**Environmental and Sustainability Policy**

**The Union notes that:**

1. The environment and sustainability is a huge issue facing the world in the 21st century.

2. The University has been awarded Transition money to help make the University greener and more environmentally friendly through a transport initiative.

3. The Union failed to achieve another Silver Award in the NUSSL Green Impact Student Union Award, dropping instead to a Bronze Award.

4. The University is 107th out of 120 institutions in the People & Planet Green League, granting the University a Third Class Award.

5. Environmentally sustainable measures can result in considerable long-term financial benefits.

6. The University recycles 51.41% of its waste.

7. The Union uses suppliers who are sustainable and local, where possible.

**The Union believes:**

1. The Union should lead the way within the University on environmental sustainability, through raising awareness amongst the student body and setting a good example by ‘practicing what we preach’ within the Union.

2. That the Union and University must considerably improve its environmental sustainability by increasing recycling, improving energy efficiency and through raising student awareness by campaigning on and highlighting environmental issues.

3. The Union should strive for at least a Silver Green Impact Student Union Award, but do all it can to achieve a Gold Award.

4. The University should work to improve its standing in the People and Planet Green League.

5. Transition could be rolled out further if more money was allocated to the University, with the input of the Union.

6. Recycling and energy efficiency are easy steps for students to change their behaviour. Targeting student’s behaviour in Halls is a great way to shape behaviour and save money, leading to more environmental sustainability.

**The Union Resolves:**

1. To undertake an environmental audit every two years.

2. To strive for at least a Second Class Award in the People & Planet Green League.

3. To sign up to the Student Switch Off Campaign to help to change students behaviour and reduce energy consumption in Halls.

4. To lobby the University and Transition to apply for more funds to widen out green and environmental initiatives across the University.

5. To ensure that communal recycling facilities are available on campus for printer cartridges, mobile phones and batteries.

6. To introduce recycling facilities in The Union for plastic bottles, cartons, and cans.

7. To put up signs by all light switches and electronic equipment in offices and communal areas, encouraging people to switch them off overnight and when they are not in use.

8. That the Union, or an affiliated society, should organise a campaign event around the issue of climate change and environmental sustainability at least once a year.

9. To ensure all new and existing staff are informed of this policy, together with the implications that it has for their work.

10. That the Union’s Environmental and Sustainability policy should be reviewed once a year by the Executive Committee and, in conjunction with Union staff and the NUSSL Green Impact Student Union Workbook, to ensure improvements are made each year to our ethical and environmental performance.

11. The Union will comply with all environmental legislation.

12. The Union prevents the use of air travel for domestic use, except where permission is granted by the President. Permission will only be granted if there is an economic case or unavoidable time constraints.