GUEST is the student-led environmental sustainability body of the University of Glasgow. We work to encourage collaborations between management, academics, students, and social and environmental organisations within the wider local community.

It is our principal aim to improve the environmental practice of the University of Glasgow. We strive to encourage positive transformations as a means to promote sustainability across all levels of the University establishment.

Our vision is to achieve an action-oriented University sustainability policy by empowering the community within and without, to be aware of and open to positive ecological change. We aim to inspire the community to participate in sustainability policy-making and implementation at the university.

An ecologically aware lifestyle is potentially available to everyone; sometimes all it requires is a catalyst. This is where GUEST extends its hand, encouraging a culture of thinking and behaving with environmental responsibility, providing flexible options for varying lifestyles, and giving rise to nurture and growth of self.

A culture of sustainability considers diverse life circumstances of people, inspires reassessment of values and inspires self-development. It recognises the interconnection of individual attitudes and practices and social and communal structures.

Sustainability is not only an ecological issue; it is a question of the organisation of our lives - social and personal - in relation with the environment. Success and development on the environmental spectrum improve the internal dynamics of our communities and benefit us as individuals, and vice versa.

A University provides a space which nurtures learning and critical reflection. Often this is a period in people’s lives where new values, habits and lifestyles gestate and develop, motivated by activity in the community. This environment has the potential to encourage the formation of responsible, active members of society. GUEST aims to be a platform for self-development of the individual, benefitting both themselves and society, now and hereafter.
**GUEST is committed to:**

- The self-actualisation of members of the team.
- Embracing diversity of team and community.
- Facilitating realistic positive change and reflection in the community.
- Building holistic communications throughout university and local community.
- Growing compassion within individuals, who go on to inspire positive transformations in the community.
- Continuing to be representative of the voice(s) of the community, and therein using quantifiable data for suggested improvement.

While advocating a culture of sustainability and promoting behavioural progression, we appreciate the necessity for discussion and we consider due regard for diverse perspectives. This is imperative for working towards consensus and collective approaches to change.

**What we strive to encourage...**

**Within the GUEST community:**

- Freedom for creative approach and ownership within tasks of projects
- Pursuit of feasible achievable goals
- Ground for co-learning, critical thinking and skill share
- Internships and volunteering to expand opportunities and promote legacy
- Realistic role models
- Professional non-judgemental nature towards work
- Visible and approachable on campus
- Challenge ourselves and the community

**What we strive to encourage...**

**Within the University community:**

- Shift in behaviour towards social and environmental wellbeing
- Inclusion of students on various levels of policy-development and implementation
- Ecological awareness across the education system
- Raise awareness of the connection between individual choices and the wider world
- Proactively enhance interconnectedness of staff, students and local community to promote interactions across the spectrum of sustainability
- The university’s institutional self-awareness of sustainability as it journeys towards becoming a recognised innovator of environmentalism
History of the organisation:

Founded with the support of a grant by the Chancellor’s Fund in the Autumn of 2011, GUEST built upon the results achieved by a Friends of the Earth-Glasgow, University Settlement funded ‘Find a Solution’ project, during the summer of the same year and illuminated the areas of Glasgow University’s sustainability policy and action which needed addressing and were feasible for a student group to contribute to.

During the first year of the project 10 students worked part-time for 10 weeks in communication with the Carbon Management Committee and the Green Champions of the university to propose improvements, create links with other environmental sustainability services of Scottish universities and organisations to exchange knowledge and experience and connect with eco-minded student-led bodies of the university. The second year saw this grow to 12 students working part-time for 20 weeks building on previous work at this time with official recognition from HR and based in Estates and Buildings Department. The third year has once more seen 12 students employed part time for 20 weeks with growing recognition and visibility on campus as The University Body committed to Campus Environmental Practice Improvements, Environmental Communications and Behaviour Change.

Future of the organisation:

GUEST initiatives seek to expand both the scope and the scale of the work carried out by the team in the past three years. This will require further funding support which is being sourced. A steering group is proposed to meet bi-annually to discuss project funding, direction and collaboration. Reports will continue to be collated at the end of each project for funders, publicity alongside extended evaluation reports from each staff member involved in order to facilitate efficient handover of project work for future staff.

The University of Glasgow is a registered Scottish charity: Registration Number SC004401