



## Sustainability Policy

Status	APPROVED
Consultation with staff	The Student Voice Team Leader and Chief Executive were consulted.
Consultation with Executive Committee	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Student Voice Approval	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Trustee Board Approval	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Document Location	S:\Common\SA Policies

## **Sustainability Policy**

### **1. Policy Statement**

GCU Students' Association recognises that our operations inevitably have an impact on the environment and is committed to minimising any potentially harmful effects. Our Sustainability Policy will ensure that our operations are planned and executed in a manner that minimises environmental risks.

The Students' Association will undertake all reasonably practicable measures to: comply with environmental legislation; optimise resources consumption; adhere to best practice; engage with our stakeholders on the environmental agenda; and report our environmental performance in an open and transparent manner.

The Students' Association also recognises that sustainability extends beyond environmental impact and as such this policy also covers ethically driven practices to which the Students' Association has committed.

### **2. Accountability**

The **Trustee Board** has ultimate legal responsibility for ensuring the Students' Association meets relevant legislation in regards to sustainability, ensures that sustainability is embedded within our strategic planning, culture and operations and has overall responsibility for the operation of this policy. Trustees have a responsibility to lead by example and ensure that progress on sustainability is reviewed and further actions instigated as necessary. The **Chief Executive** is accountable to the Trustee Board and has the responsibility for implementing this policy. The staff lead in this area is the **Student Voice Team Leader**, with support from a **Policy Lead** in the form of one of the Full Time Officers. They are specifically responsible for championing sustainability across the Students' Association.

There is an elected student volunteer who is the **Ethical and Environmental Officer** and is the Chair of the **Ethical and Environmental Committee** and a member of Student Voice. The Ethical and Environmental Committee are responsible for our campaigning and influencing work. The remit of the Ethical and Environmental Officer and Ethical and Environmental Committee is outlined in our [By-Laws](#).

All employees, volunteers, members and visitors must also recognise that everyone shares responsibility in safeguarding the environment.

### **3. Our Commitments**

Through our Sustainability Policy we commit to:

1. Fully comply with all environmental legislation, work to meet good practice and support the GCU Sustainability Enabling Plan.
2. Using the University EcoCampus accreditation to help us demonstrate, monitor and evaluate our success with sustainability progress on campus.
3. Provide information on what we and the University are doing on sustainability and encourage GCU students to get involved in initiatives.
4. Ensuring that this policy is a consideration in all procurement and business decisions.
5. Campaigning to raise awareness of ethical and environmental issues and affect change within the University and the wider community.
6. Embed this policy and information on our ethical and environmental initiatives within our employee induction.

7. Use the data from the University to actively work to reduce our water consumption, non-recyclable waste and energy usage.
8. Encourage the use of sustainable travel to all employees, students, members and visitors, as outlined within our Financial Policy and Procedures.
9. Work with the University to maximise the number of opportunities to recycle on campus and promote recycling amongst our members.
10. Purchase only 100% recycled paper, actively work to reduce our consumption of paper and commit to purchasing stationery made from recycled materials where possible.
11. Only purchasing tea, coffee and sugar which is Fairtrade certified for Students' Association meetings.
12. Only using water supplied from a mains source for Students' Association meetings.
13. Only using cutlery and crockery which is reusable or recyclable for Students' Association meetings.
14. Procuring products locally where possible.
15. Work to support the University's attainment of Fairtrade Status, EcoCampus Status, People & Planet University League and other sustainability initiatives on campus and have representatives on the GCU Sustainability Steering Group and GCU Sustainability Forum.
16. Encourage sustainability-related activity through the academic schools by actively building relationships, this may be in research or teaching (ie SDG Teach In).
17. Review this policy at least once every three years.