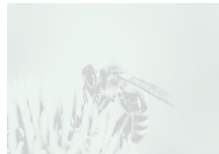


OVERVIEW

At LUU we seek to ingrain sustainability into everything we do, from the way we manage our building to the supply chains for our outlets. We work closely with the University's Sustainability Steering Group to help make sure our campus is as sustainable as it can be.



STORY SO FAR

In a recent survey conducted by LUU 94% of students were concerned about environmental issues with 87% believing that these have a direct effect on their lives.

At LUU we have taken steps to increase our sustainability activity and made significant changes towards reducing our environmental impact. In 2014 we published key policies focussing on environment, sustainable travel, energy management, water management, operational waste management and purchasing. Two years ago we partnered with the University of Leeds on a collaborative pledge to remove single use plastics across all of our operations

#plasticfree2023. We have also consistently achieved excellent status in our NUS Green Impact Audit.

We are proud of what we have achieved so far but we want to do even more to ensure that in every area of our operation we consider our environmental impact and take action to protect our community for the future.

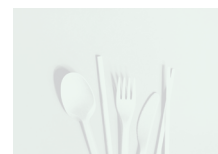
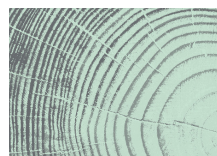
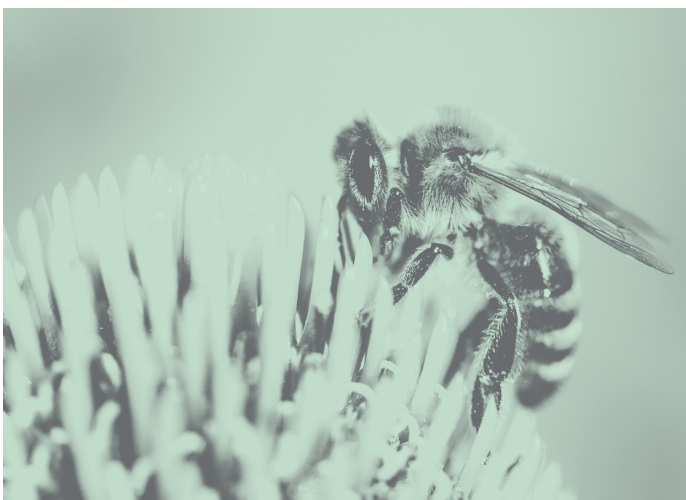
"Seeing that some areas of the environment can experience benefits, even in a short period of human activity reduction, gives me hope that, if enough people can come together with a common aim, we might be able to see observable differences within our lifetimes" (LUU Sustainability survey report 2021)

CLIMATE CRISIS AND URGENCY FOR ACTION

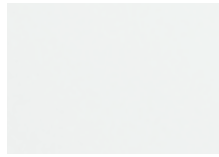
The United Nations has highlighted climate change as the defining crisis of our time. The last four years have been the hottest on record and scientists warn that we are approaching unacceptable risk levels for irreversible change posing a major threat to our peace and security.

The data demonstrates that climate change is already occurring but it's not too late to make a change for the better. Through committing to changing the way we think, behave and consume we can all make a positive difference. Though the future of our planet will be influenced most significantly by how countries and governments react to the climate crisis, our behaviour as individuals will ultimately help to shape government policy and create necessary change. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals outline how we can work together to build a better and more sustainable future for all and we recognise these goals within our strategy as a blueprint for our sustainability work.

We also recognise, especially in the context of our ongoing commitment to and work on antiracism, the disproportionate effects of climate change particularly on Black communities in the Global South. Not only does the climate crisis stem in large part from the products of industry and consumerism of the Global North, but many proposed solutions from the sustainability movement fail to represent the needs of those most impacted by climate change. The sustainability movement will not succeed unless climate justice is at the forefront of our efforts, and LUU believes that climate action is only just when it represents the needs of all.



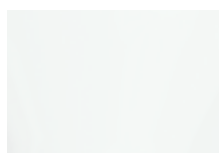




PURPOSE FOR THIS STRATEGY DOCUMENT

We are proud to have retained Excellent status in our 2020 SOS-UK Green Impact Audit but know there's always more that can be done and we are committed to continuous improvement in this space. In this document we seek to outline our ambitions and objectives for the next 12 months during which time LUU will begin to outline our strategic vision for 2022-26. In the short term we have committed to embedding sustainability across our organisation in ways that will empower students and staff to take ownership of creative solutions, be held accountable for their activity, and assess success in sustainability through measuring their results.

In this interim strategy we seek to challenge our staff, students, partners and stakeholders to work together towards tangible and lasting change. Designed and led by our student members this strategy seeks to publicly confirm our commitment to creating and maintaining a sustainable Union into the future.





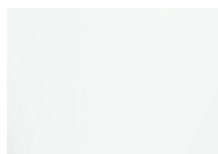
OUR VISION

We aim to be a sustainable Union in which environmental responsibility is embedded throughout our organisation in a culture of openness and transparency.

CAMPAIGNING: Ensuring accountability, **challenging ourselves and others**, and lobbying for change.

OPERATIONS: Keeping our house in order and creating best practice and **positive change every day**.

COMMUNICATION: Working collaboratively with stakeholders to inform, **educate and consult**.



1. CAMPAIGNING



UN Sustainable
Goal # 17

Ensuring accountability, challenging ourselves and others, and lobbying for change.

Student voice is central to everything we do; students should be listened to, empowered, and supported in driving change both inside and outside LUU. With a cohort in excess of

30,000 students, our members have the power to effect change across campus, in the community, nationally and internationally. LUU will support and empower student groups

and societies, as well as individual members, to challenge ourselves and others to lobby for positive change.



Ensuring accountability

For our Sustainability Strategy to be successful, we recognise that we need to ensure we are accountable for our actions and results. Our culture promotes a willingness for accountability at all stages of the strategy and throughout LUU. And to underpin this we have added sustainability leadership responsibilities to our Student Executive.



1. CAMPAIGNING

CONTINUED

Challenging ourselves and others

We recognise the importance of holding others accountable for their actions and in supporting their work towards a more sustainable environment. The Union Affairs and

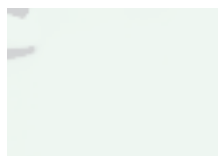
Communications Officer will be responsible for championing sustainability and environmental campaigning, as well as holding LUU and our partners to account. The Student Sustainability

Advisory Board will hold the Union Affairs & Communications Officer and the Student Exec accountable for upholding the Union's Sustainability Strategy.



LUU will facilitate and support students to lead environmental campaign activity by:

- Championing climate justice by ensuring our approaches are intersectional and equitable, by consulting for gaps in our organisational knowledge in terms of equality and inclusion
- Empowering and supporting 'Green Action' societies
- Supporting all clubs and societies to embed sustainability into their activity
- Celebrating success and empowering student groups through the Sustainability Awards
- Funding student-led activity through the Sustainability Grant Fund
- Hosting LUU Climate Week annually
- Encouraging and delivering environmental policy through Better Forums



1. CAMPAIGNING

CONTINUED



UN Sustainable
Goal # 11

Lobbying for change

LUU's lobbying activity will be championed by our student leaders, with support from the Student Engagement Team. We will lobby the University to uphold and progress its commitments to the Climate Principles and Net Zero target, Plastic Free Pledge and embedding sustainability into the curriculum and opportunities that it promotes. As such, our lobbying activities

- a responsibility of the Student Executive and Community Reps, supported by LUU's Student Engagement Team - will encourage the University to fully divest and dissociate from partners that use fossil fuels, and instead use their finances to invest in positive social and environmental change. We will challenge the University to use its position to

influence change at local, national and international levels.

LUU will lobby Leeds City Council and local community partners to prioritise and implement sustainability measures in place in the local area, as well as encouraging students to submit policy to challenge partners in the city at the Better Leeds forums.



2. OPERATIONS

Keeping our house in order and creating best practice and positive change every day.

Within LUU we offer a wide range of services for the benefit of our membership, and recognise that in operating these services we should seek to ensure our environmental impact is kept to a minimum. In addition we commit to continually strive to research, understand, create and promote ways of reducing our impacts further.

In 2018 we joined with the University of Leeds in pledging to remove single-use plastic across all of our operations by 2023, #2023PlasticFree. We are on track to meet this goal within LUU and will ensure

that in the next two years this is a priority area of our sustainability work. Whilst we continue to work towards this important goal, we recognise that there are some areas where viable alternatives to single use plastic are not available. In these cases we commit to working with our partners, suppliers and members to raise awareness and lobby for change.

Within LUU we will focus our sustainability work in the following areas to reduce our impact on the environment.

Energy, water and waste reduction

UN Sustainable
Goal # 6, 7 & 12



Through excellence in facilities management we will constantly monitor and control our energy, water and waste usage. We know that in this area we can have the biggest impact, and by ensuring we limit our consumption of these resources and production of waste, we create additional financial benefits for our organisation. We will commission a carbon footprint assessment to better understand our environmental impact, and will publish the results.

In recent years LUU has worked hard to reduce our waste, and to ensure that when waste is created it is effectively recycled or reused. We will continue to work in this area ensuring that our waste management policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that where waste cannot be eliminated, it is correctly disposed of to mitigate its negative impact. We recognise the importance of working with our waste removal partners to ensure that even after it leaves LUU we can be confident that our waste will be handled and processed ethically.



2. OPERATIONS

CONTINUED

Responsible sourcing

LUU recognises that the goods and services it procures can have a significant impact on the environment, the economy and social and ethical practices. LUU is committed to reducing the negative impacts of our procurement activities by:

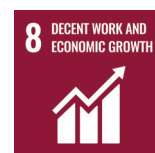
- Incorporating social, economic and environmental considerations into policies for supplier and product selection;
- Ensuring we use our resources effectively and efficiently;
- Use Fairtrade, ethical and environmentally aware products and suppliers, and work with NUS to increase the percentage of these products within our ranges;
- Utilising locally sourced and supplied goods and services, including social enterprises created by students/alumni wherever possible;
- Working with external organisations in line with the ethical guidelines laid out in our External Organisations Policy.

We commit to ensuring our supply chain upholds the same standards as those set within LUU, and to transparency in our procurement processes.

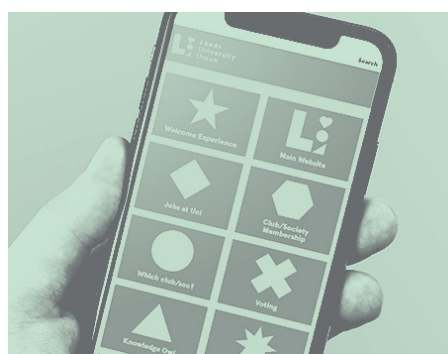
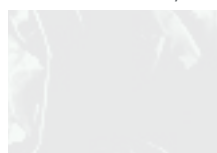
Digital equipment and installation

We recognise that our growing dependence on digital communication and activity has an impact on climate change. Our digital infrastructure – such as networking and building management systems – is provided by the University of Leeds, and we will lobby them to move to more efficient options. We commit to a more sustainable approach to digital operations, including investing in quality equipment,

and we will work to limit replacement as well as carefully managing end-of-life disposal. We will review policies for device settings configurations to optimise power management. We will create a digital practice guide to enable LUU staff and members to minimise their environmental impact through sustainable digital practices.



UN Sustainable
Goal # 1,
2, 8 & 10



2. OPERATIONS

CONTINUED

Digital system procurement

Like most organisations, LUU procures Software-as-a-service (SaaS) platforms and other software that is linked to cloud systems, ultimately linking to data centres requiring energy to run. We commit to collecting environment reporting data from suppliers, including the source of energy used in data centres, as well as including environmental criteria as part of systems procurement.



People and culture

Every organisation can make a significant impact if the people within it are galvanised to create both big and small changes. We recognise the importance within our organisation of encouraging our students, staff and volunteers to create real and lasting change, which together can create positive impacts.

LUU believes that when our people learn and develop, we all become better at what we do and how we do it. We want to ensure that sustainability is part of that learning journey, and we will ensure our sustainability strategy is communicated regularly and effectively to promote sustainability within the culture of LUU.

We will investigate and carry out means of empowering our staff to take more sustainable travel options. We commit to ensuring our sustainability strategy is aligned within our organisation to ensure its success.



UN Sustainable
Goal # 4 & 13



3. COMMUNICATION



UN Sustainable
Goal # 13



Working collaboratively with stakeholders to inform, educate, consult and engage.

Inform

We want students to view LUU as a sustainable organisation, so it is crucial to effectively communicate LUU's progress and achievements.

We will keep students up to date on targets, to ensure consistent progress and enable members to hold us accountable. This must be done through accessible information, which is easy for our

members to understand and engage with. We will explore different communication methods to show how sustainability is incorporated into different areas at LUU, making use of both digital platforms and the Union building.

We also have a responsibility to empower our members to adopt and promote sustainability. We will utilise opportunities

to communicate with students about steps to live sustainably and make positive choices. This will involve a dedicated sustainability campaign week, such as Climate Week.

We should celebrate and champion students' commitment to sustainability, and their work to engage others and positively contribute to their community.

We will recognise how clubs and societies engage with sustainability, and provide development opportunities through the LUU Sustainability Grant.

We will work with members to identify what information they are missing, about both LUU's practices and living sustainably as a student, and ensure we communicate results to them across our communication channels.



3. COMMUNICATION

CONTINUED

Engage and consult

Having informed students of our commitment to sustainability, we must enable engagement with the process so that our members continue to challenge existing practices and encourage continuous improvement. This strategy will be a working document, facilitating the ongoing involvement of members. Asking students how they feel about sustainability and how we are performing will be part of our regular insight gathering,

and we will regularly consult a Sustainability Advisory Board.

It is essential that this strategy fits alongside other strategies within the organisation, including our commitment to equality and liberation, acknowledging that tackling inequality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development.

We will engage with the University and ensure alignment with the University of

Leeds Sustainability Strategy and Climate Plan, which reflect the UN Sustainable Development Goals, consulting experts and external stakeholders where necessary. We should mirror this collaboration and cohesion on a national scale, through engagement with Students Organising for Sustainability and other Students' Unions.



UN Sustainable Goal # 5, 10 & 13

Working collaboratively

Community engagement will further the positive impact of both LUU and our members. We will support initiatives such as Leave Leeds Tidy, to reduce the impact of the student population on the wider community. We will collaborate with University teams to consider the sustainable steps students can take in University and private accommodation, and incorporate this

into how we inform and educate. It is our responsibility to inspire our members to add value to their community and be considerate of their individual impact.



KEEPING ON TRACK

Monitoring and reporting

We will commit to monitoring and reporting on our sustainability goals clearly and regularly, and create mechanisms to ensure this information is accessible to all our members and stakeholders through our communications channels.

We will report quantitative figures against each of the goals laid out in the strategy, with results measured against defined targets. We commit to publishing on our website our energy and waste results annually.

We will work with the following groups to monitor our progress:

Sustainability Operations working group

- Chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and supported by the Sustainability Coordinator. This will be a monthly meeting including staff responsible for the management of energy, waste, procurement, digital infrastructure, and people & culture. The group will create and monitor actions to translate the Sustainability Strategy into LUU's operations.

Sustainability Oversight Group

- Chaired by the Union Affairs & Communications Officer and supported by the Sustainability Coordinator. This will be a quarterly meeting including LUU's Senior Leadership Team and inviting senior leaders from the University (e.g. the Director of Sustainability). The group will review the work of the Sustainability Operations Working Group and make recommendations on larger actions and strategic decisions, reporting to the Board of Trustees.



LUU Board of Trustees

- Chaired by Union Affairs & Communications Officer and supported by the Leadership & Governance Support Manager. Key LUU staff report major LUU updates to the Board of Trustees, who will also receive regular updates on operational progress against the Sustainability Strategy. This report will be delivered by the Union Affairs & Communications Officer and prepared with the aid of the Sustainability Coordinator.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- Chaired by Union Affairs & Communications Officer and supported by the Sustainability Coordinator and the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations). The Advisory Board is made up of 8 – 12 appointed student volunteers as well as Community Reps, Liberation Coordinators, and University of Leeds Sustainability Interns. The group will meet at least five times per year to provide guidance and drive the focus of sustainability campaigns, projects, and strategic formation.