

Beckettsphere Case Study



This project case study template will help you to summarise the scope and impact of your project. You should fill it in as fully as possible and upload it to your One Drive folder. Your auditor will use this case study to assess your project and decide your final award level.

Name of Team: LBSU Allotment

Project Title: Circular Growing Initiative – Living Off The Land

Project Level you are aiming for: Platinum

Project summary:

The student-led allotment started just over three years ago with the aim to implement a circular growing system. Our output is growing organic produce with the aim to embed a culture of sustainability on site and at home. We wanted to turn the disused plot of land into a thriving ecosystem by supporting natural biodiversity and sustainable growing practices.

Measurable Outcomes of the project:

Outcomes are the specific changes, learnings or benefits that came about as a result of the project (i.e. what you achieved). This could be (for example) a reduction in waste sent to landfill, an increase in use of sustainable transport, an increase in the amount of vegan food eaten at team lunches etc. You should include measures wherever possible.

- Construct a poly tunnel so we can grow more throughout the year and improve yield for our members
- Having two compost bins, one turning natural produce into compost and one for food waste to support microbial development and worm life. This will allow the allotment to be a circular system producing no waste from our activities. We will also collect waste from the local community to turn it into our own compost.
- To educate and inform volunteers or community members about sustainability, growing your own food and foraging for wild food. This also includes the positive effects on mental health and getting back into the natural world.
- We have seen our membership grown 75% post pandemic and our weekly GIAG sessions have attracted new members that we have not engaged with. Our society page has over 30 registered members and have engaged with around 15 local households and turned their food waste into compost.
- It took 4 days and 12 volunteers to complete the construction of the poly tunnel. It has allowed us to grow many hot weather crops such as tomatoes, chillies and aubergines in addition to salad leaves throughout the winter. We have grown over 40kg of food over the past year.

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Outputs (how did you achieve the outcomes):

Outputs are how you achieved the outcomes above – what you actually did as part of the project. This could be (for example) an awareness-raising event, a litter pick, held a fundraiser etc.

- Conducted house plant sales at the freshers and refreshers fairs and won volunteer initiative of the year in 2021. The money for the poly tunnel was supplied by SOS student eats and was constructed by volunteers who were recruited through workshops and weekly GIAG (Give It A Go) sessions held on Sundays.
- Collected food from the local community, undertook composting workshops, and invested in a worm farm. We are now negative waste – turning all waste into energy and useable matter for our space, additionally, helping to reduce the waste generated around Hyde Park.
- We have delivered a variety of sessions for members to attend, demonstrating how to forage and enjoy wild food. We have offered community meals using our own produce and shared international recipes. We have helped to demonstrate the powerful effects of returning to nature and disconnecting from the digital world.

Which Sustainable Development Goals does your project contribute too?

These can be found [here](#)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No poverty x | 2. Zero hunger x |
| 3. Good health and well-being x | 4. Quality education x |
| 5. Gender equality x | 6. Clean water and sanitation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Affordable and clean energy x | 8. Decent work and economic growth <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Reduced inequalities x |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities x | 12. Responsible consumption and production x |
| 13. Climate action x | 14. Life below water <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Life on land x | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions x |
| 17. Partnerships for the goals x | |

Where did your project have an impact?

Home x

On Campus

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Beyond the university x

We have been able to positively impact our local area by diverting food from landfill and improving relations with local residents. We have embedded sustainable practices in our members' minds through foraging workshops, Give It A Go sessions and external events we have been a part of. We have over 30 active members and this number continues to grow. We have been able to give people an outlet over lockdown and a way to safely leave the house and get back to nature, allowing disconnection from the digital world we are all so immersed in. Finally, we have created a sense of belonging and community for our members and created a long-lasting friend group that will continue after we graduate, allowing us all to continue to champion sustainability and the positive effects of growing your own food.

Reached to the local community to repurpose their waste, improved relations with the allotment committee and our neighboring plot holders supporting them with their own space developments. Worked closely with the SU, Zero Waste and Eco Soup. Worked with Student Eats to secure funding for the poly tunnel and also the water conservation trust for water irrigation. Working with several students and other members that have joined our sessions. Worked with Rainbow Junction to promote their service and also local experts to supply foraging workshops and improve our own knowledge.

Could your project be repeated in the university or by external teams?

Yes, could be done by teams inside and outside of our university. The aim of the allotment is to inspire other students to act against our commercial food systems and grow their own food. It also aims to educate members about alternative food sources, local farms and sustainable business around Leeds. A key focus is spreading information so members act against supermarkets and disrupt the reliance on our wasteful food systems in the UK. If we could replicate this project around Leeds it would be a clear message to supermarkets that we demand change and a less destructive food system. This type of project is very replicable as you only need a small piece of land or, at very least, some containers to start of some basic growing such as potatoes or garlic.

Will your project have a lasting legacy beyond this project year?

We were involved in the TEDx talks at the University this year which will be a lasting legacy to inspire and motivate future allotment leaders. The developments we have made to the space will last for years and are an excellent base for the next cohort of members to enjoy and improve upon. We have already begun discussions with our members to see who would like to take a leading role in the society next year and have several members that would like to take on more responsibility.

Reflections – what did your team enjoy, what might you have done differently etc.?

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Building lasting friendships from activities, connecting with like-minded individuals, showing the power of growing to students that might not have engaged otherwise, increased our own understanding of local wildlife and sustainable growing practices, enjoyed learning new skills including woodworking, foraging, mushroom cultivation, water conservation, rewilding insight, a deeper understanding of pollination, working in tandem with nature rather than been a mono culture, learning about the destructive effects of modern farming practices and how we can change public opinions on supply chains.

If we could do anything differently, we would have implemented a water irrigation from the start of the project due to the space needed for water butts or ponds.

[Further evidence and photos:](#)

<https://www.ted.com/tedx/events/48623>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eszKrcbaja0>

<https://www.instagram.com/leedsbeckettallotment/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/820777768034013/>

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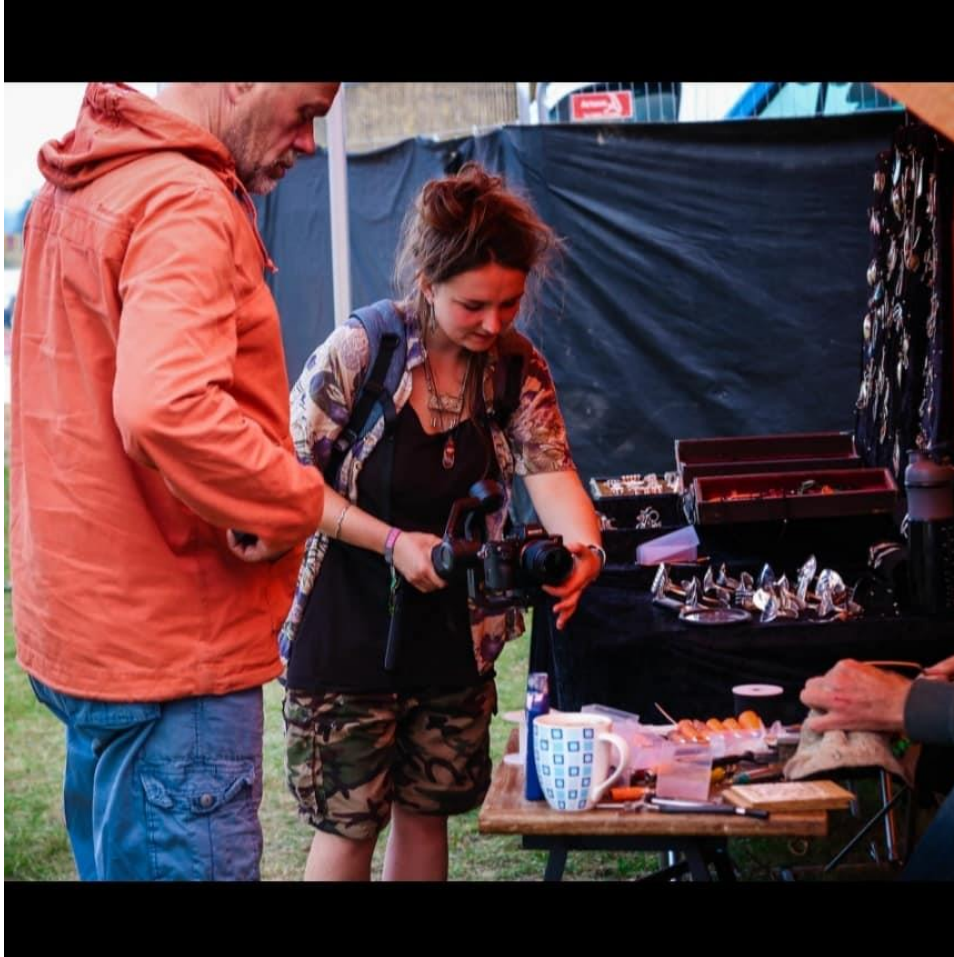
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