

**How to be More Sustainable**

Running an SU Activity Group is hard enough as it is, without having to think about how to do everything sustainably! This guide will give you few easy tips on how to make your group more sustainable and lessen the environmental impact of your activities or events.

**Sustainability at the Heart of Everything You Do**

It is important that Activity Groups have a think about the processes they have in place to administer and support their activities and consider small changes to lessen the environmental impact of their Group activities.

Suggestions:

* Print Less: Think more creatively about promoting your Group or sharing information with your members. Do you really need to print minutes or can they be emailed over? Can you survey your members online rather than having paper questionnaires?
* Choose greener modes of transport: Do you really need to drive to an event/training venue, can you encourage your members to walk? Would it be possible to take a train or bus rather than car or taxi? Is it possible to get members trained up to drive the minibus rather than taking multiple cars?
* Source locally & think ethically when making purchases: Is your supplier demonstrating a commitment to ethical production and trade? Can you source more locally and avoid shipping equipment, supplies, clothing or catering hundreds of miles to your event?
* Sign a pledge to go Plastic-Free! Talk to Plastic Free Tremough about the possibility of reducing use of plastics within your Activity Group’s activities <https://www.facebook.com/PlasticfreeTremough/>
* Make one of your Activity Group’s aims for the year or a constitutional aim to be Greener.
* Promote your achievements! Let your members know what decisions you have made and why you have made to lessen the impact of your activities on the environment and aim for formal recognition of your efforts.

**Event Planning**

* Think about what event you want to put on and discuss it with your committee what about the event might be unsustainable or what could be improved.
* Check the ***'SU How to Run an Event'*** guidance for advice and specific criteria to aim for to make your event more sustainable.
* Printed items are not the only way to promote your event! If you are promoting your event around campus, try to reduce the amount of posters/leaflets you get printed. Ask SU about promoting through the media screens and make use of all the spaces on the SU website (events and news sections). Tickets are not always needed! Committees can request a guest list and check attendees off at the door to avoid the production of tickets. If you need to print posters/leaflets/tickets, look into sourcing recycled paper to reduce your environmental impact.
* Stop using single-use items at your events. Hire or invest in reusable cutlery, crockery, cups and containers or encourage members to bring their own along to your event!
* Encourage recycling & re-using! Don’t put dates on signage/some marketing materials so they can be used again for future events.
* As your participants to think more greenly. Can they take notes on electrical devices, do they need to print paperwork to bring to the event? Can they travel more greenly to your event?
* Have a meeting after the event to discuss how it went and what improvements could be made next time to continue to encourage sustainable event practises.

**Event Ideas and Collaborations**

If your club/society’s general activities are not environment-oriented and you would like to run an event focussed on sustainability, get in touch with other groups that have sustainability at the heart of their aims as they may be able to provide advice/guidance on how to run an event, or run an event in collaboration with you.

**Collaboration ideas:**

* Vegetarian Potluck: contact the SU Vegetarian and Vegan Society for advice and recipe ideas (fxuveggiesoc@gmail.com).
* Contact Penryn Produce for local fruit and vegetables (penrynproduce@outlook.com).
* Contact the SU Zero Waste Society for advice or to host a collaborative event (<https://www.facebook.com/suzerowastesoc/>)
* Litter-picking with The Beach Clean Project (bigbluebeachclean@outlook.com).
* Nature sessions with EcoSoc (ecosoc.su@gmail.com).
* Forage and garden with Green Living (greenlivingfalmouth@gmail.com).

And so many more!

For advice and support, get in touch with your SU President Student Experience (sarah.redman@thesu.org.uk).