

POLICY DOCUMENT

COMMITTEE: Union Council

SUBJECT: Disposable Packaging

PROPOSAL DATE: 07/11/2017

PROPOSER: Davey Silver

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS UNION NOTES:

1. 'Paper' coffee cups are lined with poly-ethane plastic, meaning for 99% of recycling facilities in the UK, they cannot be recycled.ⁱ
2. Half of the plastic used in the world today is for single use items, and the 7 million disposable hot drinks cups are not helping.
3. Thanks to several campaigns run during the 16/17 year by Emily Wilkes (2016-17 President), the Union is taking a much more active stance on issues concerning sustainability.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS UNION BELIEVES:

1. By changing small everyday behaviours, such as using less disposable products, we can help advocate the change needed to transition into a more sustainable future.
2. The implementation of a disposable cup reduction policy will show that the union is behind changing consumption behaviours that are unsustainable and environmentally destructive.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS UNION RESOLVES:

1. To run a marketing campaign on the lifecycle of disposable packaging such as coffee cups, and to push that at our Coffee Union outlet we offer discounts to those that re-use their paper coffee cups/bring their own.
2. To mandate both the President and the Welfare and Community Officer to discuss the issue with the University, and lobby where possible that they implement and commit to a similar catering outlet discount scheme for coffee cups.
3. To ask the University to explore the possibility of schemes which do properly recycle these disposable items.
4. To look at the viability of selling branded plastic re-usable containers, and lobby the University to do the same.

i <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-36882799>

ii http://www.ieep.eu/assets/2128/IEEP_ACES_Product_Fiche_Single_Use_Plastics_Final_October_2016.pdf