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: Citizen's Jury

Project Title: Citizen's Jury on Sustainability

Project Level you are aiming for: Bronze

Project summary:

We ran a citizens' jury (2 sessions) to explore the question "What should Leeds Beckett do to tackle the climate emergency"? 13 participants were recruited as members of the jury to discuss key themes and come to a consensus on some recommendations to be presented to the university management, students' union, staff unions and other key stakeholders. Student partners were recruited to research the key issues facing the University and present their findings to the juries on what action is currently being taken and what could be done. The findings were written up into a report by the team which was distributed to key stakeholders.

The team comprised of Dr Chris Till and Dr Laura Davies both Senior Lecturers in Sociology in the Leeds School of Social Sciences.

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.

•   Increased engagement with sustainability amongst students as jury members and partners on the project

•   Increased engagement with sustainability amongst staff as jury members

•   Increased engagement with sustainability amongst management and other stakeholders as recipients of the report

•   Improved the university's (including its wider community) ability to tackle climate change

•   Enabled university strategy on climate change to be better informed by the opinions and experience of its community

•   Increased engagement with sustainability amongst students as jury members and partners on the project

•   Increased engagement with sustainability amongst staff as jury members

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The achievement of the above outcomes can be seen in the fact that in addition to the two team members 11 students were involved in researching themes for the juries in which 13 staff and students participated.

•	Increased engagement with sustainability amongst management and other stakeholders as recipients of the report

The above outcome was achieved through the distribution of the report to management and stakeholders.

•	Improved the university's (including its wider community) ability to tackle climate change

Findings presented in the report mean that stakeholders have more understanding of climate change issues, how they affect the university community and how they can be better tackled.

•	Enabled university strategy on climate change to be better informed by the opinions and experience of its community

Findings from the juries (which represent the views and experiences of the university community) are available to university management who can take action based on this improved knowledge and understanding.

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) held an awareness raising event, conducted a litter pick, held a fundraiser etc.

•	Conducted two Citizens' Jury events

•	Produced a report of findings

•	Presented preliminary reflections at Green Impact conference

Which Sustainable Development Targets does your project contribute too?

These can be found here under the targets section of each Sustainable Development Goal.

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

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[Where did your project have an impact?](#)

Home x

On Campus x

Beyond the university x

The Citizens' Juries, and the research conducted by student partners, facilitated those involved to learn about sustainability issues through dialogue with one another, research and reflection which we hope will impact on their practises at home and in their places of work and study.. If findings from the report help inform behaviours, practises or policies of management or other stakeholders then wider impacts on the university campuses, city and regional communities should be felt through positive environmental effects.

The process of planning, researching and participating in the Citizens' Juries affected those involved by improving their knowledge and understanding of sustainability issues through dialogue with one another, research and reflection. Those involved in organizing, facilitating and researching the jury sessions included members of the team and students from across university. During participants included staff and students from across the University. Recipients of the report include stakeholders from across the University. The actions which will potentially be informed by the report should have an impact on all levels cited above as positive environmental changes will affect those within and beyond the University.

The project leads Chris Till and Laura Davies as well as some of the student partners presented at the Leeds Beckett University TEDX Conference.

[Could your project be repeated in the university or by external teams?](#)

Both, Citizens' juries have proven effective when conducted on national and city levels and if successful on the university level this could be replicated at other institutions to enable university policy/strategy to be informed by a consideration of the specific issues facing those university communities. The team would like the citizens' jury to form the basis of a larger citizens' assembly to be conducted after the completion of this project. The jury can serve as a feasibility study or pilot project for a longer term, (potentially) ongoing assembly with a larger and more representative cohort of participants.

[Will your project have a lasting legacy beyond this project year?](#)

The main impact of the project this year was on the team, student partners and participants in the juries who were given the opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding of sustainability issues through dialogue with one another, research and reflection.

The potential lasting legacy will be in changes to individual behaviour or university practises or policy based on findings presented in the report.

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

The project was an interesting, stimulating and inspiring process during which the team members, student partners and CJ participants learned from one another and were able to develop ideas as to how they could make positive sustainability changes. The insights of participants in the juries were valuable and fascinating. However, it proved impossible to construct a genuinely representative sample of the University community despite significant efforts from the team members. The participation in the jury was also heavily skewed towards staff members. If the project were to be repeated, or developed into an ongoing Citizens' Assembly, it would be necessary to tackle these issues in order to make the findings more meaningful and inclusive. The team believes that achieving this would require funding, resources and institutional support in order to publicise and incentivise participation particularly amongst students.