

UPSU Policies

Environmental Policy

March 2019

Approval Details

Approved by	Governance and Appointments Committee	Date	21 February 2019
Approved by	Trustee Board	Date	28 February 2019
Implementation date:	March 2019		
Review lead staff member	Director of Membership Services		

Reviewing this document

This document may be amended with the permission of the Board of Trustees, following pre-approval by Governance and Appointments Committee.

Union Council will then review any significant changes to this policy prior to any such change taking effect in order to permit the Council the opportunity to provide feedback and raise any concerns in respect of any such change directly with the Union Chief Executive who will refer such feedback and concerns to the Board of Trustees for further consideration.

Environmental Policy

At the University of Plymouth Students' Union (UPSU) we are committed to considering our social and environmental impact and aim to contribute to continual improved ethical and environmental performance.

The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally-leading education, research and innovation and are committed to advancing knowledge and transforming lives through education and research. Within this context the aim of UPSU is to be outstanding in terms of the quality of our financial, environmental and social responsibility outputs and to demonstrate sustainability best practice to a high standard across our activities.

We align with the ambition of the University of Plymouth to be a socially responsible organisation, ensuring our staff and students are aware of economic, environmental, social and ethical issues and to work collaboratively in order to deliver a shared vision for high quality environmental management.

We aim to ensure that our activities are carried out in conformance with environmental legislation and compliance obligations, including requirements relating to protection of the environment and prevention of pollution. We endeavour to provide and promote a cleaner, safer environment and are proactive in progressing environmental matters.

In addition to our compliance with all legal requirements, including health and safety regulations that may include environmental aspects

We aim to:

- promote resource efficiency and reduce utilities usage, by reducing demand through improved plant and equipment efficiency and more effective and efficient use
- measure and reduce our environmental footprint associated with energy, water and waste in collaboration with the University of Plymouth
- improve waste and recycling by reducing waste generation, promoting reuse and recovery and using recycling
- measure and reduce our environmental footprint associated with both our travel and supply chain
- develop a sustainable food culture, providing a choice of Fairtrade and local products where possible and working with our partners to increase the demand and supply of seasonal, local and organic food
- minimise the environmental impact from transport associated with our activities through the promotion of sustainable travel for students, staff and suppliers and greater use of video conferencing and other technology to reduce the need for travel
- embed sustainable procurement by ensuring that suppliers operate in a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible manner
- ensure that all staff and students are well informed regarding best practice, by proactively communicating this policy, its obligations and responsibilities to enable a shared vision for high quality environmental management across all our activities
- ensure that our policies related to environment and sustainability are displayed and enforced
- set, monitor and review annual environmental improvement objectives and targets and report progress through the University of Plymouth Students' Union Board of Trustees
- fully commit to the protection of the environment, and the prevention of pollution to air, water and land
- manage UPSU facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner
- support the ongoing development of student and staff led environmental projects and campaigns

For further help and advice, please contact the Governance Team

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