

Environmental Sustainability Policy

This Union Notes:

1. There are multidisciplinary challenges of biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and climate change. Coupled with these are the ethical implications and challenges created for an increasing global population.
2. The global policy setting context was recently outlined by the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming (October 2018)^[1] and the WWF Living Planet Report (Nov 18)^[2]
3. Earth Overshoot Day (when all of humanity has used more from the planet than can be renewed in one year) continues to move earlier each year. In 1970 it was December 29 and in 2018 it was August 1st^[3]
4. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), adopted by world leaders in September 2015, sets out a roadmap for environmental and social sustainability to be achieved by 2030. The goals call on all stakeholders in society to contribute to realisation of the sustainable development agenda [4].

This Union Believes:

1. As one of the most critical challenges of our time, Environmental Sustainability must be a core strategic objective of your Students' Union.
2. With the UN Sustainable Development agenda highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the SDG's, the contributions of the Students' Union to Green Lancaster, the collaborative sustainability initiative at Lancaster University are vital to local success.
3. The priority areas of Green Lancaster (Energy, Resources & the Circular Economy, Mobility, Mobility and Agriculture & Biodiversity) are well-aligned with the UN Sustainable Development agenda. These provide an effective platform for students to take positive and practical action on the Sustainable Development agenda whilst at Lancaster University.
4. There is significant scope for continual dialogue and lobbying at Lancaster University to ensure ongoing commitment to improving practice in the multiple dimensions of environmental sustainability.

This Union Resolves:

1. That the Executive will approve an environmental sustainability strategy and action plan annually. This will include KPIs to measure improvement and success in key areas.
2. To provide a platform for students to engage with the environmental sustainability agenda through societies, campaigns, projects and events.
3. To provide engaging and educational learning experiences for students in order to foster a lasting interest in environmental sustainability.
4. To commit to continual improvement of its practices, including but not limited to: operations, procurement and investment.
5. To encourage and lobby the University to continually improve their practices on environmental sustainability.

References:

- [1] <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>
- [2] https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/
- [3] <https://www.overshootday.org/>
- [4] <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>