

Go Green Week

12th - 16th February 2018

SEF leads Go Green Week at the University of Sussex

Sussex Estates and Facilities led the way in **Go Green Week** this year at the University of Sussex, with loads of events planned and carried out during the week with the purpose of supporting our local community, improving the quality and cleanliness of green spaces on campus and around Brighton, and to promote environmental awareness at Sussex.

129k steps taken by our Pedometer Challenge winner

72 bags of litter cleared from Stanmer Park

40 trees planted on campus by SEF

6 benches fully refurbished

The various events arranged by SEF during the week saw a fantastic turnout from staff from all corners of our services, with housekeepers, porters, managers, maintenance staff, groundskeepers, and more all doing their part alongside several volunteers from the University and the local council.

Planned and overseen by our Energy Manager Matthew Arnold and our Head of Quality and Environment Nicola Rose, with some excellent help and dedication from Laurence Ringsell and Jaci Driscoll from the Grounds team, Go Green Week at SEF was a huge success.

22k kilograms of CO₂ saved through Warp-It to date

6144 solar panels currently installed at Sussex

50+ total community days undertaken for the week





On **Monday**, we organised a **Solar Panel Tour** of the numerous installations present on rooftops across the University. Completed and activated by Brighton & Hove MP Caroline Lucas in October 2017, our 6,144 solar panels provide up to 5% of electricity on campus. The tours were extremely popular and were quickly fully booked, with plans for more tours now being arranged for the future.

We also arranged for a giveaway of unwanted furniture to promote Warp-It, a re-use program utilised by SEF and the University. With SEF's support, the University has saved an estimated 22,367kg of CO₂ and £53,723 as a result of Warp-It.



On **Tuesday**, SEF staff undertook a **litter picking session** in neighbouring Stanmer Park, working through challenging weather conditions to clear up the area. In conjunction with park rangers from Brighton & Hove City Council, our volunteers cleared the bottom section of the park of any waste.

The clean-up was an enormous success, with a huge **72 bags of waste** collected in total over the hour and a half session, adding up to over 150kg of rubbish cleared. This primarily consisted of random litter and discarded items, including a microwave, a fire extinguisher, and even a stethoscope!



“Please pass on our gratitude for all the hard work your team put into clearing up the litter in Stanmer Park this morning. I estimate we collected 72 bags of litter which is a fantastic achievement and you should all be really proud of what you were able to do.

The Lower Lodges of the park looks so much better now and it is a nicer area for the park visitors and the wildlife to enjoy.”

- Garry Meyer, Brighton & Hove City Council



On **Wednesday**, we hosted our aptly named **Wednesday Wellbeing Walk** along our own Boundary Walk trail. Hosted by our Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing Nic Carstens, the walk was designed to promote personal wellbeing at work and in general life, as well as to appreciate the unique surroundings of the Sussex Downs and the importance of maintaining these green spaces.

On top of this, our Senior Leadership Team undertook another **University litter picking session** on Falmer campus itself, tidying up the busiest parts of the University. The event was a success with several bags cleared from majorly affected pedestrian areas, and as a result the SLT will be litter picking on a monthly basis to further promote working towards keeping our local environment clean and free of waste.



Lastly, we also worked in with our Grounds team in renovating and **building a sensory garden** in a repurposed crèche on campus. Using seeds from our student allotment, and flowerbeds built from reclaimed wood on campus, our volunteers planted a diverse garden of various plants designed to interest young children of families on campus that often visit the garden. All the work was done quickly and effectively, resulting in a fully renovated sensory garden on campus.

On **Thursday**, a group of volunteers worked to completely **renovate six benches** located in the Arts courtyard on campus. Organised by our Grounds Manager Ashley Wilcox, the previously worn and greyed-out benches were fully cleaned, sanded, and painted individually for use by all members of the University.

We also hosted a **Health, Safety and Wellbeing Drop-In session** for all SEF staff. During this time, anyone working at SEF could stop by for a casual conversation with our QSHE team about anything relating to health and safety in their workplace, allowing a free interaction on any ideas or concerns about a crucial aspect of facilities management and services.



On **Friday**, a group of volunteers planted new trees on campus to help maintain the natural green presence in the local environment. After sourcing over 100 trees through SEF, our team planted around 40 of them to construct a carefully planned treeline co-ordinated with the natural pathway.

The event was very successful, and will now be a part of an ongoing program headed by Matthew Arnold and our Grounds team to continue planting specially and responsibly selected species of tree on the outskirts of campus.



We also hosted a **beach clean event** on Brighton seafront the following Wednesday, initially scheduled for during the week but unfortunately postponed due to weather concerns. In collaboration with Brighton & Hove City Council, our team of volunteers worked on a huge stretch of beach, leading between both piers and further, collecting 12 bags of litter in total, and helping keep the surprisingly active seafront clean of plastics and other waste.

And finally, we organised a **Pedometer Challenge** across all of SEF to promote wellbeing during the length of Go Green Week. Competitors registered for the event with Matthew Arnold and activated pedometer apps on their smartphones to track how many steps they took over the course of seven days.

After sign-ups from many of our staff, including several training for or undertaking marathons and half marathons... Congratulations went to academic porter **Glenn Mitchell** for winning with the most steps taken. He recorded an amazing **129,317 steps** over the week, adding up to **61 miles** - the equivalent of walking to Southampton!



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Congratulations and thanks to members of the Sussex University Estates team who collected an amazing 72 bags of litter from Stanmer Park this morning as part of their Go Greener Week. ow.ly/b1LL30inkdg #brighton



7:47 am - 13 Feb 2018

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Overall, Go Green Week was a **huge success** for SEF and had a great impact on the wider campus and local community as a whole, working upon some excellent collaboration with Brighton & City Hove Council and members of the University, as well as promoting environmental awareness and the efforts made by SEF to improve our local environment and sustainability.

The success of these events has also lead to a number of recurring activities as a result, including now monthly SLT litter picks, another tree planting session, and plans for future solar panel tours, beach cleans, and pedometer challenges.