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Our Sustainability Policy

# Introduction

Found in the heart of Glasgow the University of Strathclyde Students Association or Strath Union seeks to place students at the heart of life at Strathclyde through representation, sport, clubs, societies, support, socialising, and anything that is a priority for student life during their time at Strathclyde.

Sustainability is at the core of what we do however we acknowledge the climate emergency and that there is always room for improvement. In light of the climate emergency Strath Union agreed two key priorities, first is the reduction of our environmental carbon footprint and second is to consider sustainability across each of our activities.

This policy was created for students, staff, volunteers, and anyone who interacts with the Union in a physical or virtual way. Listed below is how the students union aims to address sustainability and the climate crisis going forward.

## Community

* Fostering understanding of the climate crisis among our members.
* Advocating for sustainable behaviours among students and staff to protect the environment and mitigate pollution.
* Engaging with our members to align our environmental initiatives with our core purpose in representing the views and interests of all students at the University of Strathclyde.
* Engaging with key partners who can enhance the impact of our sustainability initiatives.
* Communicating the Strath Union Sustainability Policy with all stakeholders.
* Actively participating in the local community to foster a stronger and more resilient Glasgow.

## Procurement

* Review all of the products we buy in as well as who and where they come from in order to reduce the millage of our stock.
* Assess the sustainability of companies and suppliers we buy from with the intent to change providers if and where possible.
* Identifying local vendors to reduce the travel distance of our product offerings and to enrich the local economy

## Energy

* Measure and track our energy expenditure and efficiency to see where reductions can be made.
* Review our energy suppliers to assess if more sustainable options are available.
* Investigate the possibility of renewable energy.

## Waste

* Evaluate our waste output to discover how much we produce.
* Review our waste collection to understand how effective our recycling initiatives are.

## Circular Economy

* Commit to circular economy practises to reduce the number of items we throw out.

## Transport

* Promoting sustainable transport for staff and students which could include, but is not limited to, adopting car sharing practices, providing public transport incentives, supporting active transit initiatives, or adapting work patterns so that staff travel to work less.

## Legal and Framework

* Ensuring the Union is in alignment with all of the necessary legalisation and policy.
* Work with the University to guarantee that all future developments are consistent with the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
* The Union will continuously monitor and report its environmental impact to seek improvement.
* Upholding all relevant organisational sustainability policies, such as the University of Strathclyde and Strathclyde Students’ Union Fairtrade Policy.

# Distribution

This policy will be distributed across all of our staff (voluntary and paid) and throughout all of our facilities. It will be included within new staff training and current members of staff will also undergo sustainability training to ensure that the entire organisation understands our mission and our goals.

# Review

Every year the Executive Team will review this policy starting from 2024.

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Signed Date