

<b>Committee Title</b>	Student Voice						
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022						
<b>Title/Subject</b>	Revised Sustainability Policy						
<b>Paper Presenter</b>	Tabitha Nyariki, Vice President SHLS						
<b>Brief Summary of Issues/Topic</b>	<p>The Sustainability Policy states that we will review the policy every three years. The covid pandemic delayed the review by one year. Here is an overview of the changes (not an exhaustive list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added: <i>Use data from the university to draft an efficiency strategy to minimise energy consumption in the Students' Association building within a three year period.</i></li> <li>Added: <i>Encourage sustainability-related topics in research throughout the different Schools by actively building relationships with relevant organisations in the UK.</i></li> <li>Changed a couple of word phrasings</li> </ul>						
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Information</td><td></td><td>Discussion</td><td></td><td>Approval</td><td>X</td> </tr> </table> <p><b><i>Any member can ask a question by raising their voting card and being recognised by the Chair to speak.</i></b></p> <p>Student Voice are asked <b>to approve</b> this updated policy.</p>	Information		Discussion		Approval	X
Information		Discussion		Approval	X		
<b>Who have you consulted when developing the paper?</b>	Ethical and Environmental Officer Student Voice Team Leader						
<b>Staff/Student Protocol</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td><td></td><td>No</td><td>X</td><td>N/A</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes		No	X	N/A	
Yes		No	X	N/A			
<b>Will any decision approved directly affect the work of staff?</b>							
<b>Should the paper be submitted to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting?</b>	Trustee Board						
<b>If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.</b>							



## **Sustainability Policy**

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### **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; ~~consume fewer resources~~[optimise resources consumption](#); adhere to environmental codes of practice and 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**

Primary accountability for the Students' Association's environmental performance rests with the Chief Executive. 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. This is decided by the Executive Committee prior to the beginning of the Academic Year. However, as safeguarding the environment is an integral part of how we operate, everyone in the Students' Association has a role to play in fulfilling these commitments.

### **3. Our Commitments**

Through our Sustainability Policy we commit to:

1. Fully comply with all environmental legislation and codes of practice.
2. Ensuring that this policy is a consideration in all procurement and business decisions.

3. Campaigning to raise awareness of ethical and environmental issues and affect change within the University and the wider community.
4. Involve our members in the work we do on ethical and environmental issues.
5. Embed this policy and information on our ethical and environmental initiatives within our staff induction.
6. Actively work to reduce our water and energy usage and to report on this on an annual basis.
7. Encourage the use of sustainable travel to all staff, [students](#), members and visitors.
8. Work to measure the carbon footprint of all business travel and report on this on an annual basis.
9. Only allow domestic flights for business travel within the rules of the NUS Green Impact accreditation.
- 9.10. [Use data from the university to draft an efficiency strategy to minimise energy consumption in the Students' Association building within a three year period.](#)
- 10.11. [Work with the University to maximise the number of opportunities to recycle on campus and promote recycling to among our members.](#)
- 11.12. [Actively work to reduce the amount of non-recycled-recyclable waste produced by the Students' Association and to report on this on an annual basis.](#)
- 12.13. [Purchase only 100% recycled paper and commit to purchasing stationery made from recycled materials where possible.](#)
- 13.14. [Actively work to reduce our consumption of paper and report on this on an annual basis.](#)
- 14.15. [Only purchasing tea, coffee and sugar which is Fairtrade certified for Students' Association meetings.](#)
- 15.16. [Only using water supplied from a mains source for Students' Association meetings.](#)
- 16.17. [Only using cutlery and crockery which is reusable or recyclable for Students' Association meetings.](#)
- 17.18. [Procuring products locally where possible.](#)
- 18.19. [Achieving and maintaining the NUS Green Impact Award.](#)

20. Work to support the University's attainment of Fairtrade Status, EcoCampus Status and other sustainability initiatives.

~~19.~~21. Encourage sustainability-related topics in research throughout the different Schools by actively building relationships with relevant organisations in the UK.

~~20.~~22. Review this policy at least once every three years.