

Policy Heading: **Make Sunderland SU Sustainable**

Date Proposed: 31 October 2019

Authority: Union Council

This Council Notes (Facts):

- The environment is under extreme pressure from everyday human activities, which has led to increased pollution and emissions being released as well as caused significant destruction to vital ecosystems and biospheres across the planet.
- Many countries and governments have pledged to ensure the global planet temperature does not rise above 1.5°C as part of the Paris Climate Accord. In addition, cities (including Sunderland) and organisations have declared Climate Emergencies in response to the issue of climate change.
- Everyday small actions by individuals can make significant differences to the impact on the planet through reduction of energy use and better use of resources.

This Council Believes (Opinions):

- As an organisation, Sunderland Students' Union has a responsibility to be more sustainable and should address areas of waste of energy and resource use, to ensure that it is contributing to global efforts on sustainability and climate change.
- The Students' Union (and University) should raise awareness of environmental issues affecting students and provide student friendly resources about sustainability via the Students' Union website and social media.
- Students should be inspired to take sustainable action as part of the Union's Your Place strategy and through the Activities and Opportunities offer.

This Council Resolves (Actions to take & by whom):

- Sunderland Students' Union to create a Sustainability Committee, to report to the Union's Health and Safety group, which will be responsible to monitor, evaluate and develop recommendations on how the Union can become more sustainable in its operations.
- The Sustainability Committee will be chaired by a student from the Environmental Society (or President in lieu of a society), have cross organisational representation and include opportunities for students to sit on the group.
- The SU, via the Presidents, will lobby the University of Sunderland's Estates and Facilities Service to make improvements across all campuses and be actively launching campaigns to encourage students and staff to be environmentally responsible.
- The Students' Union, whenever possible and economically viable, will:
 - use sustainable or recyclable paper for printing materials;
 - avoid the use of non-recyclable plastic/materials for (but not limited to) merchandise, give away items and when providing refreshments;

- become more ethical in its purchasing, using local companies or those who have high sustainable standards, avoiding companies which cause environmental damage or are deemed to not be sustainable through their operations; and
- introduce a sustainable/Fairtrade range of merchandise for students to purchase as part of income generation.

Proposed by

Helder Costa, President: Wellbeing 2019-20