



## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

BY LAW of

**CHESTER STUDENTS' UNION**

Approved by Trustees on  
25 November 2019

Chester Students' Union (CSU) recognises that our activities, along with the rest of the University and community, have impacts on the environment, and are dedicated to ensuring that it acts in an environmentally responsible manner.

1. CSU is committed to the ongoing assessment of our environmental impact and to make continual improvements in our environmental performance.
2. This policy supports and aligns with the University of Chester's Sustainability Policy, to ensure CSU and UoC work in partnership to embed sustainability in operations and services.
3. The CEO and President, or another nominated staff member will take an active lead in all sustainability issues.
4. CSU will ensure all sustainability procedures comply with relevant legal requirements and codes of practice.
5. **Waste Management**
  - 5.1. Staff will aim to reduce consumption of materials and reuse and recycle all other materials wherever possible.
  - 5.2. CSU will adhere to waste practice of the University and dispose of waste appropriately.
  - 5.3. Reduce printing waste by using computers and mobile devices where possible, only printing if necessary and not printing excessive quantities.
6. **Energy and Water Management**
  - 6.1. CSU will raise awareness amongst staff and students of excessive energy consumption, its effects and how to reduce usage.
  - 6.2. Working in conjunction with UoC to reduce our carbon emissions through the University's Carbon Management Plan.
  - 6.3. Ensure efficient utility management with water, such as fix dripping taps.
7. **Procurement**
  - 7.1. CSU will aim to engage with sustainable and ethical suppliers for both commercial and non-commercial goods.
  - 7.2. Ensuring the need for new goods is questioned and determine if it is a sustainable option
  - 7.3. CSU will work with partner organisations and suppliers to ensure they are minimising the impacts of their operations on the environment.
8. **Biodiversity**
  - 8.1. CSU will take positive action to promote biodiversity on sites where we operate and University sites.
  - 8.2. Recognise that certain practice may impact on local biodiversity, and aim to reduce these impacts.
9. **Travel**
  - 9.1. Ensure the most carbon efficient transport is used where possible, for staff and student activities.
  - 9.2. Encourage staff and students to travel in the most sustainable form, such as walking, cycling and public transport.

## **10. Community Involvement**

- 10.1. Encourage staff and students to be actively involved with community campaigns for sustainable development.
- 10.2. Aim to organise community events in which staff, students and members of the local community can be involved.

## **11. Sustainable Campaigns**

- 11.1. CSU will dedicate resources to support campaigns which promote environmental improvement, independently and with student groups.
- 11.2. Work proactively with the University, students and local councils to promote positive sustainability messages and campaigns.
- 11.3. Ensure staff and students have the opportunity to give ideas and feedback on sustainability initiatives.

**12.** CSU will commit to supporting key initiatives run by Green Chester and NUS (SOS-UK).

**13.** CSU will take an active role in Education for Sustainable Development, through the training of SERs and in any overlap with academic departments.

**14.** Ensure that this policy is communicated effectively to all Union Officers, staff, members and other stakeholders. This is to include environmental issues being a standing item in staff meetings and raise as appropriate within committees and meetings.