

Environmental Policy of SOAS Students' Union (Reviewed 20/11/16)

SOAS Students' Union acknowledges the impact that its operations and membership have on the local and global environment. As a responsible union with global concerns, SOAS SU aims to minimise its environmental impact and will actively campaign for greater awareness of and contributions to global environmental issues. It will do this by making environmental issues central to its operations and policies.

SOAS Students' Union will use this policy as part of its decision making process in all issues that it has direct control over (for example procurement of sports kits). Within SOAS where the Union may not have direct control, it shall lobby the School to adhere to this environmental code. Within the wider world the Union shall use this policy as a guideline to campaigning for environmental respect and change.

Developing and using an Environmental policy is important for SOAS Students' Union for a number of reasons:

- a. Emphasizing its position as an independent progressive membership led organisation
- b. Contributing to real change
- c. Saving costs and resources

To this end SOAS Students' commits to pursuing, implementing and enforcing the following policy and will require all site users to adhere to this policy and support its cause at all times.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Awareness

- i) Promote awareness of environmental issues and the Environmental Policy amongst the School, staff and students.
- ii) Ensure that Environmental issues are central to its operations and practices and form an integral part of staff training and induction.
- iii) Provide appropriate mechanisms for staff and members to contribute to improving our environmental performance.
- iv) Publicize the Students' Unions work in relation to environmental issues to its members and the wider world. We recognise that any environmental policy is meaningless without complete co-operation and support of all Union members and staff.

2. Energy and Utilities

- i) In conjunction with the School, implement an effective energy and utilities strategy to reduce consumption, and associated environmental impact as well as cost.
- ii) To actively promote and campaign for the use of renewable energy sources.
- iii) Actively promote energy saving and conservation issues amongst members, staff, officers and the School.
- iv) Encouraging students to be aware of their energy impact and how to improve their own personal environmental impact (which should also save them money).
- v) In conjunction with the School, implement environmental efficient design as key criteria in the developments of any major refurbishments, general upgrading and maintenance of the Students' Union areas and the School.

3. Purchasing

- i) SOAS SU spends substantial amounts of money on items throughout the year. Environmental and sustainable factors should play an important part in any purchasing process.
- ii) Consider environmental impact and lifetime costs when assessing equipment and products for purchase. Where practical, to purchase goods and services which are manufactured/ remanufactured, recycled, used and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

4. Transport

- i) Whilst at SOAS staff and student miles are relatively small and most are travelled on public transport. Nevertheless the Union shall encourage and promote cycling and walking within London, and raise awareness of the environmental impacts of various modes of transport.
- ii) Develop a comprehensive travel plan which advises, encourages and assists staff and students to use responsible low carbon traveling where possible.

5. Waste Management and Recycling

- i) Work towards decreasing Union, School and member consumption to reduce overall waste.
- ii) Increase recycling and reuse of materials. In conjunction with the School increasing the availability and range of recycling bins within the School and ensuring they are visible and used correctly.
- iii) Ensure all staff and members are fully aware of their own role in reducing waste.
- iv) In conjunction with the School reducing water consumption through installing simple water-saving devices in existing water using facilities where possible.
- v) To reduce and eventually eliminate bottled water on campus.

6. Implementation

- i) Responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental Policy rests with the Executive Committee and on a day to day basis is delegated to the General Manager and Environment Officer as Environmental Champions.
- ii) The Environmental Champions will meet with the relevant School staff to lobby on these issues and to report back to the Union on a regular basis.
- iii) They will set a yearly strategy with concrete targets in terms of this policy including targets on resource use and waste management to be agreed with the Union Trustees and update them regularly.
- iv) They will revise and update this document to ensure its accuracy in the light of progress development of environmental issues where necessary and no less than every five years.
- v) They will be responsible for disseminating and publicising this policy document efficiently.