

I am, you are, we are DESS!

A short introduction to the Dumfries Environmental Sustainability Society

In February 2014 DESS held its first meeting in a pub in Dumfries. Three people attended the founding meeting and decided that a group of students that is into environmental education issues should call itself the Dumfries Environmental Sustainability Society, for a lack of a better idea and because the abbreviation sounded nice. We founded DESS to have a network for students from all courses and institutions who want to make the Dumfries campus community more sustainable and actively influence campus life.



In the first two months, DESS had weekly meetings, and organized two main activities on campus, as well as social evenings. Our first main activity was the soup day on which we gave out seasonal, organic, local and vegan soup to everyone crossing our path on campus that day to raise awareness of the environmental impact your food choice has. The second major activity turned the street in front of the bus stop on campus into a gallery of small, medium and large carbon footprints that people could calculate with the help of a quiz we distributed.

Besides that serious stuff, we held a party with the slogan “Why Not Party for the Planet?”, organized a movie screening of the documentary “Waste Land” and attended an environmental art sound installation of the Spring Fling Festival. And as we also do not know everything about environment, we invited guest speakers along to our gatherings. So far, Anne Guetter from the Glasgow Uni Climate Action Society spoke with us about their fossil free campaign and Dr. Mark Lee told us about his research on climate change, grass lands and cows. Outside of our meeting, we had a “Carbon Conversation” workshop that helped us develop methods on how to cut our carbon footprint.

If any of this sounds interesting or even not at all and you think DESS should do much better stuff- come along to meeting, join us on Facebook and bring along your ideas. The new semester, DESS and the planet need you!

