**SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICAL POLICY**

**Policy Statement**

We at Lancaster University Students’ Union are working to create a Union and University that is ethical and sustainable to ensure we not only present ourselves as ‘green’ and promote ‘green’ choices but that our actions achieve that stance as well. This policy sets a new direction for our Union to ensure we are accountable for the relevant decisions that we make and also provides a strategic overview of how the Union can lobby and change issues within the local community. Being sustainable and ethical is no longer a choice but a necessity for the future of our planet. This policy will affect all those who are members of Lancaster University Students’ Union, but will specifically ensure further action is taken to improve our ethics in the realm of products we buy and businesses we engage with. We are proud of our sustainable and ethical record and will consistently consider the impact our actions have whilst educating and engaging our members on the importance of making sustainable and ethical choices.

**Principles**

* Lancaster University Students’ Union will lead on ethical and sustainable initiatives within Lancaster’s community
* We actively take steps to improve our carbon footprint, ethics and sustainability
* To ensure the University also partakes in these practices and hold the University to account where a suitable commitment is not being seen
* We will build relationships with outside stakeholders to ensure a movement is carried not just on our campus but into the local community
* The Executive will approve the corresponding action plan annually

**Definitions**

Ethics

Ethics are a set of moral principles that an individual or company can embody which governs their behaviour or the conducting of activity. In this policy our governing ethics would be the aforementioned principles and later mentioned objectives as they are the goals we are working towards which in turn governs our behaviour.

Sustainable

Sustainable infers that a practice can be maintained. In this policy document it refers to economic and environmental sustainability and how there has to be a balance between the two. We should be environmentally sustainable so we can commit to bettering the environment but this should not be at too much of a risk to undermine our economic sustainability and then not allow us to undertake priority activity.

**Scope**

This Policy applies to members and staff in order to create a truly ethical Union and University which is encompassing of its ‘green’ status. This will be done by making changes in and out of the Union and engaging with students on what they consider ethical and sustainable to mean.

**Objectives**

1. **To have an educated student body on sustainable and ethical issues**
2. **To have an active student body who engage on issues concerning sustainability within the Union and the wider world**
3. **To be sustainable and ethical in our investment, sourcing and purchasing of products**
4. **To share our knowledge and work in partnership with the local community on these issues**
5. **To lobby the University to make ethical changes to its procedures and investments**

**Action Plan**

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| **Objective and Specific Supporting Actions** | **Actions/Activities for Implementation** | **Timescale** | **Contributors** | **Deliverables** |
| 1. **To have an educated student body on sustainable and ethical issues**
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| Campaign to engage students on the importance of being ethical and sustainable through promoting SU’s activity.  | E-Screens in LUSU Central explaining how we ethically source our products and how we have made those decisions To run educative campaigns and get student feedback on the possible future actions we could take | Present – July 2018Present – June 2019 | VP Union Development, Stu PowersVP Campaigns and Communications, VP Welfare and Community, Green Lancaster | Improving the image of central and promoting the decisions we makeA student body that is not only educated in ethical and sustainable issues but actively engaging and suggesting improvements |
| Shout about the environmental changes we do make  | Co-ordinate a communications plan to promote Green activity within the appropriate communications channels. | Present – June 2019 | VP Campaigns and Communications | A regular update given to students in short bursts that will be easier to read and engage with |

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| **Objective and Specific Supporting Actions** | **Actions/Activities for Implementation** | **Timescale** | **Contributors** | **Deliverables** |
| 1. **To have an active student body who engage on issues concerning sustainability within the Union**
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| Green Volunteering Opportunities | Review volunteering to ensure there is a selection of green activities as prescribed in the Volunteering Operating plan | Present – December 2017 | Green Lancaster Team | A selection of Green volunteering opportunities off campus that will give students more choice |
| Officer Training | To have a theme of sustainable and environmental ethos throughout Officer (JCR, PTO & FTO) training | January 2018 – June 2019 | LUSU employees tasked with training Officers | Embedded behaviour in all our Officers who will be aware of the ethical and sustainable decisions they can make in their roles. |
| To promote the NUS Green Impact Survey and run regular focus groups | Heavily promote the NUS Green Survey through central channelsTo run annual student focus groups to evidence what changes we should be making and inform our action plan, whilst also utilising the Faculty Forums and Course Reps | Present – June 2019Present – June 2019 | Joe Bourne, Darren Axe, Stu PowersJoe Bourne, Darren Axe, VP Education | A wide selection of data from our members on their attitudes towards Green issuesThe ability to regularly review our activity and correlate student feedback |

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| **Objective and Specific Supporting Actions** | **Actions/Activities for Implementation** | **Timescale** | **Contributors** | **Deliverables** |
| 1. **To be sustainable and ethical in our investments, sourcing and purchasing of products**
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| To produce a procurement guide to be distributed to Union staff but then to associate members including Colleges and Societies.  | To produce the procurement bookletTo disseminate the information to staff who then imbed the information within their practicesTo disseminate to associate members to ‘nudge’ their behaviour and encourage more responsible decision making | Present – August 2017August 2017 – July 2018January 2018 – June 2019 | Joe Bourne, Darren Axe, Stu PowersLUSU EmployeesFTO Team, LUSU Employees. | A guide that gives accurate information on the procurement of responsibly sourced items.A Union that centrally practices its Green methods and embeds them in all its activityA campus community that is encouraged to be as ethically responsible as possible and is embedded in their decision making processes. |
| Sustainable Travel | To implement a plan to ‘cap’ the amount of car travel claimable to the limit of a public transport priced ticket | July 2017 – July 2018 | Claire Geddes, Finance, Joe Bourne, VP Welfare and Community | A Union that nudges behaviour of staff and students to choose public transport wherever possible |
| Reduce Paper Usage | To reduce the amount of paper we use in the Union office to only necessity usage and print double sidedEnsure all paper bought and outsourced printed on is 100% recycledAnnually review the use of paper used by Student Media | Present – June 2019Present – June 2019July 2017 – June 2019 | LUSU Employees Bob Hart, Stu Powers, LUSU Solutions Team Joe Bourne, VP Campaigns and Communications | A greener environment to work in and less paper wastageAn image which is truly sustainable and contributes to Green businessesIf financially and makes sense in regards to circulation then less paper being used or find better sourced paper |
| Ensure Central’s product range is sourced responsibly  | To keep an audit of products in Central and if a responsibly sourced option arrives at a competitive value to change over | Present – June 2019 | VP Union Development | A business the consistently moves forward in responsible sourcing |

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| **Objective and Specific Supporting Actions** | **Actions/Activities for Implementation** | **Timescale** | **Contributors** | **Deliverables** |
| 1. **To share our knowledge and work in partnership with the local community on these issues**
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| Green Transport | To continue to lobby Stagecoach to invest in eco-friendly buses | Present – June 2019 | President, VP Welfare and Community, Stu Powers | Eco-friendly buses that students can use and not adversely affect the environment |
| Recycling | To run joint campaigns with the council to encourage students to recycle  | Present – December 2017 | VP Welfare and Community  | Higher rates of recycling that not only occurs on campus but in the city as well |
| Eco-Hub | To gain wider engagement with the local community in regards to Eco-Hub Volunteering | July 2017 – June 2019 | Darren Axe | A community atmosphere on campus where students and residents can work on joint projects.  |
| Schools Outreach | To continue to use the Schools Outreach programme to educate students on environmental impacts | Present – June 2019 | Schools Team, Joe Bourne | An educated younger generation that are aware of environmental issues and put in good habits from a young age. |

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| **Objective and Specific Supporting Actions** | **Actions/Activities for Implementation** | **Timescale** | **Contributors** | **Deliverables** |
| 1. **To lobby the University to make ethical changes to its procedures and investments**
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| Online Coursework Submission and Electronic Feedback | Ensure the University commits to its policy of online only submission and Electronic Feedback | Present – July 2018 | VP Education | Coursework that can be easily handed in and reduces the use of paper |
| Ethical Divestments | Continue to make the case to the University to invest in green ventures. | Present – June 2019 | President, VP Welfare and Community  | Continued pressure from an officer side of investment in Green Tech |
| Energy Usage  | Encourage the University to implement motion sensor lights across campusFor the Union to be able to independently monitor energy consumption with the help of work from ISS | Present – June 2019Present – July 2018 | President CEMENT Representatives | The saving of energy across campus rather than just in new buildingsFor the Union to be able to see how much energy is used and action how to reduce consumption |
| Food Waste | To lobby the University for the introduction of more compost bins on campus and provide necessary infrastructure | Present – June 2019 | VP Welfare and Community | Students making less food waste and making habits that will last a lifetime |
| Lobby for Sustainable Palm Oil  | To get the University to audit how many of their products use palm oil and from those results lobby to reduce such products where they can | Present – June 2019 | President, VP Welfare and Community | Products on campus that less negatively impact the environment |