

Sustainability Policy

Approved by:	Board of Trustees	Date:	August 2026
Review date:	June 2028		
Manager responsible:	People & Governance Manager		

About this policy

The Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union (The SU) Sustainability Policy is not contractual but is to provide managers and staff with information on The SU's commitment to sustainability.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, consultants, self-employed contractors, casual workers, agency workers, interns, Trustees and student members of the SU.

Core Principles of the Policy

This policy outlines and describes the framework within which The SU will adapt and develop all its activities and areas of influence to successfully contribute towards sustainability. This includes our day to day activities as well as how we influence student behaviour and the actions of our Partners and the wider community.

When considering sustainability, this includes environmental, social and ethical sustainability; these being issues of environmental health, social equity, individual behaviour and wellbeing, and economic practicality.

The environment, all people, including our people, partners and students, and the economy are all impacted by sustainability issues. Sustainable practice recognises that these issues are interconnected and require an approach that takes these combined factors into account when considering what is sustainable and practical for the SU.

The SU understands it has a responsibility and duty to its students, stakeholders, and the planet to commit to sustainable and ethical practices in all that we do.

The SU Board of Trustees commits to embracing, embedding and expanding sustainable practices throughout the SU.

Objectives

The SU will work with the Universities and FX Plus to reduce CO2 emissions through carbon saving activities across all campuses. The SU will fully engage with campus waste and procurement initiatives, including our own kitchen and office practices.

The SU will collaboratively work with and support the relevant student clubs and societies to run sustainable campaigns and projects.

The SU will work with all students to help educate and assist them in sustainability being embedded in all their activities.

Travel and Transport

- The SU will encourage active and healthy travel choices for staff and students to promote health and wellbeing and to reduce carbon emissions.
- The SU will support sustainable travel events, initiatives, and forums, and encourage staff and student involvement in these.
- The SU will encourage staff and students to use public transportation.
- The SU will support the Universities Sustainable Travel Policies and Strategies and will lobby the Universities, for sustainable and reliable public transport for students.
- The SU will actively encourage car-sharing where appropriate.
- The SU will explore provisions of the Cycle to Work Scheme opportunities for staff.
- The SU will lobby the universities to prioritise digital campus maps, supporting a reduction in printed signage.
- The SU will use the minibus for group staff travel, where appropriate.

Sustainable Procurement

- The SU commits to continually reviewing procurement procedures in The SU to ensure that they are the most sustainable viable option, including building a list of sustainable suppliers, and reducing procurement via Amazon. [Guidance on shopping without Amazon](#) can be found on the Ethical Consumer website.
- The SU commits to buying Fairtrade tea and coffee.
- The SU commits to promoting sustainable procurement to clubs and societies.
- The SU will ensure the most sustainably viable option for office equipment is purchased, where appropriate.
- The SU commits to reducing the use of single use plastics

Clubs and Societies

- The SU will ensure that all Clubs and Societies are aware of opportunities to reduce their environmental impact, and, wherever possible, will assist them in becoming more sustainable, such as the use of sustainable suppliers, and car sharing to events and matches
- The SU will ensure that Club and Society equipment inventory is up to date, and that equipment is handed-down and re-used, where appropriate
- The SU sports clubs will play primarily in local leagues (considering practicality, cost and level of competition), to reduce emissions from long distance travel.
- The SU will investigate Sustainability Representatives on Club and Society committees, to promote and advocate sustainable practices.
- The SU will investigate sustainability training for Club and Society committee members.

Student Representatives

- The SU will ensure that all Student Representatives have the opportunity to engage with sustainability issues on their course or in their lives at university in general.
- The SU will embed sustainable practice reflection within Student Representation, to ensure that sustainability within courses and learning is being regularly considered and addressed.
- The SU Sabbatical Officers will provide student representation, and hold the universities to account on sustainability at the highest decision-making level.
- The SU will investigate sustainability training for Student Representatives.

Work with Student Members

- The SU will ensure that events, training, or meetings involving large groups of student members are held hybrid, or online, where appropriate.
- The SU will always offer the opportunity to meet with students online, where appropriate.
- The SU will work with students on sustainability-focused Union and Officer priorities, driving change and improving the practices, that students want to see.

Ethical Investment

- The SU will ensure that all investments are in line with the investment policy including the ethical and sustainability aspects.
- The SU commits to using sustainable banking partners, where appropriate.

Organisational

- The SU will arrange, encourage, and adopt agile working and videoconferencing (using platforms such as MS Teams.) in its day-to-day working
- The SU commits to empowering the staff team to recognise and make sustainable decisions in their everyday working.
- The SU will conduct all recruitment online and electronically, where appropriate.
- The SU will strive for paperless and online meetings where appropriate.
- The SU will review the internal use of AI and provide guidance, process and restrictions for staff via an AI Policy.

Communications and Marketing

- The SU commits to digital-first communication, reducing unnecessary printing, and re-using and adapting assets.
- The SU will build sustainability considerations into campaign and event planning.
- The SU will investigate more sustainable sourcing for merchandise, print, and promotional materials.
- The SU will review the digital footprint of the SU website.
- The SU will ensure that campaigns, guidance, communications, and recruitment are targeted and focused, to enable engagement.

APPENDIX – I DUTIES OF SU STAFF, HEADS, CEO AND TRUSTEES

Duties of all SU Staff

- Turn off/unplug all equipment when not in use including computers, monitors, mice, and printers.
- Unplug all mobile phone chargers once phone is fully charged.
- Adjust curtains and blinds to let in as much natural light as possible, and ensure lights are off in rooms that are not being used.
- Reuse available materials, wherever possible, including scrap paper, used files, folders etc
- Only print when necessary (read from the screen when possible).
- Always print double-sided.
- Always use print preview to avoid printing pages with stray lines especially when printing emails.
- Recycle where possible.
- Hold meetings online, wherever possible.
- Check the environmental and ethical sustainability of suppliers when researching purchases.
- Question or highlight unsustainable decisions or purchases.
- Engage with students on sustainability issues, campaigns, and queries.
- Take the most sustainable form of transport, where appropriate.

Duties of Heads

- Ensure that staff are aware and adhere to this policy.
- Advise staff on sustainable procedures and practices.
- Report any continuous breach of the Sustainability Policy procedures to the People & Governance Manager.
- Liaise with relevant staff from the University on sustainability and environmental issues and seek cooperation for carbon reduction and ethical choices.
- Ensure inclusion of Sustainability Policy and its procedures in the Staff Induction Training programme.

- Monitor staff performance against Sustainability Policy procedures and obligations during 1:1s and annual performance reviews.
- Periodically check implementation of Sustainability procedures in all SU spaces, ventures, and events.

Duties of the Chief Executive Officer

- Update the Board on any material sustainability issues or significant developments requiring the Board's oversight, strategic direction, or decision.
- Ensure that the policy is reviewed and suitably modified to reflect staff and members' viewpoints/feedback and is then proposed to the Trustee Board for final approval.
- Ensure sustainability is fully integrated into strategic decisions and that students are included to co-create solutions.
- Ensure that the SU aligns their core values to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Duties of the Board of Trustees

- Review any changes to the Sustainability Policy and practices.
- Reflect on the sustainability procedures and practices of the Board, and suggest any improvements.
- Oversee the work of the Senior Management Team in ensuring that the Sustainability Policy and procedures are being followed.

For further help and advice, please contact the People & Governance
Manager

END OF POLICY