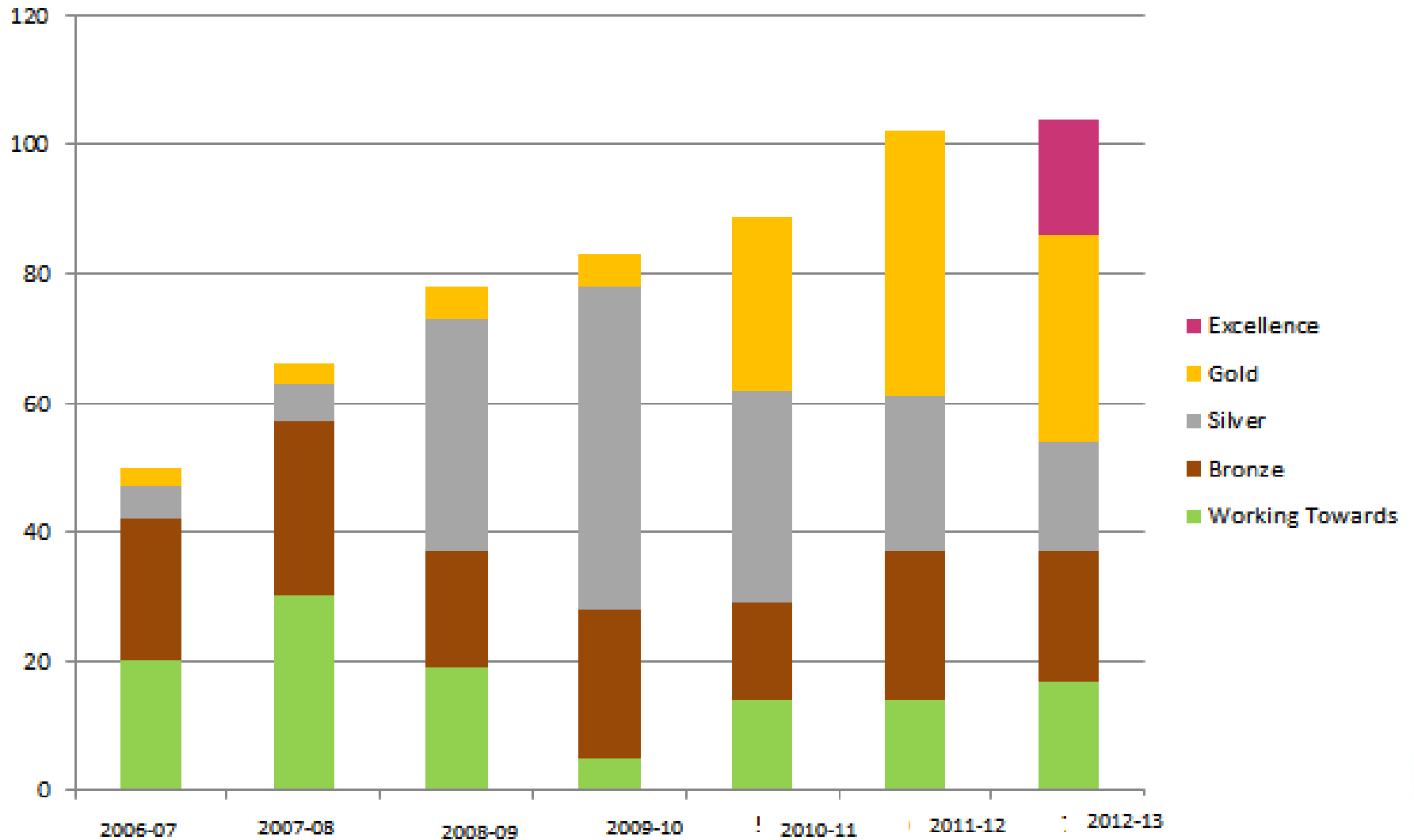


Learning for Sustainability: Where are the students?

Gordon Maloney
NUS Scotland President

Greening Student Unions



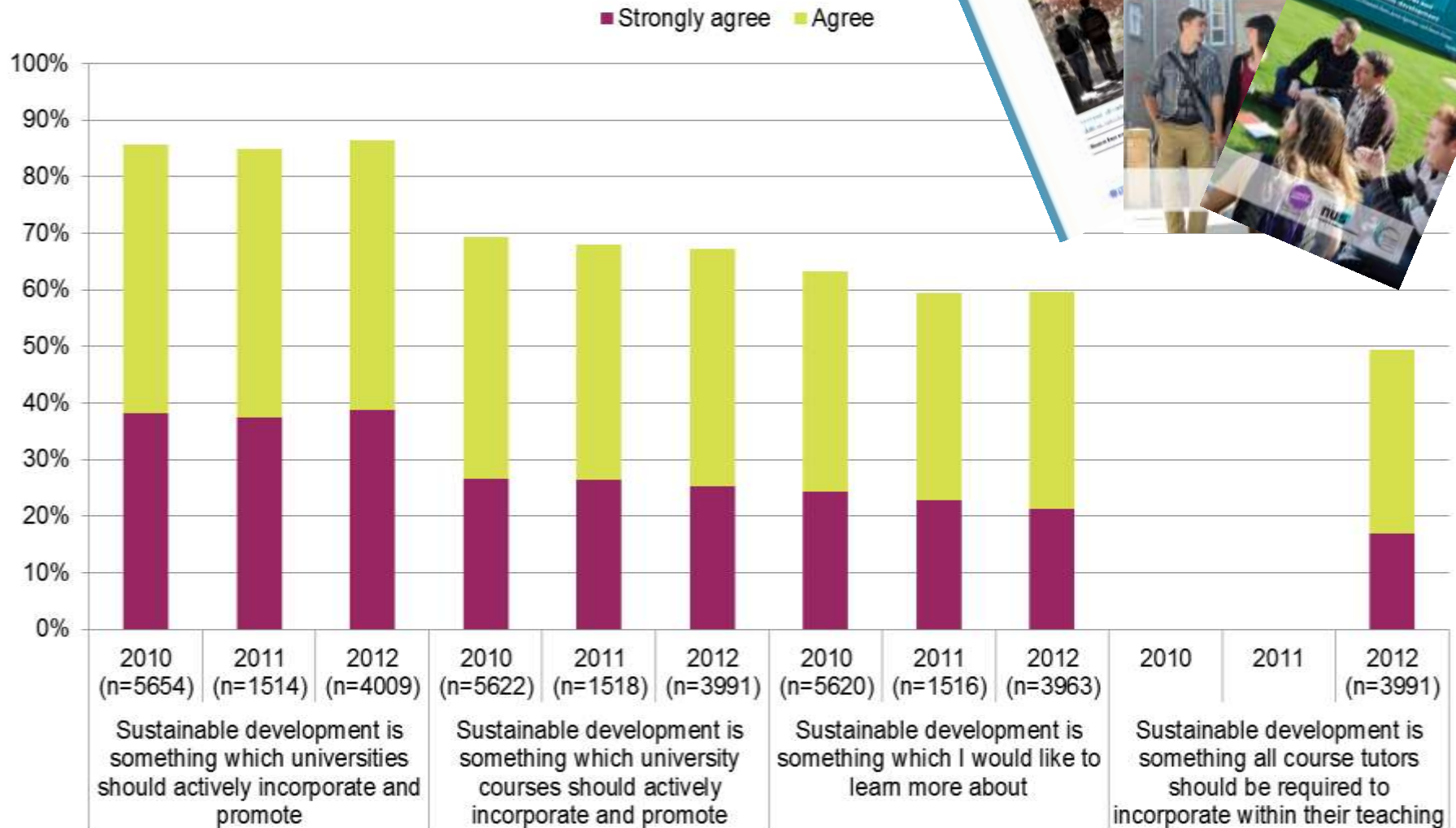
"It is worth noting that the destruction of the planet is not the work of ignorant people. Rather it is largely the results of work by people with BAs, BScs, LLBs, MBAs, and PhDs ...Education can equip people to be more effective vandals of the earth.

If one listens carefully, it may even be possible to hear the Creation groan every year in late May when another batch of smart, degree-holding, but ecologically illiterate, Homo sapiens who are eager to succeed are launched into the biosphere"

David Orr



NUS HEA surveys: A latent student interest in sustainability



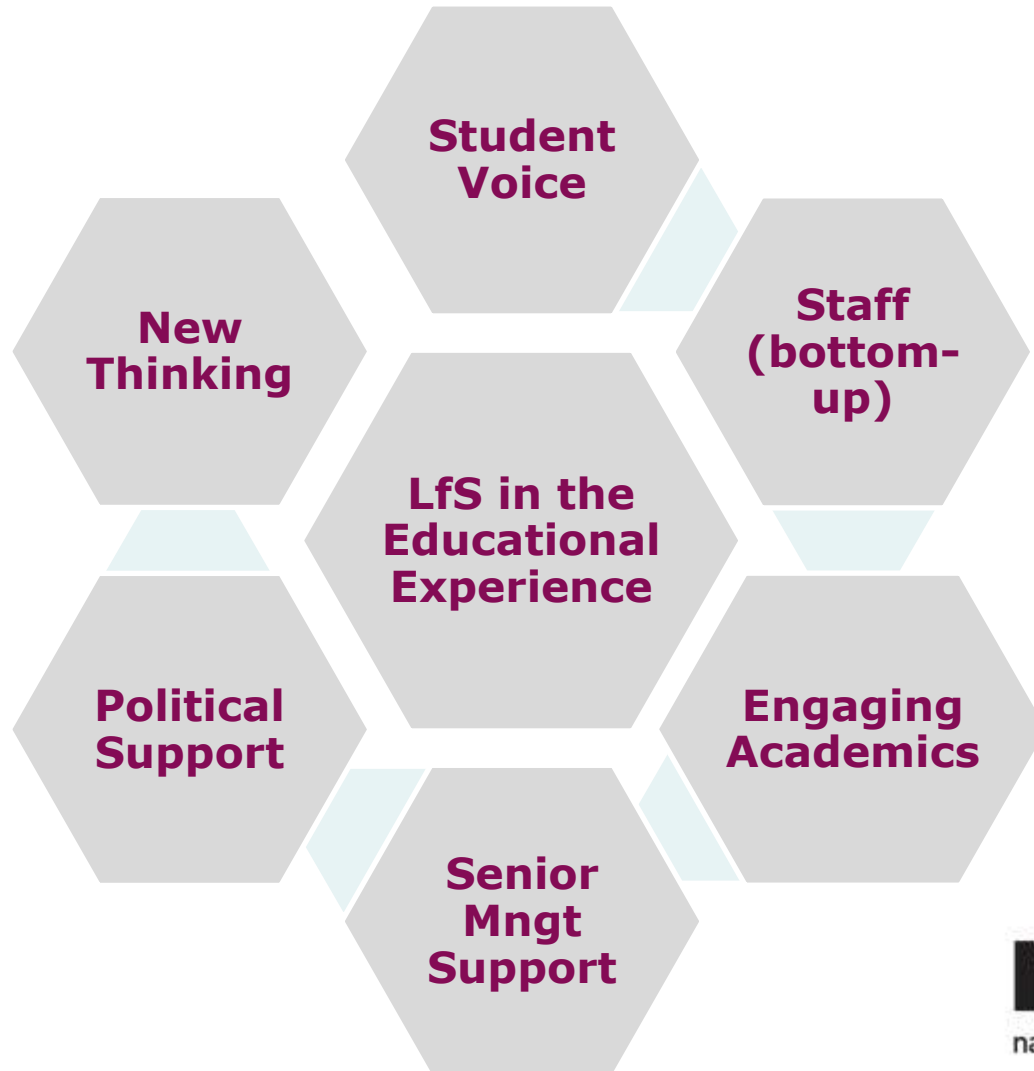
Challenges we face...

- Lack of continuity between primary / secondary / tertiary education on sustainability
- Less resource in FE, but more students
- Sustainability is still seen as an estates issue
- Risk averse culture, and slow to change
- Competition vs. collaboration
- Lack of senior / political leadership on sustainability, short-term mind-sets
- Relative absence of climate change in the media
- General lack of realisation of the potential of the world's 16,000 HEIs in shaping future leaders

What are the opportunities?

- Lobbying institutions for curriculum review
- Gaining mass student support
- Building strong volunteering and professional experience opportunities
- Demonstrating commitment to what students want!

How will we achieve this?



Student Green Fund

McAfee

nus Students' Green Fund

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LATEST NEWS...



Students' Green Fund creates 300 paid sustainability roles



New sustainability focused jobs in students' unions



NUS vice president Dom Anderson on Student Green Fund



Greenwich Sustainability Hub

University of Greenwich Students' Union



Growhampton

Bournemouth Students' Union



Energize Worcester

Worcester Students' Union



Green Impact Student Homes

University of Sheffield Students' Union



Collectively the projects will achieve...

Impact

- 4,000 tCO₂/year saved
- Increase in LiFE and Green League scores
- Student adoption of pro-environmental behaviours continues beyond HE
- **Institutional leaders are more engaged in sustainability, resulting in a more holistic and mainstream approach to sustainability across the institution**
- **Student governors, course reps, and academics become more engaged in sustainability, resulting in more courses with embedded sustainability content**
- Institutions become more receptive and collaborative to student opinion and demand on sustainability issues, and act accordingly
- **Institutions integrate sustainability into their graduate attributes and core purpose**

Awareness and participation

- Increase in student participation in pro-environmental actions
- Increase in student awareness of sustainability initiatives
- Increase of 10-15% adoption of pro-environmental behaviours
- Graduate attributes include skills and knowledge to take positive action on sustainability
- Improve graduate employability

Reach

- 125,000 unique page views
- 50,000 students engaged
- 20,000 followers on social media
- 5,000 staff engaged
- 100% engagement of HE SUs with SGF

Case Studies

Liverpool Guild of Students

Developing an institution-wide team of Green Course Ambassadors supporting the embedding of ESD into the curriculum.



Wigan and Leigh College Students' Union

Running a dragon's den style competition for innovative ESD projects. Staff from subject areas will be encouraged to submit bids in partnership with students, to develop and embed a sustainability project within their curriculum area.



Climate Challenge Fund

Robert Gordon University Student Association

has been awarded a grant to run the RGU: Union Carbon Footprint Initiative project... training in energy efficiency, bike maintenance and development of vegetable plots. £208,777

Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland - Transition UWS aims to deliver initiate further reductions in the university communities' personal environmental impact and help some of the most economically disadvantaged students in Scotland save some cash. £67,838

Concluding Remarks



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pj_2mUBW4I

Contact Us

www.nus.org.uk/greener

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