



Sustainability Policy

Category: Governance
Last Modified: October 2016
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Approved By: Executive Committee
Contact Person: The President

Introduction:

The object of this policy is to provide clear direction for the University of Canterbury Students' Association's (**Association**) efforts to become environmentally, ethically and socially sustainable.

Policy Statement:

The Association is committed to being a good neighbour, is committed to the community and the environment. The Association will continue to strive to improve its social and environmental performance, with the objective of ensuring that its activities contribute to the sustainable development of the communities in which it operates.

The Association will continue to move towards adopting and embracing and implementing where reasonably appropriate, environmentally and socially sustainable practices across its operations.

The Association will aim to operate in a way that:

1. reduces its dependence on scarce metals and fossil fuels;
2. reduces its use of toxic and non-biodegradable substances;
3. helps maintain and restore natural processes and indigenous biodiversity;
4. cares for people, including future generations.

Ethical and Social Sustainability shall require the Association to provide for long term social, economic, and cultural goals whilst reducing outcomes that result in people being subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.

The Association has made a formal pledge to divest from fossil fuels and to officially endorse the University of Canterbury divesting.

Procedures:

Overview

Environmental and social sustainability should be considered (where possible) in all processes and practices within the Association's operation.

The Association will actively encourage environmental, ethical and social sustainability in the corporate activities of all the companies that it deals with.

Implementation

The Association is committed to ethical and socially sustainable practices including:

1. Supporting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Supplying ethical and sustainable products.
3. Supporting the minimum requirements for a Fair Trade University, as determined by Fairtrade Australia New Zealand.

Partnership with Staff, Students, Suppliers and the Executive

The Association will establish a widespread commitment on the part of all UCSA staff, students, suppliers and the Executive to reduce the quantity of waste produced by the organization.

The initial cost of being environmentally, ethically and socially sustainable must be recognized as part of a long-term strategy for cost efficiency.

Partnership with the University

The Association will endeavour to work in partnership with the University of Canterbury wherever possible to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable practices campus-wide. This will include providing representation on relevant University of Canterbury committees to promote environmental and social sustainability practices.

Sustainability Education

The Association will recognise its unique role as a leadership organisation for students and will promote environmental, ethical and social sustainability messages and student education in its communications and through its events.