

Environmental Policy for the Union of UEA Students

Proposed: Natasha Barnes, Environment Officer

Seconded: Andrew Taylor, Co-opted member

Union notes:

- 1 The Union currently has a variety of differing environmental policies but no over arching statement of intent.
- 2 Part of the work carried out by the Transition Campus campaign has focused on developing an environmental policy for the University.
- 3 This policy has been developed from the work done by the Transition Campus Working Group, which has included a process of student consultation.

Union believes:

- 1 Having a strong Environmental policy will further increase the sustainability of the Union, thus reflecting the concerns of our members.
- 2 Adopting this policy will strengthen the case for the University to adopt similar high standards of practice.

Union resolves:

- 1 That the following Environmental Policy is an appropriate policy for the Union to adopt as part of a wider sustainability agenda.
- 2 That the Union of UEA Students adopts the following Environmental Policy.
- 3 That an annual report on actions initiated to meet this policy's objectives be submitted to Council at the first meeting of the second term. If it is not submitted, then a note that it has not been submitted and a web link to this policy be placed on the agenda for that meeting.

795	<u>RESOLUTION ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR UUEAS</u>	
Received:	A resolution from N Barnes (Environment Officer) and A Taylor, (copy placed in minute book).	
Noted:	An amendment was added to the resolution prior to the meeting by the proposer that adds a Clause 3 to Union Resolves reading: "That an annual report on actions initiated to meet this policy's objectives be submitted to Council at the first meeting of the second term. If it is not submitted then a note be made that it has not been submitted with a web link to this policy."	
Noted:	The Environment Officer noted that it had been a long process of seven attempts to get this proposal before Council. The resolution is self explanatory and had been put together with a lot of consultation: it would provide a holistic, easy to implement policy.	
Resolved:	To adopt the amended resolution.	

Environmental Policy

The Union of UEA Students acknowledges that it impacts upon the environment through its routine internal operations, its infrastructural development and its influence on the wider community.

Incentives and regulations encouraging environmental best practice will aim to establish the Union of UEA Students as a leader among students' unions and in the wider community in acting in a way that addresses environmental degradation and climate change.

To this end the Union of UEA Students commits to:

- Carry out actions under the areas listed below;
 - Upgrade and reposition this Environmental Policy every three years;
 - Strive for not only the achievement of internal goals, but also to gain external certification for excellence.
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1. Staff Development

The Union of UEA Students commits to providing opportunities for the continuing professional development of its staff to empower them to carry out this policy effectively.

- 1.1 Members of staff will be offered sustainability-related training on Union sustainability issues.
- 1.2 Key members of staff will be inducted in energy saving behaviour and practise in their areas of work.
- 1.3 Sustainability criteria will be including in relevant job descriptions and role specifications.

2. Working with other Agencies

The Union of UEA Students commits to working with its neighbours, business partners and other students' unions to progress environmental initiatives and exchange best practice.

- 2.1 Activities in conjunction with local, national and other agencies, will promote and raise awareness of good environmental management policies and practices among staff and students.
- 2.2 Sustainability partnerships will be developed with other Student Unions and institutions, through membership of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (affiliation will cost £235 for 2008/09).

3. Communication

The Union of UEA Students commits to developing environmental awareness amongst students on campus.

- 3.1 Continual programme of information provision (e.g. through posters, literature, or other media), will highlight to students of the role they can play.

- 3.2 A report will be produced to communicate and inform the UEA student community of ongoing work and progress made, to be presented to the Annual Meeting of Union Council.

4. Procurement

The Union of UEA Students commits to promote environmentally aware purchasing of goods and services.

- 4.1 Environmental scrutiny of products and services will be carried out for all purchases over £2,000.
- 4.2 Suppliers will be actively encouraging to pursue environmental objectives in the provision of goods.

5. Utilities

The Union of UEA Students commits to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials and seeks to enhance the contribution of energy efficiency measures, recyclable components and renewables.

- 5.1 Practices inefficient in energy use will be identified, and staff and students will be made aware of personal energy saving initiatives.
- 5.2 The use of energy efficient devices to control heating and lighting systems will be increased.
- 5.3 Water efficient fixtures and fittings will be introduced.
- 5.4 The Union will strive to include systems for the management and use of rainwater and the recycling of grey water for toilet flushing in future premises projects.
- 5.5 To lobby the University to achieve use of rainwater and recycling of grey water in the Union's existing buildings.

6. Waste

The Union of UEA Students commits to implementing long-term waste management strategies to reduce overall waste and facilitate repair, reuse and recycling policies on the disposal of waste.

- 6.1 Base line recycling targets will be established for all refurbishment and capital projects.
- 6.2 Recycling bins will be invested in throughout the Union's premises, for glass, card, paper, plastic bottles and aluminium.
- 6.3 Compostable waste disposal will be investigated.

7. Buildings

The Union of UEA Students commits to develop exemplary eco-building standards for all new-build and refurbished facilities.

- 7.1 'Excellent' ratings will be aimed for in BREEAM, Ecohomes and NHER assessments.
- 7.2 Sustainability guidelines will be laid down in briefs for all internal and external design teams and contractors.
- 7.3 The best advice from internal and external experts on building sustainability will be sought in drawing up all major briefs.
- 7.4 A goal of a minimum of 10% recycled content by spend for all major refurbishment and capital projects using WRAP's Materials Resource Efficiency Toolkit will be set.