



BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Bournemouth University is a large organisation with approximately 1,400 staff and 18,000 students, divided between two campuses. It enjoys a high quality environment within the setting of a bustling south coast resort. Both the Students' Union and the University are committed to maintaining and wherever possible, enhancing, the quality of this environment, both for the students and staff who live and work in the University and for the wider community.

In the SUBU central strategic plan of October 2011, one of the 5 strategic themes is:

“SUBU will be ethical and environmental in its activities”

SUBU's vision will follow the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations in 2015, to 'transform our world' and put us on a path to a sustainable, ethical and fairer world.

SUBU recognises that its activities have an impact upon the environment at local, regional, national and global levels.

SUBU acknowledges a responsibility for the protection of the environment and the health of its members and the community.

SUBU will actively seek to minimise the negative impacts of its activities on the environment and lead by example on environmental matters.

1. POLICY

SUBU is committed to continual improvement of its environmental performance. In particular, we will:

- 1.1. Ensure that we comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements;
- 1.2. Aim to achieve a 10% pa reduction in our carbon footprint;
- 1.3. Minimise, re-use and recycle all materials wherever practicable;

- 1.4. Provide environmental awareness training for our permanent and student staff and student officers, and encourage them to apply good environmental practice in the workplace;
- 1.5. Discuss environmental and sustainability issues regularly at the highest decision making levels of SUBU, and take authoritative action as necessary, making environmental factors as important if not more important than economic factors in decision making;
- 1.6. Encourage permanent staff, student staff and student engagement in promoting and implementing ethical and environmental issues;
- 1.7. Develop and pursue environmental initiatives and provide ethical and environmental educational events as part of/or separate from these initiatives;
- 1.8. All SUBU departments to collaborate to achieve and maintain NUS Green Impact Students' Unions Excellent status and any other nationally recognised ethical and environmental awards (such as EAUC Green Gown Awards).

OBJECTIVES

2. Energy and transport

- 2.1. SUBU will improve energy efficiency in the work place, through the use of energy efficient equipment, tools and products (see also SUBU Procurement Policy);
- 2.2. SUBU will continually promote energy conservation to all staff and students;
- 2.3. The use of public transport for business travel will be encouraged. SUBU vehicles will be selected and maintained so as to minimise carbon emissions.

3. Waste

- 3.1. In line with university practices and procedures on waste, SUBU will recycle office and commercial waste or dispose of it in an appropriate manner.
- 3.2. SUBU will encourage its staff and student membership to communicate electronically and not by paper
- 3.3. SUBU will minimise waste production

4. Sustainability

- 4.1. In procurement SUBU will give priority consideration to products that are sustainable, renewable and/or include recycled materials.
- 4.2. SUBU will influence suppliers to use packaging that is recycled and/or is recycled or biodegradable. Suppliers complying with such specifications will be given priority consideration when evaluating the supply of their products to SUBU.

5. Ethical purchasing

- 5.1. SUBU will evaluate ethical factors when selecting partners and suppliers. Only those with acceptable labour and environmental standards will be used. (Refer to separate SUBU Procurement Policy.)
- 5.2. SUBU will source products for our bars, catering and retail outlets with consideration towards ethical trade, animal welfare, 'local' purchasing and organic produce.

6. Ethical Trade

- 6.1. In accordance with the University's Fairtrade status SUBU will promote and support Fairtrade initiatives and events such as Fairtrade Fortnight.
- 6.2. SUBU will sell Ethical Trade products in its shops, bars, vending machines and any other outlets. We will continue to expand our product range where possible.

7. Communication

- 7.1. SUBU will keep its membership and the university regularly informed of its environmental policies, activities and actions.
- 7.2. All new staff and sabbatical officers will be formally inducted on relevant environmental issues within their role, such as recycling policy and procedures, individual responsibility for conserving energy, switching off appliances, etc.
- 7.3. SUBU will state its environmental objectives in its long term strategic plan and report on progress against these at plan review meetings.

8. Representing, influencing and campaigning

- 8.1. SUBU will take an active part in the 'management' of the university's impact on the environment through its representation on environmental/sustainability and Fairtrade steering groups, by maintaining close working relationships with the university's sustainability staff and by active campaigning.

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