

Waste & Reuse at The University of Leeds

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Sustainability Projects Officer

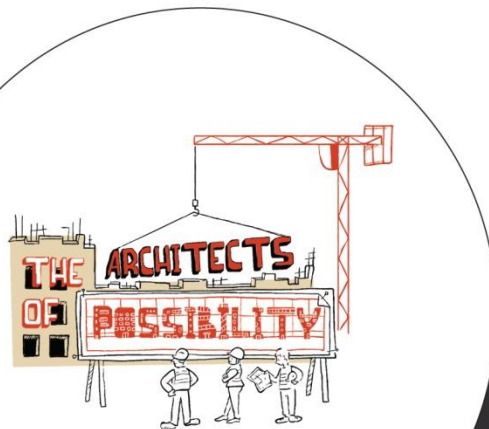
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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

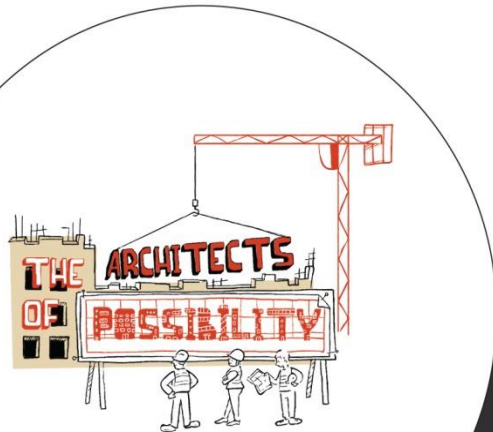
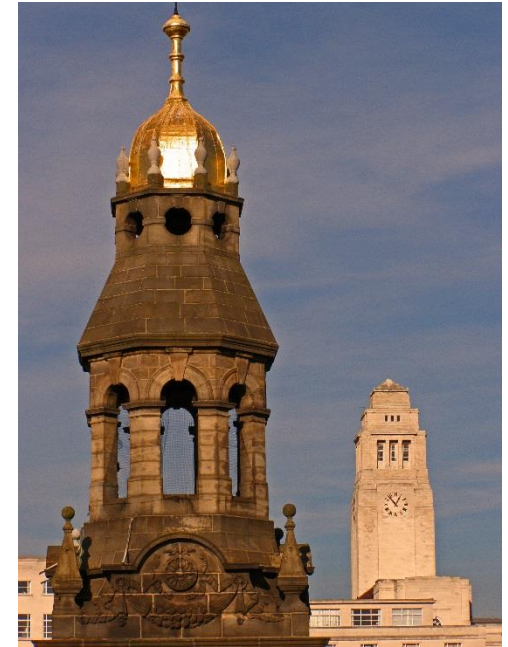
The University of Leeds

- A member of the Russell Group of world-class research-intensive universities
- 8 faculties with over 40 schools
- Main campus is in a 200-acre city-centre location
- Off-campus sites include cycle track, sports grounds and farms
- World-class sports facilities
- Large residential portfolio
- 40,000 staff and students from 147 countries



The University of Leeds

- First UK University (2009) to successfully implement a campus-wide reuse initiative – saving over £300k in the first 3 months with zero budget
- Construction waste average recovery rate >90% (recording since 2009)
- Waste & Recycling Group
- Office waste segregated at source (paper and card, plastic, metals, food, glass, general waste)
- New Sustainability service created in 2012 and University Sustainability Strategy launched in 2015 – Focus on circular economy thinking



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

OUR VISION

We will become a university where sustainability is truly embedded through knowledge, engagement, collaboration and innovation. Each and every one of our staff and students will understand the principles of sustainability – it will be an integral part of our operations and will bring about positive, sustainable change for the future.

OUR PRINCIPLES

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY
EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY
SHARING OUR SKILLS, SPACES, KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES
CHALLENGING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

1 Embedding sustainability through collaboration

Commitments

- We will embed sustainability across the whole University.
- We will create and support proactive collaborative networks.
- We will develop robust management systems.
- We will establish governance and accountability structures that drive sustainability and place it at the heart of our institution.



2 Building knowledge and capacity

Commitments

- We will work across University departments to build capacity and share best practice around sustainable change.
- We will equip all our staff with sustainability skills.
- We will develop external links to enhance knowledge and capacity.
- We will support and promote research that examines the issues relating to sustainability.
- We will integrate sustainability into learning programmes and ensure all our students understand the importance of sustainability.



3 Being a positive partner in society

Commitments

- We will build external engagement to further develop internal and external capacity and knowledge, and influence wider policies.
- We will lead by example, share best practice, learn from others and ensure our research is accessible.
- We will take our responsibility to society seriously, as an employer, good neighbour and in creating opportunities.
- We will support our students to be responsible citizens and an active part of society, both locally and globally.
- We will create a welcoming, culturally and environmentally vibrant campus.



4 Making the most of resources

Commitments

- We will reduce our consumption of goods and services.
- We will embed sustainability into the procurement process.
- We will reduce the amount of waste we produce.
- We will enhance biodiversity on campus.
- We will use water efficiently and reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.
- We will become a low carbon university, through energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.
- We will foster a staff and student body where sustainable travel is the norm.



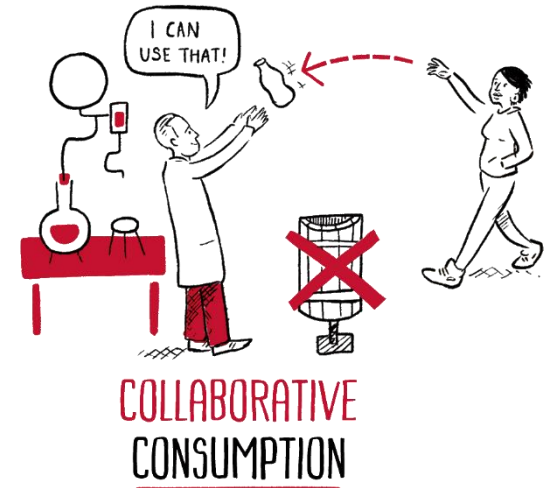
ACTION PLAN

GOVERNANCE & MONITORING

FEEDBACK & REVIEW

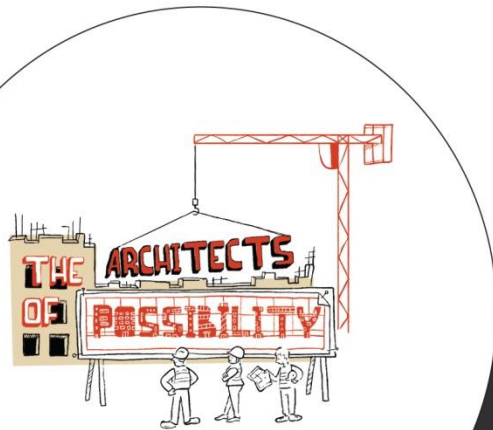
Specific commitments

- Reduce consumption of goods and services
 - Sharing of equipment, spaces, services and skills internally and externally
- Embed sustainability into procurement
 - Work closely with suppliers
 - Always consider ethical and social conditions
- Reduce amount of waste produced
 - Reduction of overall waste
 - Send no general waste to landfill
 - Improve quality of recyclates





- A simple method of sharing assets across the organisation
- Huge savings (financial and carbon)
- No need for storage
- No need for skips/disposal
- Longer-term solution for items not immediately required
 - NEUPC (North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortia)
 - Specific reuse/upcycle contracts in place
 - Donations to charity



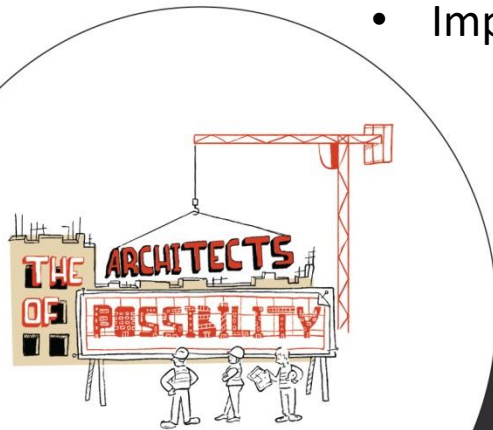
In November 2017 we upgraded to the 'WarpIT' system.

Since then:

- Over £500,000 reused
- c.£250,000 of this internally
- The rest to local charities, schools, etc.

Added value:

- Massively reduced waste
- Reduced purchasing time/cost
- Improved links with the community



Some more figures

- Office waste:
 - Over 100 tonnes/month
 - c.45 tonnes segregated at source
 - c.15 tonnes segregated from general waste
 - c.45 tonnes sent to energy recovery
- Reuse@leeds:
 - c.10 tonnes/month reused/upcycled/refurbished
 - c.£40,000 savings per month
 - Nearly half of this was donated to charity – the rest was reused on site
- Construction – for 17/18 period:
 - £34m of projects completed
 - 6,700 tonnes of waste generated
 - 6,600 tonnes diverted from landfill



Drivers for Change

'We live in a disposable society. It's easier to throw things out than to fix them. We even give it a name - we call it recycling'

Neil LaBute

'Consuming less means throwing away less, while reusing things actually helps to save the planet as well as the pennies.'

Sheherazade Goldsmith



Drivers for Change

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Easier to dispose

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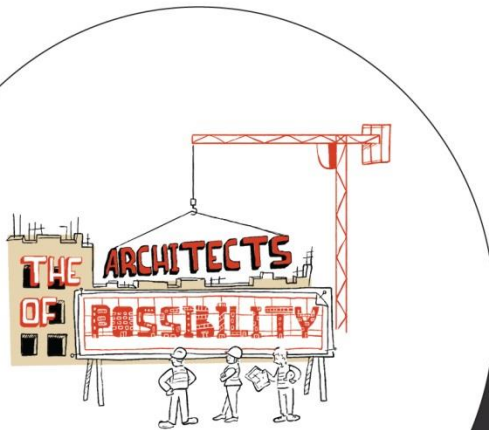
Neil LaBute

Easier to dispose

Financial

'Consuming less means throwing away less, while reusing things actually helps to save the planet as well as the pennies.'

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Drivers for Change

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Easier to dispose

Financial

Taught and Learned
Behaviour

'Consuming less means throwing away less, while reusing things actually helps to save the planet as well as the pennies.'

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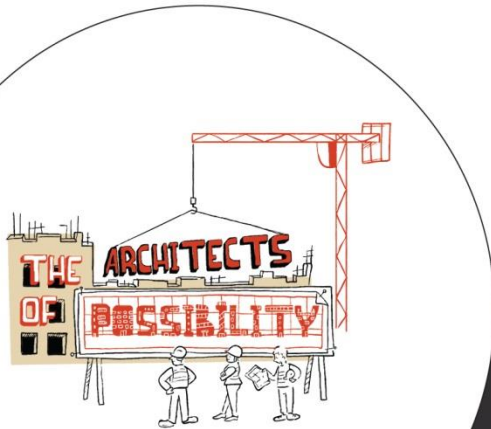


Drivers for Change

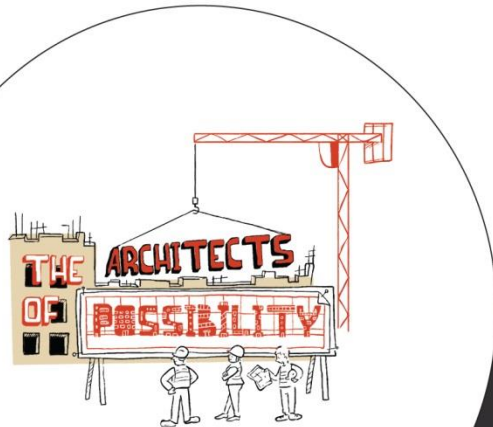


*'if the green stuff you're doing is costing money,
then you're doing it wrong.'*

www.thisisape.co.uk

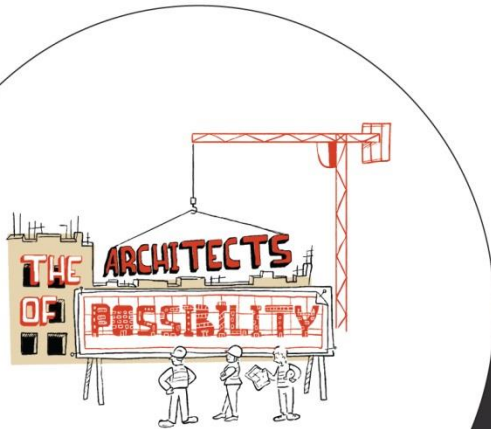
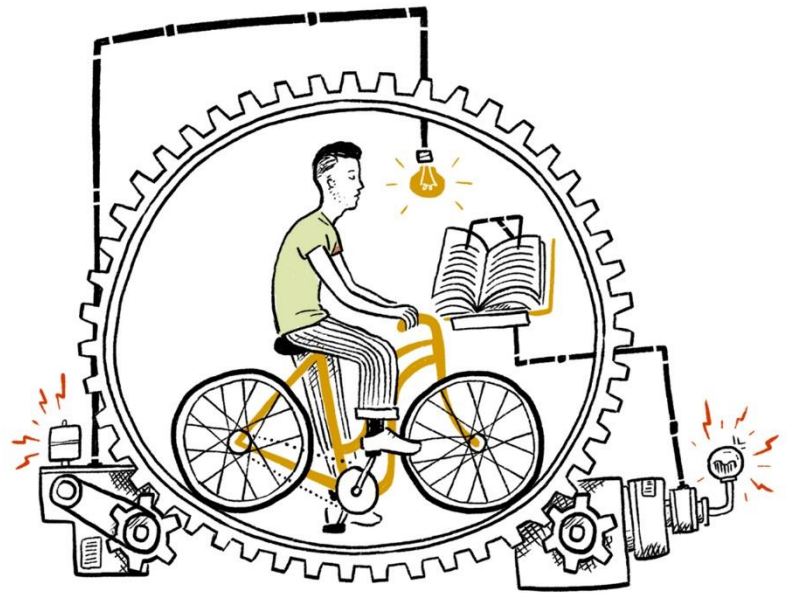


- Builds on NUS Green Impact programme
- Works on a School/Service level
- Signed off by senior management
- 6 Pilots successfully launched
- Launched in October 2018

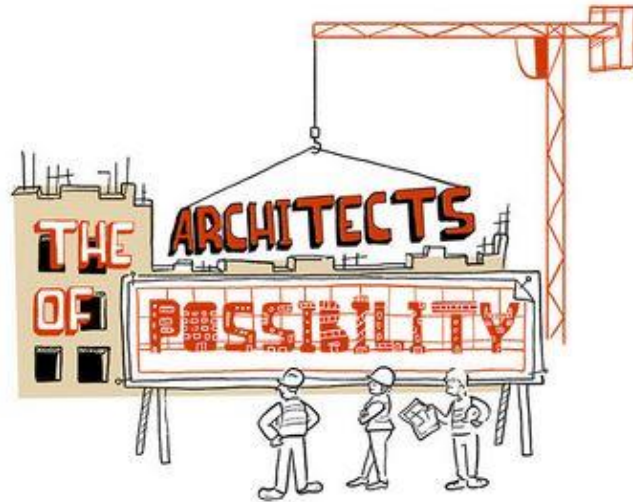


‘There are over forty thousand people at the University of Leeds and every one of us has a part to play in building a sustainable future’.

Sir Alan Langlands
Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds



Questions?



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