainable Development project and Centre for Academic Innovation and focusses on experiential learning that is transformative for students and impacts positively upon the wider community beyond DMU. To learn more and view recordings of sessions, go [HERE](#).



### Introduction to ESD – Staff Development sessions

**LEARN** more about what Education for Sustainable Development is about and how to address this within your discipline and practice through an engaging session with DMU's Ian Coleman within the university's academic development programme. Register on [DMU Hub](#) for the next session (1<sup>st</sup> December, 1.30pm to 2.30pm) or express interest in future sessions.

**\*For further details on the Education for Sustainable Development Project, contact Andrew Reeves via [areeves@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:areeves@dmu.ac.uk)**

## DMU lecturer's action research project to tackle Human Trafficking wins United Nations award

A **LECTURER** and Programme Leader in LLB Law and Criminal Justice at DMU has won the young researcher award from the International Association of Universities (IAU) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. The accolade came after Dr Laura Pajon (*pictured*) contributed research featured in *Higher Education engages with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions* publication. Dr Pajon's study recognised that human trafficking (HT) is a social and multi-dimensional problem, which has multiple and complex drivers, including socio-economic, political and individual factors. Ending HT is embedded in different Sustainable Development Goals (including SDG 16). While eradicating the problem is highly challenging, multi-agency partnerships can develop comprehensive and complex responses beyond rescuing victims and prosecuting offenders. Yet, empirical data is still lacking to prove "what works" when working in partnerships. Dr Pajon's action research project aimed to minimise such knowledge gaps in collaboration with a UK police force and a university and produce pragmatic and evidence-based knowledge on the design and implementation of an HT partnership and its progress and development. The study provided findings from the project's first phase. Read the research [here](#)



**Share your SDG or sustainability research, teaching or campus work**

**IF YOU** want to promote your work or projects that linked to the SDGs or Sustainability, email [mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk)

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Follow @DMUSDG16 on Twitter and Instagram for SDG updates.