



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2019 – V1

### **Mission statement**

The Union of Brunel Students recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to the creation of a sustainable community with a low carbon footprint both on and off campus. We recognise that there are negative environmental impacts associated with our activities and we aim to minimise these by continually improving our practices and reducing our environmental impact. This will form an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points.

### **Responsibility**

The Chief Executive and President is responsible for ensuring that the environmental policy is implemented and generating an aspects and impacts register in line with this policy. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met. The aspects and impacts register will outline the environmental impact of our activity, and our objectives for reducing these impacts.

### **Objectives**

We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of our operations. In particular, we will achieve this through our commitment to:

- Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Regularly review the environmental impact of our activities, endeavour to reduce our overall environmental impact and prevent waste using best practice techniques;
- Sustain a programme of continual improvement in environmental performance incorporating suitable measurement and monitoring mechanisms;
- Continually improve environmentally sound practices and reduce environmental impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness and training.

### **Paper**

We will minimise the use of paper in the office.

We will buy recycled and recyclable paper products.

We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible.

When printing documents two side printing will be the default setting.

### **Activities, Events and Campaigning**

We will support activity and campaigning around sustainability and green initiatives.

We will ensure where possible all materials used are either reusable, recyclable or biodegradable.

We will minimise the use of printed materials such as flyers and posters.

We will not participate in balloon releases or sky lantern launches, and we will actively discourage these activities amongst our community.



We will assess the environmental impact of any planned activities and put measures in place to reduce any negative impact.

### **Energy and water**

We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.

Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.

The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing.

Where possible and practical the Union shall utilise energy saving devices.

The Union will support the student switch off campaign.

### **Transportation**

We will heavily encourage the use of public transport for all work related travel.

Domestic air travel will not be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances.

We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.

We will encourage staff and students to use more sustainable ways of travelling to campus.

When considering replacement of leased or Union owned vehicles we will attempt to lease/purchase the most environmentally friendly vehicles available.

The Union will encourage drivers to drive responsibly in order to minimise fuel consumption.

### **Maintenance, cleaning and waste**

Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.

Materials used in office refurbishment will be as environmentally friendly as possible.

We will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste. We will scrutinise the universities provision for waste disposal as a secondary user of these services.

We will ensure waste is recycled where possible, including the composting of food waste.

We will put measures in place to reduce the amount of waste generated by the Union and limit the amount of non-recyclable materials used.

### **Venues**

We will work to eliminate the use of single use plastics in our venues.

Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, the Union will encourage the use of recycled plastics.

We will source and purchase environmentally friendly products and services locally, whenever possible.

We will encourage our catering supplier to use locally-sourced ingredients, with an emphasis on seasonal and sustainable dishes. In addition we will encourage them to focus on the appropriate disposal of food waste, cardboard waste, cooking oil and liquid waste.

We will work with our suppliers to reduce the amount of food waste generated by our venue.

### **Culture**



We will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.

The Union will appoint a number of environmental champions from the staff team to champion this policy and its implementation.

We will update this policy at least once annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary.

We will provide staff with relevant environmental training as part of their induction.

We will use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.

Promote awareness across our community of the need to achieve sustainable use of resources for the benefit of the Union, University and society as a whole.

### **Organisational**

As major stakeholders in the university we will ensure that we constantly encourage the university to share in our values, with respect to environmental practices and impact and ensure they are committed to exceeding regulatory compliance.

The Union will allow working from home and be a flexible employer, where possible, to reduce our carbon footprint.



## Ethical policy 2019 – V1

### **Mission statement**

The Union of Brunel Students aims to trade ethically. We have a responsibility to take the lead on challenging unethical practices, and ensuring we champion ethical organisations and suppliers. In line with this, we will ensure our members ethical concerns and priorities are reflected in the Unions investment and purchasing decisions. We will also seek out businesses, partners and individuals whose ethical values complement our own.

### **Responsibility**

The Chief Executive and President is responsible for ensuring that the ethical policy is implemented and generating an ethical assessment document, outlining where we believe we can make a difference. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

### **Objectives**

- We will ensure we are honest and transparent in how we do business and engage externally
- We will aim to minimise the negative ethical impact of our activities, and to promote higher ethical standards.
- We will be socially responsible at a local, national and international level
- We support the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core values of the international Labour Organisation, and will ensure the suppliers and organisations we work with do too.
- We will strive to be a leading union on ethical action and campaigning, with a reputation for exceptional innovations in the sector

### **Ethical issues for consideration:**

#### The exploitation of workers

We expect all our suppliers to meet the core values of the international Labour Organisation. The exploitation of workers is unacceptable. We will not partner with any organisation where we have sufficient reasons to believe they do not recognise Union membership.

#### Health and wellbeing

The Union will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities are potentially injurious to health (including alcohol or tobacco). Including arms companies or corporations complicit in the violation of international law.

#### Human rights

Organisations we work with or buy products from must uphold basic human rights within its sphere of influence. We will not work with businesses whose links to an oppressive regime are a continuing cause for concern. Oppressive regimes can be identified via [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org).



Furthermore, we will seek to support companies and organizations that support fair trade, humane working conditions, and international standards of human rights.

#### Ethical standards

Suppliers must conduct their businesses in an ethical manner and must not seek to gain competitive advantage by means of unethical or dishonest practices including without limitation; bribery, corruption, kickbacks, the provision of gifts, favours or services.

#### Finance and student debt

We will only work with financial services suppliers that have an acceptable policy to minimise debt levels of students, and have responsible marketing campaigns. This is due to increasing levels of debt in society and increasing levels of student debts. We will not work with companies that promote gambling.

#### Environmental Issues

We will ensure we do not have any ties to organisations and suppliers whose core activity contributes to: Global climate change, through the extraction or production of fossil fuels; the manufacture of chemicals which are persistent in the environment and linked to long term health concerns; the unsustainable harvest of natural resources, including timber and fish.

Furthermore, we will seek to support companies involved in: Recycling and sustainable waste management; food waste reduction; renewable energy and energy efficiency; sustainable natural products and services; the pursuit of ecological sustainability.