

## **Saving Resources through Thoughtful Capital Investment in Union Buildings**

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### **This Union Notes:**

1. The utility bills (water, electricity and heating) of the Union are budgeted to be £99,000 for 2008.
2. There has been a recent increase in the heating and electricity costs of around 10%.
3. The Union has built up a cash surplus over recent years.
4. Union House was not built with energy efficiency in mind.
5. There are many companies specialising in building low energy buildings and renovating older ones.

### **This Union Believes:**

1. The prices of utilities are highly unlikely to go down, and are more likely to continue to follow the upward trend seen in recent years.
2. Some of the utility delivery systems in Union House are dated and in need of replacement.
3. Any new buildings developed by the Union should include energy efficiency as a key part of the brief for design and build.
4. Spending money today to save money in the future is wise.
5. Mitigating against climate change by reducing utility demands and hence CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, is appropriate and ethical action for the Students' Union to take.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. Identify and areas of waste and inefficiency in resource use, which would need capital funding to alter.
2. Areas identified should go out to consultants to have plans developed for more efficient or waste reducing systems (e.g. solar heating or grey water recycling)
3. Energy efficiency and waste reduction must be a prime demand of the brief.
4. Union new builds must go out to tender to companies specialising in energy efficient buildings and should embrace the most innovative of technologies.