

LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENT

ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REVIEW

2011

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Heading: Ethical and Environmental Policy

Proposed by: Amy James

Seconded by: James Carroll

Council Believes:

1. The current ethical and environmental policy has not been updated since 2006.
2. The current policy is therefore out of date, and does not reflect the Union's stance on Ethical and Environmental Issues as well as it could

Council Resolves:

1. Policies are important to inform the working of the Union and ensure the voice of the students is well represented
2. A fully updated policy would enable the Union to continue its Award winning Environmental Performance

Council Mandates

1. To accept this updated E+E Policy and integrate it into the Union Constitution before the next meeting of Council.

The updated policy is shown below, with all changes highlighted.

ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2011

Loughborough Students' Union (LSU) is a not for profit organisation. We are committed to considering the ethical implications of all our actions, and aim to make ethical and environmental issues central to everything we do. LSU is committed to improving its ethical and environmental performance.

1. Staff, Student and Third Party Involvement

LSU will

- Encourage permanent staff, student staff and student engagement in promoting and implementing ethical and environmental issues.
- Develop and pursue environmental initiatives and to provide ethical & environmental educational events as part of/or separate from these initiatives.

2. Utility Consumption

LSU is committed to reducing its utility consumption (compared to usage). This aim will be achieved by the following:

- Promoting energy conservation to all staff and students.
- Continually developing a more efficient building through frequent auditing, and acting upon the recommendations of those audits
- Continue only to acquire electricity from 'green' sources where possible.
- The following purchasing restrictions apply:
 - No CRT Monitors will be purchased
 - Energy efficient light bulbs will be purchased

3. Transport

LSU is dedicated to ensuring that transportation to and from its buildings cause minimum detriment to the environment and its membership by:

- Regularly servicing and updating its vehicles
- Carrying out a life-cycle assessment (as thoroughly as is practicable) on new purchases of vehicles.
- Actively promoting alternative 'greener' modes of transport
- Encouraging home-working where possible

5. Building & Development

LSU ensures that any new building or refurbishment takes the widest possible consideration of environmental impacts through:

- Considering the environmental aspects in any such work (carrying out as thorough an assessment as is practicable)
- Carrying out development as close to the current site as possible, and preferably on it.

6. Waste Generation & Management

Loughborough Students' Union is dedicated to the continuance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste. As part of its commitment LSU will aim to:

- Ensure legal compliance on all waste disposal, and adhere to all relevant duties of care.
- Increasingly use recyclable and recycled materials throughout its building, as far as is commercially viable.
- Minimise waste production
- Adopt and fully support all charitable reuse schemes in which RAG choose to partake
- Aim to meet and, if possible, exceed the government guidelines for the proportion of waste sent for recycling.

7. Visual Impact & Union Activity

LSU aims to play an important role in ensuring that the local environment is fully protected where possible, ensuring that:

- An environmental assessment for all major events and activities will be undertaken where and when practical. The assessment shall cover changes to the immediate environment in respect of:
 - Waste Management
 - Conservation of natural environment
 - Energy Use
 - Use of resources (e.g. Paper and other materials)

- littering, graffiti and avoidable wastage by its membership through the provision of necessary amenities and solutions
- the negative impact of noise pollution emanating from union events is minimised
- all union information produced in paper format is placed in responsible areas
- staff and student staff take reasonable measures to minimise the impact of day-to-day work activities

8. Ethical Purchasing

Loughborough Students' Union is aware of its influence as a commercial organisation, and of its responsibilities to the 'global' community. Hence this ethical purchasing policy has the following purposes:

- a) To promote good labour and environmental standards in supply chains of Loughborough Students' Union.
- b) To protect Loughborough Students' Union's reputation

Due to NUS Services Ltd.'s Ethical & Environmental Assessment of their products and services, all products and services from this supplier shall be accepted for purchase and sale.

For products not supplied by NUS Services Ltd. The only form of mandate to cease purchase or sale of a product shall be a referendum. This referendum shall be included on the annual general election referendum form; inclusion on this form can only be brought about by a motion to Union Council for its inclusion.

Loughborough Students' Union fully supports:

- NUS Services Ltd. Ethical & Environmental Assessment.
- Life Cycle Assessment
- Fairtrade.

9. Fairtrade

Loughborough University, imago Services and Loughborough Students' Union are committed to promoting, supporting and using Fairtrade, as we understand it is a major part of our contribution within the global community.

- Our Fairtrade pledge is to be acknowledged by retention of Fairtrade status as defined by the Fairtrade Foundation goals.
- These include:
 - Ensuring Fairtrade is sold by imago Services and the Loughborough Students' Union in all campus shops, restaurants, bars and cafes as well as some vending machines wherever possible. The University and imago Services will continue to expand its product range when it is able.
 - Ensuring Fairtrade refreshments are served at all conferences, meetings and events.
 - Promoting the Fairtrade Mark in all appropriate publications and company leaflets including annual reports and prospectuses.
 - Fairtrade storyboards/notice's and posters will remain placed in all halls of residences and where products are being sold.
 - Articles in student and staff newsletters on Fairtrade developments and on the University, imago Services and Students' Union website.
 - Promotion of Fairtrade through continued events, particularly during the annual Fairtrade Fortnight and the Students' Union Ethical & Environmental Week.
 - Developing and maintaining a steering group to regulate Fairtrade activities both at the University and Students' Union.

This statement will be effective and promoted throughout campus and reviewed on an annual basis.

Further notes:

- Loughborough Students' Union believe the availability of Fairtrade is a top priority when renewing its catering and purchasing contracts.
- Loughborough Students' Union Ethical & Environmental Officer and Working Group are to be the annual champions for the campus Fairtrade Steering Group.

10. Implementation

LSU is dedicated to the maintenance of this policy and thus the following will be done:

- The Ethical & Environmental Policy will be reviewed annually.
- Ethical and Environmental issues will be taken into account when formulating the Students' Union Strategic Plan.

The policy will be promoted to students, permanent and student staff through the following means:

- Available online
- Staff handbook will include an ethical & environmental statement.
- Make all new employees and volunteers aware of the Ethical & Environmental Policy.