

## Commitment to Sustainability Policy

### The Union Knows

- Responsible Futures works with institutions and students' unions to embed sustainability into the curriculum of every student in education today.
- The National Survey of Students shows that the vast majority of students in the UK are concerned about environmental issues.
- 85% of students surveyed said that universities should actively promote sustainable development and 69% of students said that universities should include sustainability in their courses in the HEA survey of over 4,000 students in 2012 the student attitudes survey.
- Eight in every ten students consistently believe that sustainable development should be actively incorporated and promoted by universities, and this increases as respondent's progress through studies.
- Over two-thirds of respondents consistently believe that sustainable development should be incorporated into all university course.
- The Students' Union at UWE is taking part in the Responsible Futures (RF) programme and is working in partnership with the University of the West of England. There is a large group of students who are involved in the green team, who are looking to aspire and make a change, and this is reflective of the change that is wanted.
- The majority of The Students' Union at UWE members have concerns about sustainability for the environment and the long term environmental impacts.

### The Unions Believes

- Following the Responsible Futures (RF) Project Criteria it is thought important that The Students' Union at UWE has a policy that encompasses the issues addressed by the project such as sustainability and ethical and environmental issues.
- It is vital that The Students' Union at UWE supports this work and has a policy to embed sustainability and social responsibility in the formal and informal curriculum.
- Students need to be educated about sustainability and climate change as they will ultimately play a large role in tackling the issues associated with them in the future.
- As the University is one of the key partners of Bristol Green Capital 2015 in the Bristol European Green Capital year it has a responsibility to the city to be a leading light when it comes to sustainability.





### **The Union Will**

- Create an over-arching Union Sustainability Policy that pulls together the previous policies of Say no to plastic, Fairtrade etc. and incorporate the work of Green Impact and how the SU can be more sustainable in its actions and running.
- Work with the university so that all courses include issues of environmental sustainability and social responsibility to ensure students graduate with an understanding of these issues. This will assist them in their employability and personal development as active citizens.
- Strive to have environmentally good practice in all its areas of activities.
- Consider improving its environmental impact for all its operations and services and report regularly on their progress to the student body.
- Embed environmental sustainability and social responsibility aims and purposes in its strategic plans.
- Ensure the Resource Futures Project team make a report to the Students' Union Council and others within The Students' Union at UWE on the progress made.

**The Union Chooses:** President

**Proposer:** Leyth Hampshire

