

Transition Campus

This Union notes:

1. As a result of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions key components of the climate system are becoming increasingly stressed, with both the mean ocean and air temperatures rising along with an intensification of the hydrological cycle (IPCC, 2001, 2007; Barnett et al, 2005; D'Arrigo, 2006; Osborn and Briffa, 2006, Treydte, 2006).
2. The UK government has committed to a 60% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2050, in line with EU policy. CRed a research group inside the School of Environmental Science is running a Scheme aimed at reducing emissions by 60% by 2025. However, a body of research is growing that even with these dramatic reductions the inertia in the system will take the climate system past a tipping point where large carbon stores and sinks, which overshadow the carbon stored in fossil fuels, will be irreversibly released.
3. Peak oil is looming, not the end of oil, but certainly the end of cheap oil. Reduction in supply and continued demand will inevitably lead to escalating prices, which will leave oil-dependent organisations with serious economic consequences. (See attached Transition Initiatives Primer for more information)
4. Currently the global economy is tied into a dependence on oil and other fossil fuels.
5. The transition town movement is a rapidly expanding grass roots movement aimed at tackling the twin problems of climate change and peak oil in a holistic manner. Various groups are currently forming in Norwich with the aim of launching in the city as a whole. (See attached Transition Initiatives Primer for more information)
6. The transition model encourages participation and takes into account psychological barriers to change, encouraging individual and

communal wellbeing in parallel with action. (See attached Transition Initiatives Primer for more information)

7. There is a body of Academic support, willing to advise on and support the process, from heads of schools to students.
8. The Draft Corporate Plan of May 2007 states strategy C1 as, "With the support of CRed, make UEA a 'Lower Carbon Campus'" (p24, University of East Anglia Corporate Plan, 2007-08 TO 2011-12, Consultation Draft)
9. Although UEA only came 72nd in the People and Planet survey of UK universities, it does have various sustainable project in progress, such as the bio-mass combined heat and power plant, and the attempt to change personal energy usage habits in the Registry. The Union along with the School of Environmental Science have been asked by the Estates Department to work on the development and implementation, on the University's environmental policy.
10. Inside the Union we have a variety of working groups, societies, officers and staff, working towards economic, social and environmental sustainability and recently received a Silver Sound Impact Award, taking 7th place overall in the country.

This Union believes:

1. As individuals and an institution we have a social and ecological responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The Transition Model will help the Students Union and UEA to meet the 60% reduction target and beyond.
3. Unless the Students Union and UEA are weaned off oil there will be considerable implications both socially and economically for students and the university as a whole.
4. Aspects of the peak oil issue do 'affect students as students', making it not 'beyond our powers' to commit expenditure to campaigning on this issue. The University of East Anglia's funding streams and thus educational and research resources, are tied to the national and global economy. Meaning that expenditure of union funds is permitted on this

issue as it furthers the interests of the students in a way that assists in the educational aims of the university.

5. A Transition Campus fits with the Union's constitutional aims;
 - 2.1 To represent and promote the interests of members as a whole in all matters.
 - 2.3 To operate commercial services through its subsidiary companies both meeting the needs of its members and making a substantial financial contribution towards meeting the costs of the above activities.
6. The Transition campus would be in line with the Corporate Plan's aim too 'make UEA a lower carbon campus'.
7. The 72nd place reflects badly on the reputation of the university.
8. Attempts by the university to work towards sustainability should be encouraged, but should also be integrated into a wider holistic approach to sustainability of the campus.

This Union resolves:

1. To support the transition campus process, starting with an educational awareness raising campaign about peak oil and climate change (See attached Transition Initiatives Primer for more information).
2. To set up appropriate working groups that will feed into University (Via the Student Experience committee and other routes) and Union Council.
3. To commit to a process of internal structural review into vulnerabilities from and solutions to peak oil in the context of the Students' Union, via the working group structure.
4. To use Union resources to initiate the campaign, in the context of UEA, through a series of guest speakers and to provide appropriate advice for working groups from management
5. For the current and future Environment, Communications, Publicity, Finance, Welfare and Ethical issues officers to support and facilitate the ongoing transition campus movement.

6. To mandate the Union Ents department to show one mainstream film per semester linked to the educational campaign selected by the working groups.