

# WASTE, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Updated: February 2022



**BUCKS**  
STUDENTS' UNION

## Waste, Recycling and Environmental Policy

### Executive summary:

At Bucks Students' Union (BSU) we are conscious of the impact our activities have on the environment. Central to our mission is the importance of being student led and having a positive impact for our members. We provide a range of services such as sports, advice, events, representation and volunteering. This policy highlights the mechanisms BSU has identified to ensure we are doing our utmost to reduce our waste and promote the importance of recycling to our staff and members.

### Policy:

- BSU will aim to reduce waste sent to landfill in line with targets set by the University by eliminating useage of appicable resources wherever possible, recycling, when possible, and actively encouraging its members to recycle.
- The following items must be recycled by all Students' Union departments: glass bottles, paper, cans & tins, cardboard, plastic bottles, glasses and clean plastic pots, printer cartridges, toner cartridges, cooking oil and batteries.
- BSU will use either Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) 100% recycled paper or Ecolabel paper to print on and encourages staff to write on scrap printed paper.
- BSU will provide a Bra Bank for students to donate their unwanted bras in support of The Against Breast Cancer Campaign.
- The Bucks Student newspaper will be printed on 100% recycled paper.
- BSU will encourage staff to refrain from printing when it is not necessary and ask staff to print in black and white, and on both sides where possible.
- BSU now has a heavy focus on digital marketing, reducing the need for leaflets.
- Within each BSU job description, all staff members are told to take individual responsibility for supporting the Union's environmental initiatives.
- All BSU staff, where possible, will endeavour to buy ethically sourced, Fairtrade and plastic free products when supplying any giveaways for students and this will be communicated through the formal induction processes. We will request our exhibitors also follow this guidance when coming onto campus and where reasonably practicable.
- Where possible BSU will **avoid buying from Amazon and** look to support local ethical businesses.
- BSU will work with the Multi Faith Chaplaincy in collecting items from halls and helping to manage Bucks New Usage.
- Any unclaimed clothes left within the Students' Union venue will be donated to charity at the end of term.
- BSU will aim to reduce energy consumption in line with targets set by the University, and when possible actively encourage its members and staff to become active participants within the Union as well as within their own homes.
- All staff members shall have a responsibility for reducing the use of energy within their area.
- BSU will continue to reduce the environmental impact on its premises through the following:
  - All lights must be turned off when rooms are not being used in Union premises.
  - Energy saving bulbs will be used when possible.
  - Windows will be kept shut in winter to reduce heat loss.
  - All radiators will be fitted with thermostats.
  - Computers will be turned off when not in use and screens turned off.
  - Equipment not in use over holiday periods will be turned off.
  - All plastic cups used in the bar will be recycled.

- Polycarbonate cups - reducing the need for disposable plastic cups.
- All glass, cardboard, plastic cups and paper that are recyclable waste products created by our events are separated and put into the appropriate recycling bins. We do not use straws or balloons or plastics that are non recyclable.
- No helium will be used and students will also be discouraged from using balloons and helium at student let events.
- BSU are committed to encouraging our commercial stall holders to use alternatives to plastic bags at our Freshers' Fair. We are also committed to using only paper bags that we encourage students to keep and reuse.

## Transport

- Staff and members will be expected to use the most suitable mode of transport that takes into account environmental issues, when travelling to fixtures and going on trips, students will only be able to claim petrol money when driving to fixtures when they have taken at least 2 team mates, and will promote transport sharing.
- No staff will be allowed to fly domestically to any conferences etc.
- BSU have a free cycle scheme for our staff and students and promote this heavily around campus.
- BSU runs a shuttle bus between campuses reducing the need for individual journeys.
- BSU run a bus on various nights of the year that picks students up from halls and drops them at The Venue, reducing the need for individual journeys.

## Bucks New Usage

- Staff and members will be encouraged to donate any unwanted items to Bucks New Usage.
- Staff will help to collect all items from halls
- BSU will promote Bucks New Usage and what it offers in order to stop unwanted items going to landfill

## Heating

- All BSU staff should be aware of the benefits of keeping the radiators clear and unobstructed during the winter period
- There will be no portable heaters in the offices.

## Other

- BSU will elect a Green Ambassador every year to lead on initiatives.
- BSU will enter into relevant accreditation schemes to help us achieve our environmental and ethical objectives, including the Green Impact Award, Fairtrade Accreditation and Best Bar None.
- BSU will continue to support the Give to Refresh initiative, rehoming unwanted toiletries.
- There are three Environmental, Sustainability and Fairtrade meetings throughout the year, where new initiatives are discussed, led by The Green and Fairtrade Ambassadors. A representative from the University's Estates team is invited to attend.
- BSU have a formal commitment to continual improvement of its environmental performance through the strategic plan.