



# **Ethical, Environmental & Procurement Policy**

**Responsibility of: Sophia Daly, Student Development Officer and The Deputy  
President of Sustainability & Ethics**

**Date of last review: March 2025**

**Approved By: The SU Executive**

**Next Scheduled review date: March 2028**

**Version: 01**



## **Policy Statement**

Dudley Students' Union (DSU) acknowledges its responsibility to act ethically and sustainably at local, national, and global levels. As an organisation representing and supporting students at Dudley College, we are committed to ensuring that our activities, campaigns, and procurement practices uphold human rights, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.

This policy requires the engagement and commitment of all DSU officers, staff, and members. We will provide training, resources, and guidance to ensure our team understands best practices in ethical and environmental responsibility.

Dudley SU encourages and supports students to make sustainable choices that benefit their well-being, the local community, and the environment. We will actively promote the '**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**' approach in our procurement and consumption strategies, ensuring we prioritise sustainability in all our operations.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by DSU's Executive Team, with updates reported Student Parliament. Any future ethical or environmental directives issued by DSU will be considered part of this policy and treated as key responsibilities of officers and staff.

By embedding these principles into our operations, Dudley Students' Union aims to create a positive and lasting impact on our students, the college community, and the wider world.

### **Responsibilities for implementation**

Members of the Executive have the overall responsibility for implementation.

The policy leads shall be Sophia Daly, Student Development Officer and The Deputy President of Sustainability & Ethics.

Individual staff and officers must ensure that their personal actions are not detrimental to the aims of this policy.



### **Ethical and Environmental Concerns**

- a) DSU must be committed to educating and training staff, officers, volunteers and student groups, and wider membership on ethical and environmental issues and the effect of their activities; to raise awareness and encourage participation.
- b) DSU shall abide by all NUS boycotts, subject from approval from the Executive.
- c) Any ethical or environmental decision made shall be publicised on the website and/or other social media channels as appropriate, in order for members to be educated as to the reasons for such a decision.
- d) No action should be undertaken that will be severely detrimental to the environment.
- e) There must be a demonstrable commitment to continuous improvement, and the environment must be strongly considered in all future developments.
- f) The environmental impact of any activities, events, or trips organised and or undertaken by any officers, staff, or student groups must be taken into consideration, and the impact of the event made as small as possible. This includes travel, resources and equipment needed, as well as the activity itself.
- g) The environmental impact of the college and its campus shall be one of the issues which the Union works collaboratively with the college on.

### **Energy Usage and Efficiency**

- a) As an organisation, DSU shall always seek to effectively manage its carbon footprint.
- b) As individuals, all officers, staff, members and student groups shall seek to minimise the use of energy. (This includes, for example, turning off lights and appliances when they are not in use, and ensuring that heating is used only as much as is necessary).

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling**



- a) DSU must strive to minimise the amount of waste it produces. All products should be reused if possible. If that is not possible, they should be recycled. We should always seek to re-use resources and equipment. Ultimately, the aim of everyone concerned must be to minimise the amount of waste being produced which has to be sent to landfill or incinerated.
- b) The organisation shall also strive to minimise the amount of paper used in publicity, communications and office use.
- c) The organisation must strive to provide adequate storage facilities for any resources used by the organisation, to maximise the ability to reuse these resources.
- d) DSU should not be facilitating the deliberate release of balloons, nor should it finance or support such activities for fear of damaging the atmosphere or wildlife, and so as to reduce the amount of unnecessary pollution we cause.
- e) DSU will not purchase balloons and discourage others to do the same.

### **Transport**

- a) DSU believes that climate change is an urgent threat, and we as a Students' Union have a responsibility to act in a manner that reflects this, and that members, officers and staff should make efforts towards minimising emissions arising from transportation.
- b) The Union shall actively promote cycling, and the use of public transport.

### **Marketing and Promotions**

- a) Represent diverse student voices in promotional content.
- b) Prioritise digital marketing (social media, digital screens, website) to reduce paper waste.
- c) Reduce the use of single-use promotional items—opt for sustainable, reusable, or biodegradable alternatives.
- d) DSU recognises everyone consumes content differently and for accessibility reasons we will utilise physical promotions like poster and flyers, however we will be much more deliberate with when and how we utilise them, with the core principle of reducing use. The President must authorise the printing of any promotional materials.
- e) DSU will seek to work with ethical brands and organisations that align with DSU's values on sustainability.

- f) Avoid partnerships with companies linked to unethical practices (e.g., fast fashion, exploitative labour, high carbon emissions).

### **Sustainable and Ethical Procurement**

- a) Sustainable procurement is defined as 'the use of procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives that deliver benefits to the organisation, society and the economy whilst minimising damage caused to the environment'
- b) DSU will exclude the use of environmentally damaging supplies where a viable alternative is available.
- c) DSU will consider the balance between economic, social and environmental factors when making purchasing decisions.
- d) DSU will, when replacing any old equipment, consider whether that piece of equipment is still needed before repurchasing.
- e) The Union shall always stock Fair Trade tea, coffee and hot chocolate for internal use and events.
- f) DSU will seek to reduce the use of Amazon and prioritise purchasing local to support the local economy. However, we also recognise with staff and time constraints there may not be a viable alternative therefore we shall be more selective and deliberate when using Amazon. The President must authorise all purchases from Amazon.
- g) DSU will prioritise, where possible, purchasing from sustainable organisations that align with DSU values.

### **Liberation and Inclusion**

- a) DSU will not work with any organisation which are known, through their practices, to perpetuate discrimination, prejudice or hate.
- b) DSU recognises that sustainability and liberation are linked, and that marginalised people are disproportionately impacted but environmental issues. DSU will continue its work supporting marginalised students and move to build a truly liberated and just society.

### **Single- Use Plastics**

- a) We will seek to reduce and phase-out our use of single- use plastics.
- b) DSU when purchasing drinks for events will buy cans as an alternative.
- c) DSU will not give away plastic bags for events like freshers, we will use paper bags only when necessary.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

- a) Clearly communicate DSU's sustainability efforts and commitments in promotional campaigns.
- b) Regularly review and update practices to align with evolving ethical and environmental standards.
- c) Engage students in feedback and discussions on how DSU can improve its commitment to sustainability.
- d) The Deputy President of Sustainability & Ethics will write an annual Environmental Statement outlining DSU's sustainability actions for that year which will be published on the website and present DSU's work to Student Parliament.
- e) Sustainability will always be a key action point within strategic and operational plans.