



# Christ Church Students' Union

## ETHICAL, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

<b>Officer Champion</b>	<b>Students' Union President</b>
<b>Staff Champions</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer Head of Business &amp; Development</b>
<b>Approval bodies and date passed</b>	<b>Board of Trustees, May 2024</b>
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### **1. Introduction**

- a. Christ Church Students' Union ('CCSU' or 'the Union') believes that the understanding and implementation of environmental and ethical matters is fundamental to holistic learning, and building a more sustainable future. We believe that we can, in partnership with the University and others, contribute towards environmental protection and conservation by improving our own environmental practices and promoting awareness of individual responsibility to all students and staff. We aim to achieve continual improvement, measuring and minimising our negative environmental impacts and becoming a more sustainable organisation.

### **2. Policy Statement and Scope**

- a. This Policy is intended to complement existing Canterbury Christ Church University policies and procedures.
- b. This Policy is applicable to all Union staff, Sabbatical Officers, student officers, student clubs and societies, external contractors, and other relevant stakeholders.

### **3. Definitions**

- a. Ethical
  - i. For the purposes of this Policy ethical is defined as 'being in accordance with the accepted principles and values of the Union that governs our conduct'.
- b. Environmental
  - i. For the purposes of this Policy, 'environmental' is defined as "the natural world and the impact, often negative, human activity has upon it".
  - ii. In implementation the Union should always seek to reduce or eliminate the negative impact our activity has upon the natural world. As a leading champion on environmental issues the charity [SOS-UK](#) can advise on how to do this.

- c. Sustainability
  - i. For the purposes of this Policy sustainability is defined as 'minimising the negative impact we have on the environment and using our physical and monetary resources in a way that meets the current needs of our members, but not at the expense of a long-term future for generations to come'.

#### 4. Aims

- a. In order to achieve the Union's goal of being ethical, as sustainable as possible, minimising our negative impact on the environment in recognition of the Climate Emergency, and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we will aim to:
  - i. increase the awareness and engagement of staff and students through formal and informal projects and opportunities;
  - ii. encourage good practice and sustainable lifestyles, including the promotion of the circular economy;
  - iii. reduce consumption and costs whilst satisfying our needs for energy and water;
  - iv. Protecting the environment and preventing pollution to air, land, and water both through our direct actions and our influence on others; ;
  - v. integrate ethical, environmental and sustainable principles into our operational procedures and promote best practice at every level;
  - vi. work closely with the University, Sustainability Department, Student Green Office, NUS UK, NUS Charity and other organisations to share and implement best practice;
  - vii. build partnerships with local community organisations to progress environmental principles and actions;
  - viii. enhance the positive social impact of students in the community through volunteering and other opportunities; and
  - ix. ensure that sustainability features in all Job Descriptions of Union staff and and Role Descriptions of Union sabbatical officers.

#### 5. Ethical

- a. CCSU commits to:
  - i. purchasing contracts which give preference to those products and services that cause least harm to the environment and are ethically sound, including low carbon goods and ethical banking;
  - ii. continue to support the University's Fairtrade status;
  - iii. working with the University to ensure all available product lines that have a Fairtrade, healthy-eating, organic, locally sourced, or ethical alternatives are offered across all University outlets;
  - iv. ensuring that all cotton-based clothing sold by the Union is ethically sourced and Fairtrade where possible;
  - v. not endorsing, receiving sponsorship or working with companies involved in gambling or payday lending; and
  - vi. supporting the University's commitment that all colleagues will receive a minimum rate of pay matching that of the Living Wage.

## 6. Environmental and Sustainability

- a. CCSU commits to:
  - i. reduce our carbon footprint through prudent use of resource, energy and use of energy-efficient technologies wherever possible;
  - ii. never have any portable electric or gas heaters;
  - iii. never allow plastic bags to be used by companies at the Welcome Fair or to be used as promotional goodie bags by the Union or University for students;
  - iv. support the University to significantly reduce disposables on campus, including food containers and coffee cups;
  - v. by default presume that rail travel, as the most sustainable form of public transport, should be the method of preferred travel whilst on long-distance Union business;
  - vi. never allow domestic air travel by staff or elected officers whilst on Union business unless absolutely necessary;
  - vii. offset the equivalent CO2 emissions for all air travel;
  - viii. fully adopt a flexible working policy that allows staff to work from home and utilise and promote technological solutions that reduce the need for travel;
  - ix. encourage all staff to lift-share where appropriate and practical and to commit to reduce their emissions in commuting to and from work;
  - x. Promote the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme for all career staff and to provide secure areas for bike storage, lockers for clothing and equipment, and showering facilities;
  - xi. use sustainable construction principles and low carbon technologies in all refurbishments and improvement works, minimising environmental impacts and enhancing local environments;
  - xii. ensure all future electronic purchases are as energy efficient, environmentally friendly and have as small a carbon footprint as possible;
  - xiii. implement policies and actions to minimise waste created and ensure reuse, recycling and composting opportunities are maximised before responsible disposal;
  - xiv. ensure that fluorescent light fittings are disposed via the University's facilities team in keeping with legislation;
  - xv. work on initiatives to reduce the use of paper, ensuring meeting rooms have whiteboards and IT equipment;
  - xvi. provide regularly updated information to encourage reuse and recycling by our customers, users and members;
  - xvii. when ordering T-shirts for events ensure that they are not branded with dates so that they can be used in future years; and
  - xviii. support the running of the Food Composter on the Canterbury Campus.

## 7. Training, awareness and legislation

- a. CCSU commits to:
  - i. ensure that new staff and sabbaticals are appropriately informed of this Policy, and the procedures outlined in this Policy;

- ii. provide education via events and societies for all students to develop the understanding and ability to take action to create more sustainable futures;
- iii. fully comply with all environmental legislation as a minimum, but strive for best practice wherever possible; and
- iv. review environmental management procedures and this Policy tri-annually.