

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Policy and Procedure

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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Southampton University Students' Union (SUSU) is committed to being an environmentally and socially responsible organisation. Sustainability is integral to everything we do, and we aim to embed environmental and ethical practices in all Union activities.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive, on behalf of SUSU's Senior Leadership Team, has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this Policy and ensuring that the necessary resources are available for implementation.
- 1.3 The Head of Sustainability has overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring this policy.
- 1.4 This Policy forms part of SUSU's contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Policy is applicable to all SUSU staff, Sabbatical Officers, student officers, student clubs and societies, external contractors, vendors and other relevant stakeholders.

3. Objectives

This Policy commits SUSU to:

Internal Practices

- 3.1 Protecting the environment and preventing pollution to air, land, and water both through our direct actions and our influence on others.
- 3.2 Minimising environmental impacts, complying with environmental legislation, and continually improving environmental performance through implementation of a certified Environmental Management System (EMS).
- 3.3 Continuing to invest in SUSU operations and services to reduce energy and water consumption, alongside the University's estate refurbishment proposals.
- 3.4 Managing our supply chain by considering the economic, ethical, environmental impacts and whole life costs when purchasing goods and services.
- 3.5 Adopting a life-cycle analysis approach to purchasing decisions and considering whole life costs in support of the circular economy.
- 3.6 Working with our suppliers, contractors and vendors to ensure they comply with this policy and manage their activities to minimise harm to the environment.
- 3.7 Following the waste hierarchy to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.
- 3.8 Providing responsibly sourced food and drink choices to encourage informed purchasing by customers.

- 3.9** Adopting a climate conscious approach to travel by ensuring staff, student clubs and student societies understand the environmental impacts, follow the travel hierarchy, and use lower-carbon methods of transport where possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and urban air pollution.
- 3.10** Working in partnership with local communities, the local authorities and other key stakeholders to share good practice and implement and celebrate sustainable initiatives.
- 3.11** Promoting and communicating our sustainability initiatives and actions.

Partnership with University

- 3.12** Working in partnership with the University in support of its environmental objectives, playing a key part in delivering its Sustainability Strategy and holding it to account over its environmental performance.
- 3.13** Supporting the University Travel Plan to reduce emissions from business travel and staff commuting.
- 3.14** Working with the University to protect and enhance wildlife and green spaces through management of its estate, supporting student involvement in creating and managing habitats for wildlife.

Partnership with Students

- 3.15** Providing a platform for students to engage with environmental sustainability through societies, campaigns, projects and events.
- 3.16** Supporting our students to take action on the climate and ecological emergency and adopt behaviours which contribute to living within social and planetary boundaries.
- 3.17** Supporting student clubs and societies to reduce vehicle use and explore opportunities to use active travel and public transport.

4. Review

- 4.1** This Policy is reviewed annually and is publicly available on SUSU's website.



Sonia Cottrell
Chief Executive
July 2023



Ed Brooker
Union President
July 2023