

Babel Submission

Title: Meet the founders of Regent's Climate Society
Interview with Sky Diaz and Katharina Meier

Today we would like to welcome the two founders of Regent's first Climate Society: Sky and Katharina. Sky is a second year BA English Literature student and Katharina is a first-year student studying BA Global Management (Finance). Both are enthusiastic climate advocates who are eager to create a more sustainable campus that is not only environmentally minded but also actively participating in the reduction of carbon emissions. Their society is currently working on the formulation of a sustainability action plan for Regent's University London.

"Together, we are a community of leaders achieving climate action."

What first made you passionate about fighting climate change?

Sky:

I feel like we were the first generation to fully understand that the climate crisis is real and is going to impact us during our lifetime. I remember being in primary school and talking about the ice caps melting and the world heating up. It felt as real then as it is now. What made me truly passionate was seeing how no adult around me cared. We waste so much from plastic to paper to water and I feel that we have to care because our seniors are not impacted the way we are.

Katharina:

It's difficult for me to pinpoint an exact moment, when I realized that I'm very passionate in combating climate change. Taking climate action and promoting a change to our traditional way of life, and our production, extraction and environmentally degradative practices, which we have been performing for centuries, I want to argue, came naturally to me. I believe that our generation holds the key to either continuing our current destructive path or saving our only planet.

What plans do you have to make the Regent's campus more sustainable?

We are very excited to get back on campus next year (Sept. 2021) where we hope to start action on a multitude of projects. Currently we are in the process of drafting a sustainability action plan, including all of our implementation proposals. A brief look into our short-term plans: We want the student body to engage with topics from renewable energy to recycling. Namely by banning plastic bottles and supplying students with reusable ones to encourage this. In addition we wish to partner with 'The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in

Education' which provides a scorecard for planning and self-assessment specifically for colleges and universities to improve social responsibility and environmental performance through a whole institution approach. Lastly, we hope to potentially start a garden that we would be cultivating in the second half of the year to get people involved and knowledgeable in growing systems and the possibilities of combating diversity loss through plant arrangements. Plus, who doesn't like a little dirt on their hands!

What are three things you do in your day to day life to reduce your carbon footprint?

Sky:

While small changes in my day to day life can and do impact climate change, I feel that we need large scale changes to actually mitigate the climate catastrophe. That being said, day to day I don't eat meat or dairy (livestock produce 14.5 % of global greenhouse gases), I drive an electric vehicle and lastly, work on the Regent's Climate Society getting people involved in climate action!

Katharina:

There are actually a number of small actions I take every day, helping me to reduce my carbon footprint. I tend to avoid plastic packaging as much as possible. Regarding my diet, I am very conscious of food miles and the negative impacts of large-scale farming. Therefore, I tend to only buy locally produced goods. Visiting your local farmers market, supports local farmers and provides you with fresh food, which didn't travel thousands of miles. Finally, I am a big advocate and user of renewable energy sources. Using geothermal or solar energy, which are in my opinion great alternatives to the conventional energy sources, provide a significant opportunity to reduce one's carbon impact.

How do you think being more environmental would impact Regent's?

Katharina: I believe that everyone should do their part in caring for the future. A university cultivating the future leaders of tomorrow should set an example to their students and other universities on the importance of not only thinking but also acting for our tomorrow. Regent's University London solely becoming more environmentally-friendly, might be considered only a small impact in a global context of who takes climate action. However, Regent's has the power to become a paragon for other universities and advocate the importance of everyone taking climate action to a very diverse and international student body.

If you are interested in learning more about Regent's Climate Society feel free to contact Katharina or Sky: S18006430@regents.ac.uk or visit the Student Union webpage.



Climate Society
Regent's Univeristy London