

POLICY – SUSTAINABILITY

Owned by: Vice President, Education

Date passed: Awaiting ratification

Body passing: Executive Committee

Review required: tbc

This policy commits Winchester Student Union to be sustainable; responsible for its management of energy and waste across the Union building and in all its activities; responsible for its impacts on the environment; & responsible for encouraging campus wide biodiversity. All equipment will be employed in the most energy efficient manner possible, and all stakeholders will be encouraged to be aware of their energy use, to avoid wastage of energy and water and to seek reductions wherever practicable.

For the purposes of this policy Winchester Student Union defines Sustainability as:

“Our ability to provide activities that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Aims

The overriding aim of the policy is to work with the university to embed and normalise sustainability in the student experience; across the both formal & informal curriculum.

We also seek to reduce the Union’s waste through the efficient use of resource & energy. The environmental benefits of this, will also lead to financial benefits for the Union.

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Key factors to consider in order achieving this aim are:

- ☐ Working within the framework of the NUS change programme, Sustainable futures; through our democratic and representative channels ensure that sustainability is embedded in the curriculum
- ☐ Raising awareness of sustainability to all stakeholders
- ☐ Monitoring energy and waste use across the Union
- ☐ Clear definition of roles and responsibilities regarding resource management

- Strive to improve performance and compliance

Embedding Sustainability into the formal & informal curriculum

The Vice President, Education & Welfare will hold the portfolio responsibilities for Sustainability. The Vice President, Education & Welfare will attend meetings as practicable to champion Sustainability within the University, Union and the Community. This will include ensuring the Union discharges its responsibilities under the Sustainable futures scheme and/or any further joint initiatives. The Vice President, Education & Welfare will oversee the work of elected student officer to ensure appropriate educational and change campaigns are delivered on campus. Winchester Student Union will make resources available to all societies that champion environmental, sustainable and ethical causes on campus. In addition, the Union Executive Committee will appoint from its number a Student Officer to take lead on representing the membership's wants & needs in regards to sustainability.

Embedding environment and sustainability within staffing structures

Winchester Student Union will engage with all staff by incorporating sustainability into training sessions and staff development days. Staff will be encouraged to put forward their own initiatives for furthering sustainability within the operations of the union. A team of Green Impact Champions will represent each department; led by the Head of Finance they will work together as a team to champion the agenda within the staff body, our operations and our practices.

Embedding environment and sustainability within our procurement

Winchester Student Union is a registered charity with a turnover of over £1.5 million charity and staffing body of around 80 student and non-student staff. Winchester Student Union includes a fund raising commercial operation and must carefully consider its product procurement. Staff will take active consideration when procuring products and services including:

- Energy Efficiency: Resolve to purchase energy efficient goods wherever economically and ergonomically practicable. Saving made from such achieved efficiencies shall be reinvested into further sustainable initiatives.
- White goods: Alternatives, downscaling and necessity to be reviewed prior to any agreement to purchase white goods. White goods purchased will be to A+ standard (or higher) and will bear in mind the total lifecycle of the item.
- Lighting: Lighting to LED/Compact fluorescent/T5 standard. No new incandescent/halogen lighting to be purchased where practical energy efficient alternatives exist. Less than 5% of SU area lighting to comprise of non-energy efficient lighting as specified. Occupancy sensors to be installed in all practicable areas.
- Commercial refrigeration: Commercial refrigeration to be purchased to EAC standard where practicable.

- Commercial ventilation: Commercial ventilation to be purchased to EAC standard where practicable.
- Vehicle purchasing & upkeep: All vehicles to be purchased from new where practicable. All drivers to be trained in efficient driving techniques which include checking tyre pressures. Due to likely developing inefficiencies, all vehicles to be replaced at or before 10 years from first registration. Disposals to be conducted via a reputable vehicle recycler.
- Fairtrade: To purchase Fairtrade items where such items are available and practicable; all tea, coffee & sugar sourced for resale will be Fairtrade.
- Fuel: To Purchase and utilise fuel in most cost effective and efficient way. To actively seek alternative and sustainable fuel sources where such is available.
- Ethical/Environmental screening: Through its affiliation to NUS, the Union will ensure that any suppliers of goods for retail are subject to an ethical & environmental screening process.
- Furniture and timber: Actively sourcing new furniture or raw timber from certified sustainable sources. Where the demesne of external contractors, engaging to ensure this is done on our behalf.
- Decisions weighting: Where a choice of products are available least negative/most positive impact on the environment will be given as much consideration as affordability
- Life cycle: Due consideration will be given to the whole life cost of any purchase

Transport

Winchester Student Union facilitates the transport for all of our sports and societies as well as business miles for our staff and elected officers. As such Winchester Student Union resolves to:

- Include sustainable driving information in training and drivers packs
- Only hire the most environmentally friendly cars that are available to us, on an appropriate cost-benefit analysis
- Discourage air travel as a means of transport - air will only be agreed for Student Union staff and officers if no other mode of transport exists that is practicable for the journey in question
- Work with the University of Winchester to promote 'greener' methods of Transportation; provide incentives for staff to consider cycling or walking in lieu of other transport solutions where practicable.

Utilities, Buildings and Waste Management

All of our utilities are procured and managed by the University of Winchester. The University undertakes to comply with all appropriate environmental legislation that affects our utilities and waste management procedures. To ensure our procedures are as sustainable as possible, the union will:

- Continue to implement formal shut down procedures at the end of working hours to reduce any wastage of electricity, heat and water

- Work with the University's estate department to ensure that heating or air handling is only used when essential.
- Commit to purchasing recycled paper and will continue to improve the percentage of printed paper which comes from a recycled source
- Use water saving technology throughout its buildings
- Ensure any non-traditional waste including tables, chairs or old electrical equipment is either donated or responsibly recycled
- To minimise and remove, where practicable, the use of 'single use' plastic goods.

As our utilities are managed by the University, Winchester Student Union will lobby the university should any of its processes not meet our requirements