

Policy name: Climate Emergency

Date Presented: 26/11/19

Lapse date: December 2021

Student Council notes:

Democratic bodies across the world, from governments to city councils, have declared a Climate Emergency with the main goal to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by world leaders in September 2015, sets out a roadmap for environmental and social sustainability to be achieved by 2030.

The goals call on all stakeholders in society to contribute to realisation of the sustainable development agenda¹.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries whether they are “poor, rich or middle income and used to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection”¹.

Student Council believes:

The impending climate catastrophe is one of the biggest challenges we face in our time, and a problem which must be taken seriously and addressed urgently.

Environmental sustainability, using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, must be a core strategic objective of UUSU.

The UN Sustainable Development agenda highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in their 17th goal, we must be a partner and champion of the goals. Many of the policies and our values are well reflected within the UN Sustainable Development agenda and the SDG’s. These provide an effective platform for students to take positive and practical action on the UN Sustainable Development agenda whilst at Ulster University.

There is significant scope for UUSU to be an ambassador of the SDG’s and to continue to lobby Ulster University to ensure ongoing commitment to improving sustainable practice through the linking of the SDG.

Student Council resolves:

Student Executive & Student Council publicly declare a Climate Emergency. In making this declaration we resolve:

- To become an ambassador of the UN “Sustainable Development Goals” and link our successes to the KPS¹ used in the SDG’s to measure improvement and success in these areas.*
- To provide a platform for students to engage with the UN Sustainable Development goals” through societies, campaigns, projects and events in order to create a lasting interest in environmental sustainability.*
- To work in partnership with the University to ensure the UN Sustainable Development Goals are embedded into the curriculum and that the University also adapts the UN Sustainable Development goals within any of their sustainability-related practices.*

- *To promote and increase awareness the UN Sustainable Development Goals through relevant UUSU campaigns & events (including but not limited to the annual NUS Global Goals Teach-In campaign.)*

Name of Proposer: Student Executive

Name of Seconder: Clare McCollum