

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Proposed by the Deputy President (Welfare)

Seconded by the President

Imperial College Union Notes:

1. That human activities are having significant negative impacts on the planet including climate change, deforestation, pollution, biodiversity loss and general environmental degradation.
2. Part L of Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2006 require that all building work is carried out such that *“Reasonable provision shall be made for the conservation of fuel and power in buildings...”* and that *“...the building can be operated in such a manner as to use no more fuel and power than is reasonable in the circumstances”*.

Imperial College Union Believes:

1. That we as a Union have a responsibility to ensure that our activities and the activities of our members consider these impacts and include measures to minimise these impacts.
2. Employing methods to reduce our environmental impact will be to the benefit of both our current and future members by educating current members on methods of reducing these impacts and by preserving our environment for future members.
3. Small financial investments to mitigate negative environmental impacts result in potentially huge savings over the long term.

Imperial College Union Resolves:

WASTE REDUCTION:

1. The Union shall aim to establish what quantity of waste ICU produces annually and estimate what proportion is disposed in landfill sites.
2. The Union shall reduce waste sent to landfill by following the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” philosophy.
3. The methods employed by the Union to reduce its waste should include but not be limited to:
 - a) Catering suppliers tasked to only deliver in minimal packaging (eg without lids)
 - b) Exploring reusable packaging (eg crates)
 - c) Reducing waste by using reusable crockery and cutlery instead of disposable crockery and cutlery in our catering outlets. For the purpose of maintaining the take-away option, biodegradable disposable alternatives may be used.
 - d) Reusing waste by using reusable glasses, for example made from hard plastic, instead of using single-use skiffs, except for high capacity events where this is impracticable.
 - e) Recycling waste by providing segregated recycling bins wherever there is currently an all-purpose bin in all Union buildings.
 - f) Ensuring that the Union’s food waste continues to be included in the College’s composting scheme.
 - g) Educating and encouraging all students to recycle their waste.
 - h) Where the equivalent product exists with a higher recycled and / or manufactured content, this should be procured preferentially where practicable. .
 - i) We will endeavour to print all documents on 100% recycled paper using vegetable based inks at a printer holding an ISO 14001 accreditation.

WATER USE:

1. The Union will cut consumption through installing simple devices in existing appliances that use water. This should include but not be limited to:
 - a. Low volume flushes (twin flush buttons).
 - b. Low flow, aerated showerheads (flow level <9litres/minute)
 - c. Percussion taps
 - d. Tap Inserts
 - e. Waterless urinals using a new valved system
2. When replacing appliances, The Union will choose water efficient models. The “DEFRA and HM Revenue & Customs Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme for Water Technologies” shall be used to set a minimum benchmark for water efficiency in appliances (www.eca-water.gov.uk).
3. Work with catering suppliers to improve the efficiency of water use during production
4. Train all staff in water efficiency practices

CARBON EMISSIONS:

1. The total carbon dioxide emissions of the Union for electricity and heat from July 2009 to July 2010 is 178.92 Tonnes CO₂ per year. (Imperial College London Carbon Desktop)
2. The Union shall seek to reduce its carbon emissions, much of which can be achieved through energy efficiency measures.
3. Specific methods to be employed by the Union to reduce its carbon emissions shall include but not be limited to:

Energy:

1. Reducing energy use through maximising building energy performance. Both through building design and efficient end use. Any future building work shall incorporate energy efficiency initiatives including secondary glazing, low-energy lighting (including motion-sensor controls), draft reduction and services insulation.
2. Turning off all electronic equipment such as computers, printers and plasma screens when not in use, especially overnight in the SAC and Union Offices. Plug sockets should also be switched off when not in use.
3. Substitute carbon-emitting energy for renewable energy by lobbying the College to use energy supplies from a low-carbon source.
4. Support and where feasible, pursue proposals for installation of onsite renewable energy/low and zero-carbon technology on Union buildings and/or IC campuses generally.
5. Avoid use of patio heaters and similar appliances and discourage the use of personal heaters.
6. Set double sided printing as standard in the SAC and Union Office.
7. Training all staff in energy efficiency practices
 - i. Minimise energy use in food production, transportation and storage via:
 - Usage of energy efficient equipment
 - ii. Reduction of suppliers / multi-temperature vehicles via liaison with College Commercial services

Transport:

1. The Union will continue to send all waste cooking oil (estimated at 40L/week) to be made into Biodiesel in line with College’s policy.

2. The Union shall work towards storing Biodiesel in College for the minibus fleet, to be used by clubs and societies.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING POLICY

The Union aims to offer sustainable catering and retail products that are produced, processed and traded in ways that:

1. Contribute to local economies and sustainable livelihoods
2. Avoid damaging natural resources and contributing to climate change
3. Protect the welfare of animals
4. To achieve this, the Union aims to:
5. Ensure that the products it buys for catering and retail are of the highest environmental certification, and are sourced as locally as possible within reason.
6. Only source meat which is reared according to sustainable farming methods and locally sourced where possible.
7. Consider the use of cost effective cuts of meat that promote responsible animal welfare
8. Work with Assured Food Standards to procure "Red Tractor" products where practicable
9. Use free range eggs and win the 'Good Egg' Award
10. Reduce the amount of foods from animal origin (meat, dairy and eggs) served by providing more vegetarian and vegan options and identifying them on the menu
11. To consider the embedded water when choosing products, ingredients and services.
12. Include the Part Time Carnivore affiliation logo on menus to encourage students to choose vegetarian options
13. Only use fish from sustainable sources (those accredited by the Marine Stewardship Council), and achieve MSC accreditation
14. Maintain Fairtrade Accreditation as laid out in the Fairtrade Policy and commit to buy Fairtrade produce where possible
15. Menu planning to reflect seasonal foods
16. Offer some organic meal options

Bottled water

The Union recognises the negative environmental impact of bottled water consumption and so resolves to:

1. Only sell brands of ethically sourced bottled water in any Union outlet where bottled water is sold as determined by Executive Committee.
2. Encourage College to invest in more water fountains and look into making more available in the Union building, as well as raising awareness of pre-existing water fountains
3. Make reusable drinking bottles available in the Union shop and newsagent at a price our students consider reasonable

GREEN WEEK:

1. Green Week shall be set to take place during the first term of the year.
2. Green week shall include a 'meat-free' day, on which everything sold or given away by any Union outlet must be vegetarian. There must also be at least one vegan option. This includes drinks.
3. It should seek to educate as many students as possible about the full range of environmental impacts their actions have and ways to reduce them, as well as informing on global environmental issues

4. The Ethics & Environmental Officer is in charge of Green Week and can assemble a committee to help him/her.
5. The duties and responsibilities of the Ethics & Environmental Officer are laid out in the Representation Policy.

HALLS

1. The Environmental Officer shall ensure that a Halls Green Rep is elected from every Hall as part of their Halls Committee each year, and is responsible for communicating environmental campaigns to them as well as lending support to their efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their Hall.
2. The Environmental Officer shall liaise with Estates and the Student Switch Off Campaign to publicise campaign events to encourage as wide a participation as possible.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. It is the responsibility of the Environmental Officer, the Deputy President (Welfare) and ultimately the President to ensure that these policies are upheld.
2. The entire organisation, notably staff responsible for areas directly affected by the policy, will support the implementation of this policy.
3. The Environmental Officer shall submit a report to Council at the end of each term summarising the condition and progress of the Union's environmental record. a. The Autumn term report should be to the first Council after Green Week to report on that week.
4. The Union shall lobby college to mitigate its contribution to climate change through the implementation of similar policies.

Future Projects

The following measures are considered goals for the future but are currently unfeasible due to their high cost:

1. Water from guttering being diverted to a water tank for use as grey water in toilets
2. Installing solar water heaters and or panels on the roof of the Union Building
3. Installing green roofs on the roof of the Union Building