

Environmental Improvement Plan York St John Students' Union

This document outlines the areas that we as a Union are working on to minimise the environmental impact made in the delivery of our services. It will be regularly updated so be sure to check the version date at the bottom of the document to ensure you are looking at the most up to date copy.

Date	Area of Improvement	Action to be taken	Progress
30/9/11	Recycling facilities	New method of recycling collection being rolled out university wide. One bin for landfill, one for all other recycling.	New bins to be in place by November 2011
		New system for glass recycling to be introduced in the Bar	New system in Bar to co-incide with new bins in November 2011
		Recycling messages to be circulated on TV screens within the building to encourage usage of the new bins	Messages have run in December. To be repeated in January 2010. Messages now a permanent feature in Commercial areas. (February 2010)
3/8/11		Freecycling volunteering scheme to be undertaken to reduce the waste produced by students leaving their residences	Project funding agreed (February 2010) Project runs (June/July 2010) – Report indicates that over 100 bags of goods were collected, the majority of which were returned to the community through freeshops, with the remaining bags given to local charities Project runs again (June/July 2011) – Report indicates lower take up than last year.
20/10/11			Collaboration with York University Students' Union being discussed to make project city-wide in Summer 2012
16/9/10			Additional plastics bins needed in the bar area as current facilities aren't the most efficient and are leading to a mix of rubbish – could incentives for plastics recycling also be introduced?

		Suggestion from staff to introduce clothes recycling	Specific recycling bin cannot be introduced due to space limitations. Event idea being explored by Ethics & Environmental Officer with Commercial Services Manager & Opportunities Co-ordinator (November 2010) Clothing swap shops introduced as part of Entertainments (What's On) guide in attempt to address this need (August 2011)
7/11/11		Improvements to recycling in University Halls	E&E officers on Union Council present policy for improvements to recycling bins in halls – passed by council and with sabbaticals to lobby university hierarchy (November 2011)
14/10/11	Transport usage	Check that we are being as efficient as possible with the transport we are using for Sports teams to ensure that we are creating the smallest possible impact	List sent through from the Sports and Societies Co-ordinator confirming this is the case. Held on file. Reviewed in September/October 2010. To review again October/November 2011. Reviewed October 2011 – to review again October/November 2012.
1/9/11	Food	Create a menu of locally sourced, organic food to provide potential alternative to the food we currently use in catering	Menu produced. Deemed to be too expensive to be put into mainstream usage, although some of the options may appear as specials in coming weeks (Complete 25.11.09) September 2011 - Catering service now contracted out to external provider – remove from next improvement plan (v6)
8/12/11		Improvements to food recycling within the Students' Union building	E&E officers presenting paper to December Union Council suggesting improvements within the building with regards to food waste (December 2011)
4/12/09	Electricity	Now that individual monitoring for buildings on campus is in place, work with University to draw up a plan for reducing electricity usage	Date set with University's Energy and Environmental Manager in February to establish the minimum necessary usage to act as benchmark (10.12.09) No further action currently (April 2010) Still no further action (November 2010)

			Work ongoing between Union and University on energy reduction "league table and game" for halls of residence (October 2011)
		Access to the University's online monitoring system gained so that we can continually check our energy usage	Waiting on username from Energy and Environmental Manager (16.12.09) Received in February 2010 System problems identified and being addressed (November 2010) Problems addressed January 2011
15/11/10		Sub-metering for individual areas to be included as part of the redevelopment of the building	Included in the specifications for the Café and the Office projects (November 2010) Office redevelopment project suspended (April 2011) Sub-metering included as part of Café redevelopment (Summer 2011)
4/12/09	Heating	Heating system within Union Offices is controlled by University and is not separated from other buildings within this part of campus. Discuss this issue with University Energy & Environmental Manager	Issue raised with Energy and Environmental Manager. We are being kept in the loop on any changes that can be made to the heating system. (4.12.09) Informed that individual boilers are being introduced across the university in 2011 (June 2010) Temperature of the heating dropped to 19C to eliminate the need for opening windows (October 2010) New boilers introduced to Union Building (September 2011) Continuous problems with new system being continuously addressed (December 2011)
5/5/10		Conservatory heating system is broken and inefficient it needs replacing	Quotes sourced (June 2010) New system installed (August 2010)
15/11/10		Review of heating system, plumbing and windows to be included in Office refurbishment project	Include Energy & Environmental Manager in the project planning group from December 2010 Completed as part of redevelopment project (Summer 2011)

16/12/09	Water	Move watercooler provision from PowWow to Aquaid to reduce environmental impact	Currently in process of investigation (16.12.09) Aquaid watercooler installed (Summer 2010)
28/4/10		Lack of dual flush toilets needs addressing to ensure efficient water usage. Similarly percussion taps would help make our water usage more efficient.	Dual flush toilets and percussion taps included in specification for summer toilet refurbishment (April 2010) Refurbishment work completed (September 2010)
4/8/11		Improvements to taps in toilets	New push tap and heat at point of use hot water system installed as part of summer development works (August 2011)
25/9/11	Procurement	Work with University Energy and Environment Manager to produce an updated Minimum Efficiency Specification List to act as a reference guide when we replace equipment or fittings	Ongoing advice being taken when purchasing specific pieces of equipment (April 2010) Formal update still to be completed (November 2010) Awaiting new guidance from university (September 2011)
25/2/11	Energy Saving	Running exercise at Staff Training Day to get ideas from all staff about areas where we could be saving energy within the building	List of ideas produced (January 2010) – many ideas already in place! Idea of energy efficient hand-dryers taken forward and included in Toilet refurbishment (April 2010) Hand-dryers installed (September 2010) Exercise carried out again at January 2011 staff meeting – ideas that could be taken forward were implemented (February 2011)
8/9/10	Lighting	It has been noticed that the lighting in the Shop redevelopment is not all energy efficient	All bulbs replaced with low energy variants as far as physically possible (September 2010)
15/11/10		Lighting specifications to be included in building redevelopment projects to make sure that it is energy efficient	Included in the specifications for the Café and the Office projects (November 2010) Included (Summer 2011)

16/9/10	Changing Student Behaviour	Running exercise at Staff Training Day to get ideas from all staff about areas we could address to improve student recycling rates in residences	List of ideas produced (September 2010) To be turned into an action plan by the Ethics & Environment Officer on Union Council (November 2010) – this never happened Changing student behaviour being influenced by new E&E officers through individual changes (such as Halls recycling and Food Waste policy) rather than active action plan in this area (December 2011)
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