

CHRIST CHURCH
STUDENTS'
UNION



'to better student life and enrich students' experiences'

ETHICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Officer Champions	President (Development) President (Wellbeing)
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Approval bodies and date passed	Board of Trustees, 17th May 2019
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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, 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

- a. This Policy is intended to complement existing Canterbury Christ Church University policies and procedures.

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'.
 - ii. In implementation what is and is not ethical is open to debate and interpretation, so if in doubt clarification should be sought from the Sustainability Committee.
- 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 NUS 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'.

- ii. In implementation what is and is not considered sustainable is open to debate and interpretation, so if in doubt clarification should be sought from the Sustainability Committee or the Board of Trustees.

4. Aims

- a. In order to achieve the Union's goal of being ethical, as sustainable as possible, minimizing our negative impact on the environment 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;
 - iii. reduce consumption and costs whilst satisfying our needs for energy and water;
 - iv. reduce our negative environmental impact through better management of our material resources;
 - v. integrate ethical, environmental and sustainable principles into our operational procedures and promote best practice at every level;
 - vi. work closely with the University, Student Green Office, NUS, NUS Services 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. This will be done with the assistance of NUS Services as well as other suppliers;
 - 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 alternative are offered in The Lounge and Cafe 41;
 - 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 the new Living Wage level.

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 Freshers Fayre 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. write a plan on lighting and equipment responsibility, which is reviewed on an annual basis;
 - vi. 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;
 - vii. never allow domestic air travel by staff or elected officers whilst on Union business unless absolutely necessary;
 - viii. offset the equivalent Co2 emissions for all air travel;
 - ix. maintain a system of recording mileage and the modes of transport used by staff and students whilst on Union business;
 - x. fully adopt the University's flexible working policy that allows staff to work from home and utilize and promote technological solutions that reduce the need for travel;
 - xi. encourage all staff to lift-share where appropriate and practical and to commit to reduce their greenhouse emissions in commuting to and from work;
 - xii. 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;
 - xiii. use sustainable construction principles and low carbon technologies in all refurbishments and improvement works, minimising environmental impacts and enhancing local environments;
 - xiv. ensure all future electronic purchases are as energy efficient, environmentally friendly and have as small a carbon footprint as possible;
 - xv. implement policies and actions to minimise waste created and ensure reuse, recycling and composting opportunities are maximised before responsible disposal;
 - xvi. ensure that fluorescent light fittings are disposed via the University's facilities team in keeping with legislation;
 - xvii. work on initiatives to reduce the use of paper, including using google docs and iPads. Ensuring meeting rooms have whiteboards and IT equipment;
 - xviii. provide regularly updated information to encourage reuse and recycling by our customers, users and members;
 - xix. ensure there is a procedure in place for making sure all equipment, heating and lights are switched off over the Christmas period;
 - xx. when ordering T-shirts for events ensure that they are not branded with dates so that they can be used in future years; and
 - xxi. 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. have an active Sustainability Committee meeting at least four times a year;
 - iii. Maintaining and excellent standard as detailed the in NUS Green Impact Awards;
 - iv. work in Partnership with the University to achieve accreditation in the NUS Responsible Futures;
 - v. provide education via events and societies for all students to develop the understanding and ability to take action to create more sustainable futures;
 - vi. fully comply with all environmental legislation as a minimum, but strive for best practice wherever possible; and
 - vii. review environmental management procedures and this Policy bi-annually.