

Policy name: Ecosia

Date Presented: 12/2/19

Lapse date: December 2023

Student Council notes:

Ecosia is a search engine which uses its profits generated by ad revenue to fund reforestation and conservationism projects worldwide, rather than giving that money to shareholders.

It is free to download and available for your desktop computer or laptop, and for mobile via iOS and Android apps.

Ecosia servers are powered by solar energy, which means users have zero carbon footprint when using the search engine. This is compared to 0.2 grams of CO₂ created by your average search.

By planting trees and offsetting its energy use with renewables, each search with Ecosia actually removes 1 kg of CO₂ from the air, which makes Ecosia a carbon-negative search engine.

Student Council believes:

We, the students, must make every effort to limit the effects of climate change. As we always do, our Union must be exemplars of sustainability by striving for a greener and more sustainable union and university.

Adopting Ecosia as the university's default search engine would contribute to Ulster University's wider sustainability efforts, by lowering our carbon footprint whilst helping to raise money for global reforestation and conservationism projects.

We would be following in the footsteps of University of Sussex Students' Union and Banger Students' Union, who have convinced their universities to make Ecosia their default search engine.

Student Council resolves:

- UUSU lobby the university to install Ecosia as the default search engine.
- Upon installation of Ecosia, UUSU raise awareness of this news through our *Go Green* campaign, while also linking appropriately to the national #EcosiaOnCampus campaign¹.

Name of Proposer: Student Executive

Name of Seconder: Mark Francos, B00720648

Date presented to Student Council: 11th February 2018

¹ <https://www.sussexstudent.com/campaigns/sussex-on-ecasia/>