

Aston Students' Union recognises that all of the services we provide and actions that we take have an impact on the environment, both locally and globally. The Union commits to being aware of and managing the environmental impact of the activities and services we provide. The Union commits to following Aston University's Sustainability Policy, with the following additions which refer more specifically to the activities of the Union.

1. Biodiversity

The Union commits to:

- 1.1. Being aware of the impact that the Union's activities may have on local flora & fauna, and reduce the impact these activities may have.
- 1.2. Investigating ways to improve biodiversity on campus, particularly in reference to the SU building.

2. Energy & Water Management

The Union commits to:

- 2.1. Having measures in place to limit energy usage, including taking part in the University Go Green league tables and monitoring performance in these.
- 2.2. Raising awareness among staff and students of excessive energy consumption, its effects, and how it can be combatted, including with training sessions for new & current staff.
- 2.3. Encouraging responsible space heating, including wearing appropriate clothing and limiting out-of-hours space heating.
- 2.4. Highlighting to building users the impact of using lifts, automatic doors, radiators, computers & other equipment.
- 2.5. Promoting renewable energy use, including solar panels (in the new SU building).

3. Environment & Sustainability

The Union commits to:

- 3.1. Regularly reviewing Union sustainability policies to ensure they reflect current best practice.
- 3.2. Fulfilling NUS Green Impact requirements.

- 3.3. Assigning permanent staff members with monitoring and promoting sustainability in the Students' Union, alongside the Sustainability Committee, the Sustainability Officer, & other student volunteers.
- 3.4. Integrating Green Impact volunteering for students into relevant schemes and accreditations.

4. Sustainable Food

The Union commits to:

- 4.1. Encouraging sustainable food choices in the Union bar by highlighting more sustainable food options, such as vegetarian, vegan & locally sourced food.
- 4.2. Sourcing & stocking more sustainable food & drink in the Union shop.
- 4.3. Holding events within the Students' Union that promote sustainable eating habits among staff and stakeholders.

5. Sustainable Procurement

The Union commits to:

- 5.1. Continually reviewing procurement procedures in the Union to ensure that they are the most sustainable viable option.
- 5.2. Purchasing paper that is sustainably sourced, and to reducing printing wastage.
- 5.3. Making clear to our stakeholders which suppliers the Union uses and for what reasons.
- 5.4. Researching sustainable & ethical procurement accreditations, and providing training for SU staff on sustainable procurement.
- 5.5. Promoting sustainable procurement to clubs and societies, including the use of Fairtrade companies for Club & Society clothing & kit.

6. Waste Management

The Union commits to:

- 6.1. Clearly marking recycling points and providing instructions for good recycling practice.
- 6.2. Enabling food waste recycling where possible.
- 6.3. Reducing printing waste by using computers and mobile devices where possible.

7. Clubs & Societies

Clubs & Societies are a particular area of Students' Union activity which can have an impact on the local and wider environment. Sports Clubs travel often and buy equipment. Societies book external speakers and rooms, and use resources for events.

The Students' Union will ensure that all Clubs & Societies are aware of opportunities to reduce their environmental impact, and, wherever possible, will assist them in becoming more sustainable.

This can include, but is not limited to:

- 7.1. Purchasing Fairtrade/sustainable kits & equipment;
- 7.2. Promoting alternatives to travelling by car/minibus where possible;
- 7.3. Providing guidance on room booking, including recycling and space-heating advice;
- 7.4. Using existing structures within Student Activities and Club & Society committees to incorporate sustainability;
- 7.5. Providing any relevant training and opportunities to learn more about sustainability.

8. Student Representatives

Student Representatives play an important role in shaping university strategy. The Students' Union 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.