



NOOCing Nottingham: A sustainable approach to open online courses

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The University of Nottingham





Organic and opportunistic

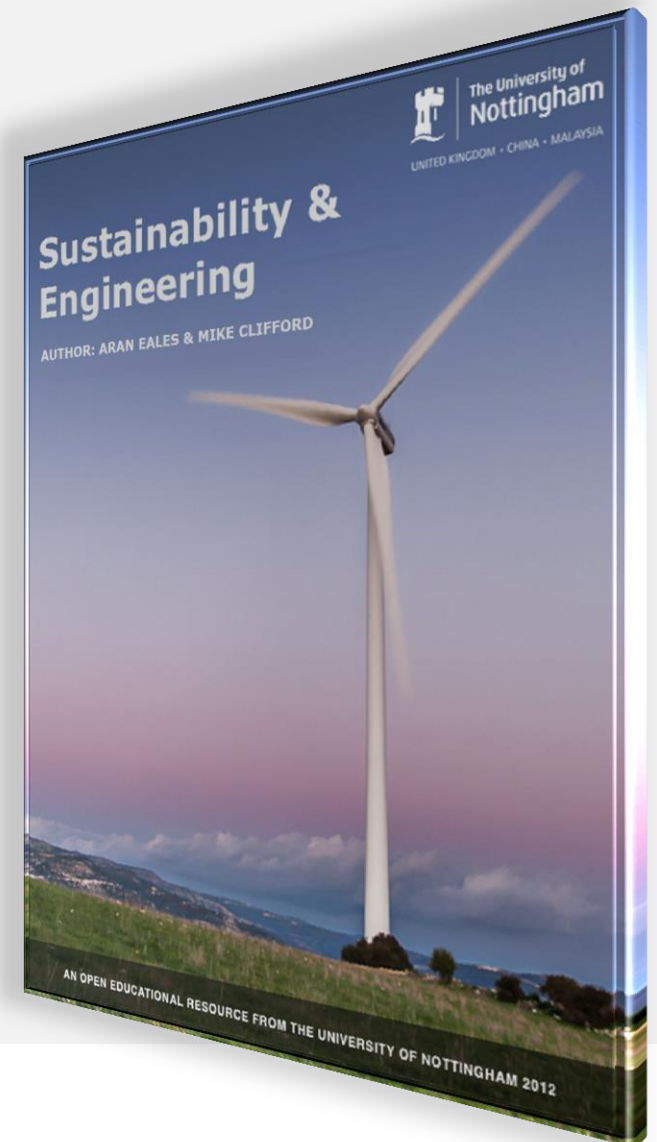
- JISC-funded PARI S Project 2012- make use of OER materials
- University Grand Challenge – raise awareness
- How best to integrate or embed sustainability into the curriculum and the student learning experience
- Nottingham Advantage Award – 10 and 20 credit options
- Global reach – Malaysia, China, distance





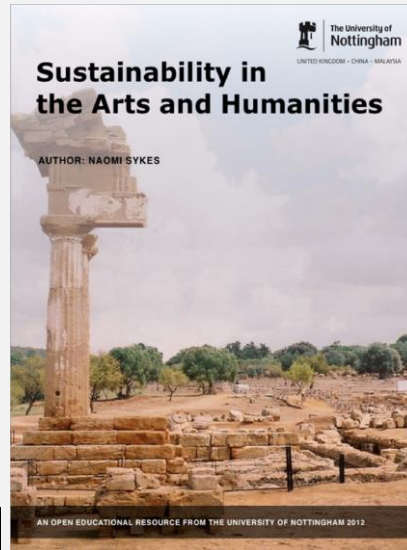
Key aspects

- Don't attack academic freedom:
already crowded curriculum
- Sustainable learning **technologies** inc.
OERs - 5 resources, 1st year UG level
- **Interdisciplinarity**
- Sustainable **pedagogies**
- Learning **for and about** sustainability:
activities aimed at behaviour change
- Cultural differences and access to
technology

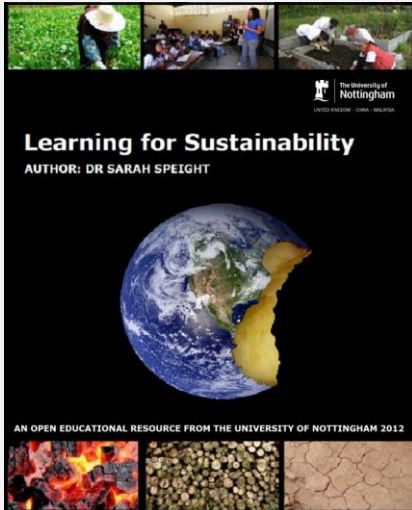
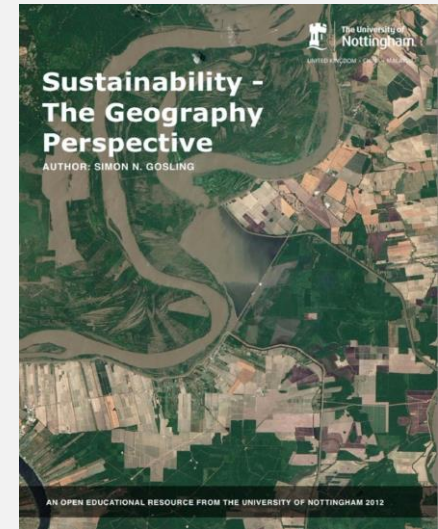




Ebooks:
Smashwords



iBooks:
iTunes



Web-based:
uNow





moodle.Nottingham



UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

You are logged in as Admin Helen Whitehead (Logout)

My Moodle

Email

Help

My home ► Modules ► NA-PERSPECT-SUSTAINABILITY-UK-CN-MY-1213

Turn editing on

Module Navigation

- Show all
- Pre-week (starts 11 March 2013)
- Week 1: Introducing Sustainability
- Week 2: Sustainability Through the Ages
- Week 3: Big issues in Sustainability:...
- Week 4: Cultural Dimensions of...
- Week 5: Social Dimensions of...
- Week 6: Economic and Political...
- Week 7: Learning for Sustainability
- Week 8: Case studies
- Week 9: Reflections on Sustainability...
- Week 10: Summary and Forward Thinking
- Topic 12
- Facilitator Resources (hidden from...)
- Topic 14
- Topic 15
- Topic 16

Nottingham Advantage Award



Perspectives on Sustainability (Nottingham Advantage Award) (12-13)



News forum

View introductions from Dr Sarah Speight and Dr Mike Clifford

Perspectives on Sustainability (Nottingham Advantage Award) (12-13)



Perspectives on Sustainability (Nottingham Advantage Award) (12-13)



Welcome! Start here...

- About the course
- What to expect

Latest news

Add a new topic...

20 Feb, 20:55

Admin Helen Whitehead
Welcome to Perspectives on Sustainability more...

Older topics ...

Tweetstream

#nooc13

First toe in the water - signed up for #nooc13 our very own mini-MOOC.
 @Sarah_CSR @georgiewood @sresearchnet Glad you enjoyed it. An edit should be ready next week. #nooc13
 @UoNVideoGroup @UniofNottingham Enjoyed getting some auto-cue experience! :) Really excited about #nooc13
 @GeorgieWood @SResearchNet
 A good day today. In the studio filming some introductions for the Perspectives on Sustainability Module here at @UniofNottingham. #nooc13
 Perspectives on Sustainability module now open to all University of Nottingham staff and students.

Navigation

- My home
- Site home

All participants: 865

First name : AllABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Surname : AllABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 ...44 (Next)



Innovation

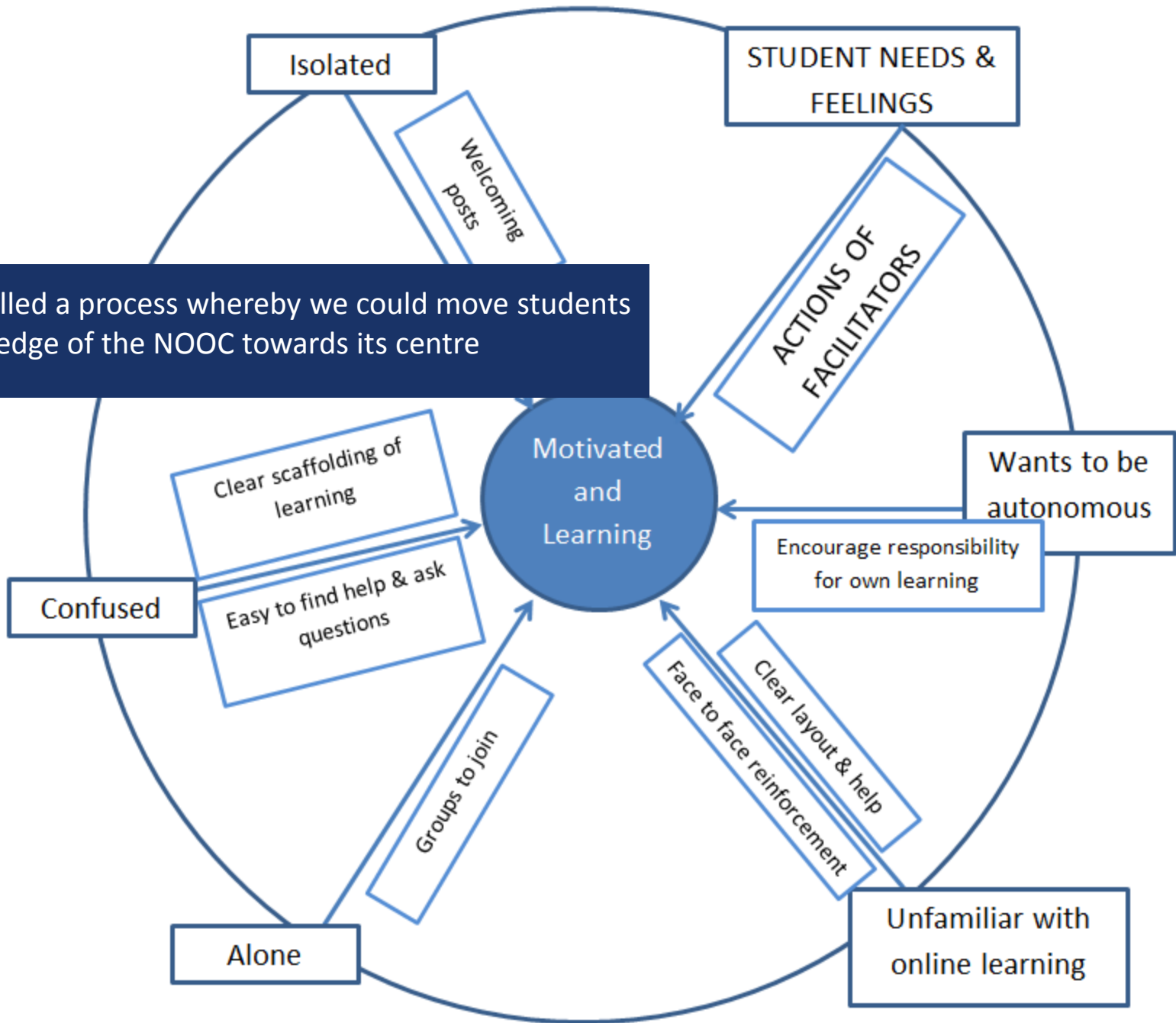
- Interdisciplinary, activity-focused
- Large numbers (we hoped) although open only to our staff and students (825+)
- Students taking it for credit (140) and for ‘fun’ – employability agenda
- Experimental and emergent – innovative use of Moodle – exemplar?
- Measure impact of ‘disruptive’ MOOC-inspired pedagogy on teaching and learning across the University

Planning for volume

- Flexible assessment planning, including automatic and peer assessment
- PGRs recruited as facilitators
- Training beforehand focused on existing models of online learning and how much they were relevant to a large course
- Learn from others' experiences of and analysis of MOOCs
- Built our own online community before we began building that of the NOOC proper



We modelled a process whereby we could move students from the edge of the NOOC towards its centre





Reflective Blog	Finding out what we think sustainability is about
Image Bank	Building a visual history of sustainability
Waste Audit	Seeing how sustainable we are
Online debate	Starting to think critically about sustainability
Film critique	Further critical thinking about sustainability
SWOT Analysis	Assessing Nottingham – how sustainable is our university?
Evaluation of Open Educational Resources	Judging how useful online information is
Preparatory work for the Poster Presentations	Supporting each other to tell a story about sustainability
Poster Presentation	Capturing our learning in one story



How did it work out?

 Group Forum - A discussion space just for your group	1238
 0.1 Introduce yourself here!	1876
 0.2 Give us your opinion!	1859
 2.3c Image Bank [Assessment]	3327
 6.3 Environmental Strategy SWOT Analysis Discussion [Assessed]	1626
 9.4 Poster Submission and Peer Assessment [Assessed]	3037



Analysis of forum posts

- The style we adopt as tutors/facilitators really shapes the length/tone of the students' postings. The average length of introductory posting matched the facilitator's post which followed the opening one.
- Students used commonly understood UoN acronyms – showing their Nottingham identity
- The PG students are less informal than the UGs and seem more concerned to establish their professional and academic identity
- PG students are more likely to respond to fellow PGs than to UGs.

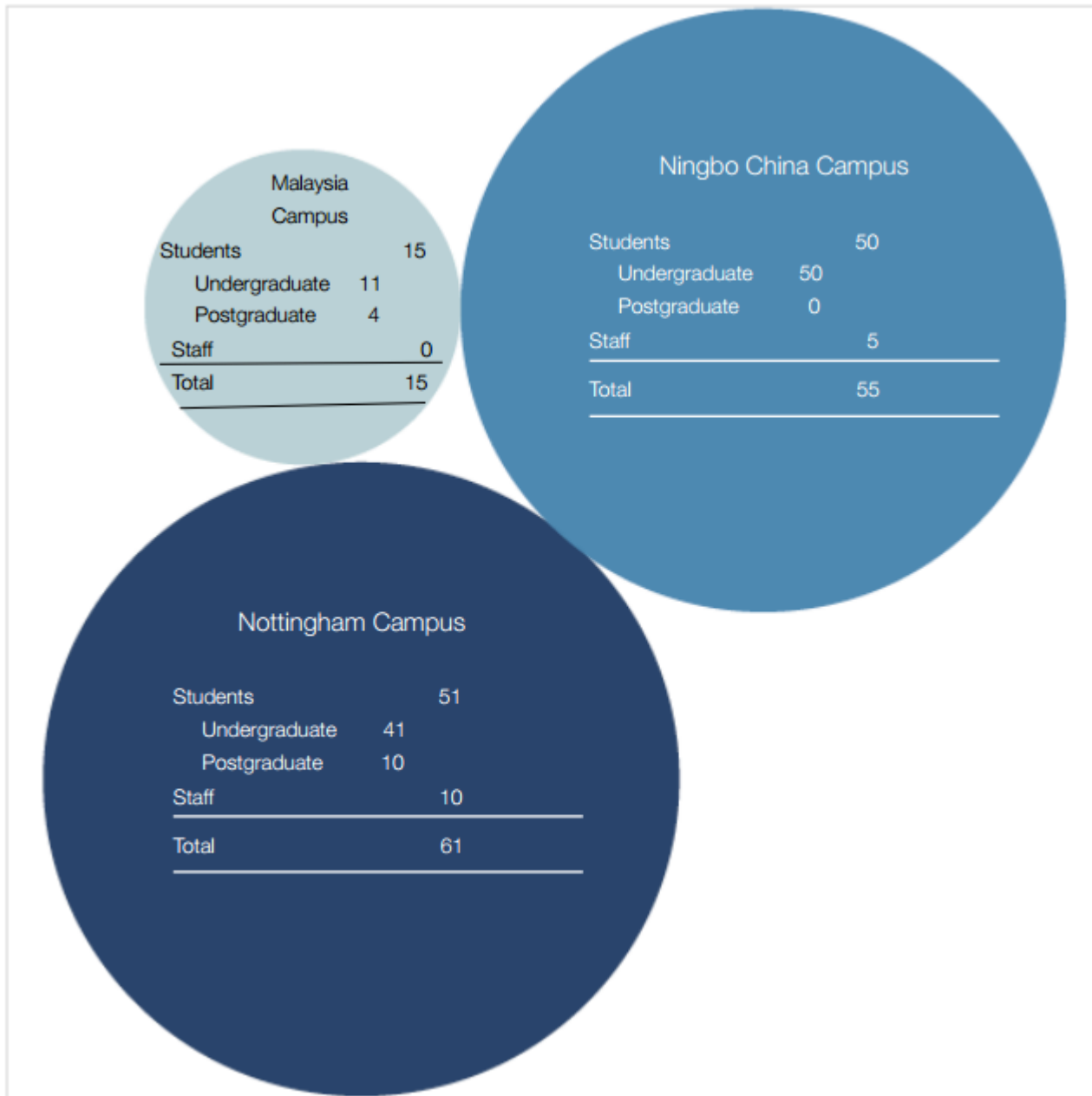
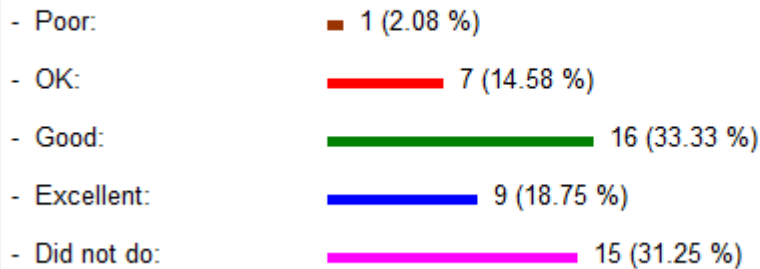


Figure 1. Perspectives on Sustainability NOOC Introduction Posts



How it was received by students

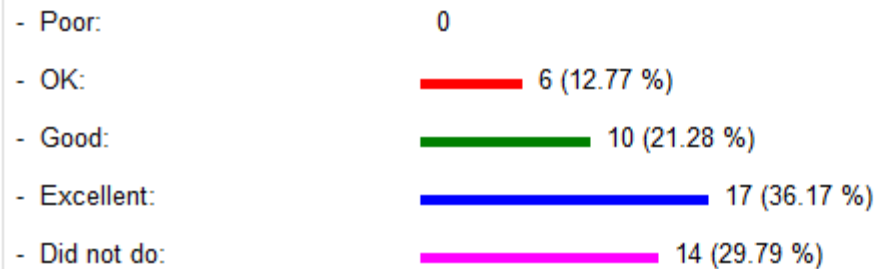
12. (week2activity) What did you think of the activity: Image Bank (Week 2)



Copyright Yating Zhang 2013



19. (week9activity) What did you think of the activity: Poster Presentation (Week 9)





I liked that you were able to choose which assessments to do and not do.

Although I did not finish all the homework, I nearly read all the materials the course offered. The course is great, because it let me know I can do something for sustainability.

The poster activity also provides an extremely useful technique that was nice to learn with me being on a science course.

I have a new approach of learning things by online classes and I have the chance share my ideas with other students from other countries.

I am more interested in the news about sustainability and enjoy communicating with other students from other campus on line.

Perhaps the best thing of this course is its flexibility available for students of different specialties and backgrounds.



The MOOC ethos was welcome

I like the fact that it is an online course and one is free to make it count or not.

I would like to participate again, I would like more time than 10 weeks as I have had to prioritise my studies to put my other course first. It would be good to have the opportunity to catch up in the period of time between terms.

I confess that I 'lurked' on the course. I work full-time and was already undertaking another online course so didn't have time to get fully involved.

I could fit it around when I had time.



Food for thought



Did you know?

Globally, 1/3 of food is wasted.
7.2million tonnes of food waste is thrown away from UK homes alone.
This costs an average household £480 a month!



Why?

- Cooking/preparing too much.
- Don't consume it in time.



What can I do?

- Prepare a shopping list
- Don't shop when you're hungry
- Create a compost heap for fruit and veg
- Utilise leftovers
- Put new food at the back, and old food at the front.



5 Small Sustainable Changes on Campus

Introduction

The University of Nottingham has already made a conscientious effort to improve its sustainability as a whole, with various recycling and carbon emission schemes. I believe that these 5 small changes can be adopted relatively easily on The University of Nottingham, University Park campus making a drastic impact on the sustainability of campus as a whole. The model can then be introduced across all of the Universities campuses.



1. Greywater harvesting:

Both grey water harvesting and rain water butts are fairly efficient and cost effective. They utilise waste water and excess rainwater which can then be used for ground maintainnce and toilet facilities. This can be adopted in all halls of residence and faculty buildings, reducing the universities fresh water consumption.

<http://www.alumni.nottingham.ac.uk/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=520>

<http://www.imbalstock.com/C/41/Biodegradable-Films-Packaging-Machine.html>

2. Water Efficient Toilets:

These use significantly less water per flush thus allowing for the dramatic reduction in water wastage. This could have a huge impact on University Park due to the large number of toilets it houses.



3. Food Waste:

The collection of food waste would allow for the generation of compost which can be used on campus grounds. This will reduce the amount of waste sent to land fill and hopefully increase biodiversity on campus. It also could save money as less needs to be spent on chemical fertilizers.

4. Local Produce:

By using local and seasonal produce where possible in hall of residence the universities carbon footprint could be greatly reduced. It also supports the local economy and community. University allotment plots could also be developed.

5. Non-Toxic cleaning products:

Environmentally friendly and safe cleaning products can be used in all campus buildings. These are non-toxic, biodegradable and are derived from renewable resources hence have a much less harmful impact on the planet.

Conclusion

In conclusion I believe if these simple changes are made the University will be able to reduce its impact on the environment and increase its sustainability. The changes suggested are all of minimal cost yet should all reap great benefits.

References:

The Environment Agency. Available: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>. Last accessed 15th May 2013.

Image:



Weblink:

Description: This was one of our many yields from our allotment back in London. My parents grew up farming in the Philippines and brought what they knew from their home to our home in England. It was only in 2007 that we started growing our own vegetables and we've been doing it ever since.

I chose this image as it was a way that my family; mainly parents, did to save money and unknowingly contributed to improving our waste management by not using plastic bags or polystyrene packaging.

Sustainable waste management is something that I didn't really delve into until reading someone else's blog post. I realised that as a family we we're actually doing something to help. We even saved our food scraps for compost. At the time I thought was quite "gross", however looking at it with a new perspective has made me think otherwise!



SWOT Analysis

- 128 people completed this and there were 1,594 postings in the SWOT analysis discussion forum

Quiz the VC live

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, there are two video thumbnails. The top one shows Helen Whitehead, a woman with glasses and a headset, with her name 'Helen Whitehead' below. The bottom one shows David Greenaway, a man in a light blue shirt and tie, with his name 'David Greenaway' below. On the right, there is a sidebar with 'Attendees (30)' and a 'Chat (Everyone)' window. The attendees list includes Helen Whitehead, David Greenaway, Sarah Speight, and a group of 27 participants including Alasdair, Andy, Barry Oosthuizen, Ben, and Daniel Schoch. The chat window contains several messages from participants, including David Cox, Subarna Sivapalan, Deborah, Nigel Owen, Alasdair, David Greenaway, Sarah Speight, and Poorani.



Disruptive effect on staff?

- Multiple case studies - Magic with Moodle
- An exemplar course for staff to observe
- Even sceptical senior staff are vying with each other for NOOC slots in future – several on the drawing board
- Forged new and strong links between academics and LTs

[I have] more appreciation of the variety of how it [Moodle] can be used. I have been more proactive in accessing and using it as part of module development since starting the course.

The course has made me think about technology's role in the classroom in Higher Education. I am also very interested in learning how to possibly make a MOODLE course more intuitive and/or interactive. It was an excellent learning opportunity for me as a participant but more importantly as an observer of good teaching practice.



Disruptive effect on staff?

I have not engaged in depth with forums before, and it was a useful way of having a debate. I hope to encourage my ... students next year to engage in debate with each other about some key issues. It has been very worthwhile following what's been going on, and I hope it will be repeated next year and subsequently. I hope you'll be able to archive the files including debates, as I'm still mining these resources.

I did gain a lot from reading others' perspectives. I did learn more about what the university is doing. I did identify some more resources from which to enhance my own work. For example, there was an interesting debate about rubbish cultures which has enhanced my understanding of how localism shapes resources use solutions; I've incorporated that into some work I'm doing ... I've also adapted some of the debate on how best to wash up in a task for secondary school students.



The course will run again this autumn and in the new year

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Thanks for listening!