Environmental Policy

**Purpose**

St George’s Students’ Union is committed to developing a positive environmental image throughout the university and reducing its impact upon the environment. We aim to adopt and maintain a strong and positive environmental culture within the union, and to actively raise awareness of this among the student body. We want our ethos to be ubiquitous within the union and known by all students and staff of the university.

This policy has been designed in order to:

* identify current areas of improvement for the union with respect to environmental influence
* set achievable environmental objectives for the union
* allow students, members of the student union executive and future Environment and Ethics officers to be aware of and reach these objectives
* provide an easy way to regularly evaluate the recycling schemes within the union

**Union Beliefs**

Minimising one’s impact upon the environment is hugely important in the current times, particularly for large institutions. We recognise that our Union needs to make improvements in terms of our environmental performance - the way in which we source energy and materials, and how we use and dispose of these. As well as helping the environment, prolonged reductions in energy usage and waste will result in long lasting financial benefits for the Union.

As a Union we should:

* significantly improve our recycling schemes and create increased awareness of our impact upon the environment by holding more campaigns on topical issues throughout the University.
* strive towards achieving a Bronze award in the NUS Green Impact scheme within the next two years, and aspire to achieve a silver award in future years
* continue to work with the University to improve our People and Planet Green League score; we are currently ranked 119th of 143 and hold a third class award
* make improvements to energy consumption and recycling practices in Halls of Residence. These changes are achievable and the Student Union Environment and Ethics officers should work with the sabbatical officers and appropriate members of Estates and Facilities in order for this to be accomplished

**Union actions**

As a Union we will continue to:

* apply for grants to allow new ‘green’ initiatives to be started across the university
* hold and significantly raise awareness of a campaign to support the national Go Green Week each year
* recycle all paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, cans and glass within the Union and in Halls of Residence
* recycle printer cartridges in the Union and promote the recycling of students’ cartridges and old mobile phones
* encourage students and staff to switch off lights and other electrical equipment when they leave rooms in the Union
* have a university allotment where students and staff are encouraged to attend and help grow organic produce
* work towards gaining a Bronze award for the NUS Green Impact Scheme

As a Union we resolve to:

* begin to undertake a regular environmental audit in order to monitor our progress towards improved environmental and sustainability practices, and set new goals each year
* improve recycling of glass and cardboard in the Student Union bar
* improve recycling signage and bin placement so that recycling bins are used properly, both within the union and Halls of Residence
* encourage students living in Halls of Residence to reduce their energy consumption by switching off lights when leaving rooms
* inform all staff employed by the Students’ Union and members of the Student Union Executive of this policy and encourage them to follow our current and proposed actions
* perform a review of this policy at the end of each academic year. This is to be completed by the Student Union Environment and Ethics officers and VP Education and Welfare officer with the aim of improving our environmental actions and maintaining our efforts towards the NUS Green Impact Bronze award

**Lighting and Equipment Responsibility Plan**

**All Sabbatical Officers** are responsible for turning off the lights and electrical equipment in their own office at the end of the day. The Sabbatical Officer who is last to leave the main SU Office is responsible for turning off the lights and electrical equipment in the main office area.

**Students’ Union Finance Manager** is responsible for turning off the light and computer in the Finance office.

**Presidents of Societies** are responsible for turning off the lights in the SU Office and SU rooms on the second floor (Alistair Hunter Room, Henry Gray room, Games Room, Music Room), if they have been using the Student Union space after hours or at the weekend. All other technical equipment is locked away unless specifically hired out from the Technical Officers. If any electrical equipment is hired out by societies, the President of the society along with the Technical Officers are responsible for its usage and turning it off.

**Technical Officers** are responsible for turning off the lights and electrical equipment - mainly the sound system and DJ booth from the BAR following an SU event or Disco.

**Bar Managers** are responsible for turning off the lights in the BAR every evening.

**Shop Manager** is responsible for ensuring that the lights are turned off in the shop, every day at 6.30pm when the shop closes as well as the Shop Office.

The toilets are owned by SGUL and are operated by motion sensors, and so turn off when there is no-one using them.

**The SU President** is responsible for ensuring that all lights and electrical equipment are turned off before the Students’ Union closes for the holidays. They must remind all relevant staff of their responsibilities regarding switching lights and electrical equipment off and go round checking that it is all switched off as is appropriate.

Last updated: March 2016