



## The Union, Manchester Met Sustainability Policy

The Union, Manchester Met is the officially recognised body representing over 33,000 students studying at Manchester Metropolitan University. We recognise that our activities have an impact on the social and natural environment. Therefore, we are dedicated to ensuring that we act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. This policy acts as a statement of intent and is supported by a SMART Action Plan on sustainability and a document of environmental aspects and impacts of The Union's operations.

The Union and all of its teams, departments, staff and officers will commit to:

1. Reducing the use of energy and water through efficient utility management and practices. The university is responsible for where our energy comes from and monitoring our utilities usage. Therefore, we will work in partnership with the Manchester Met Environment team to be as efficient as possible in our energy use and opt for renewable energy where possible.
2. Minimising waste in all of our operations and service provision. In accordance with the waste hierarchy, we will aim to reduce the amount potential waste in the first instance before reusing any assets we do not need anymore. If this isn't possible, we will always recycle whatever we are able to.
3. Promoting trade justice to benefit both workers in the supply chain and the natural environment. We have a formal commitment to Fairtrade with a joint Fairtrade policy with MMU and a lot of what we purchase is covered by either NUS Services Ltd.'s Supplier Ethical Code of Conduct or the university's Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy. When we purchase outside of these portfolios it is to provide more sustainable and ethical options than we could otherwise. We will also seek to support local and independent businesses, meaning less emissions from transportation and growth of the local economy.
4. Encouraging, facilitating and opting for environmentally and economically sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and all forms of public transport for staff and students. This is backed up by our Financial Regulations which prevent domestic air travel for Union business.
5. Actively playing our role as a positive partner in the local community through supporting student volunteering, organising opportunities for students to get involved and developing positive relationships with community partners.
6. Inspiring and enabling members to be more sustainable in their student life through strong student leadership, dedicated resources and embedding sustainability into strategy.

7. Using student voice as a driving force for making The Union and its activity more sustainable. We will ensure that our members are aware of how they can effect change in this area to make our work on sustainability truly student-led.

The Union is committed to the ongoing assessment of our environmental impact and to make continual improvements in our environmental performance. We will use environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice to establish the minimum standards for our environmental performance. All staff and officers at The Union are expected to abide by the standards outlined in this policy to ensure we are at the forefront of sustainability best practice.

*This policy was approved by The Union's Board of Trustees on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.*