

**PROPOSER: LAITH JAAFAR** (SOCIAL SCIENCES AND ARTS COLLEGE OFFICER & DEPUTY PRESIDENT)

**SUBJECT:** A MOTION TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**APPROVAL DATE:**28/05/2021

**RENEWAL DATE:** 28/05/2024

**CONTACT:** SU President

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**SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION NOTES: *[A List of facts that are relevant to the policy itself]***

1. ‘Young people have a strong ability to drive change, and more than one-third of the SDG’s (Sustainable Development Goals) targets involve youth explicitly or implicitly.’ **[1]**
2. ‘Young people are often the group most affected by changes within their communities. However, they are rarely offered a seat at the table and, consequently, left out of the decision-making processes about their future. Given that young people are the guardians of the planet’s future, the WBA (World Bench Marking Alliance) believes it is imperative to listen closely to their concerns and take heed of what they have to say.’ **[2]**
3. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 established that ‘young people are a driving force for development – but only if they are provided with the skills and opportunities needed to reach their potential, support development, and contribute to peace and security’. **[3]**
4. The NUS encourages students to take action in ‘social justice and sustainability across their campuses, curriculums, and communities’ as ‘together, we are shaping education to create a fairer and more prosperous society for everyone.’ **[4]**

**SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION BELIEVES: *[A list of opinions, which you believe but are subjective]***

1. Students at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) who are passionate about sustainability should have an outlet to contribute to and encourage positive change throughout SHU and beyond.
2. Students should be given the outlet to hold Sheffield Hallam University accountable for its carbon footprint.
3. It is part of our duty as a Students’ Union to inspire students to speak up and get involved with issues that our student body are passionate about.

**SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION RESOLVES: *[A list of actions to take place to resolve the issues of the policy]***

1. To establish a Sustainability Committee at Sheffield Hallam Students’ Union and to ensure that a committee is promoted and elected every year.
2. To ensure that the President of the Students’ Union, the Sustainability Lead, or a delegated Officer, is to liaise with the Sustainability Committee on a regular basis to make sure its representation is upheld.
3. Proposed amendment to the by-laws to include a committee under the following structure:

**Sustainability Committee**  3.1 The Core membership of the Sustainability Committee shall be elected and must include the:

* President, Students’ Union (ex-officio)
* Chair of the Committee
* At least one additional position subject to approval from Students' Union Council

3.2 Elected Officers may be asked to attend meetings at the discretion of the Committee Chair. 3.3 Sustainability Committee is the autonomous bodies who will deliver events and campaigns related to sustainability. They will devise and implement policy on sustainability and deliver events and campaigns, as well as overseeing any budget given to the Committee by Students' Union Council. 3.4 The Sustainability Committee shall appoint one of its members as the Secretary of the Committee or it may, subject to approval from Students' Union Council, hold separate elections for this position. 3.5 The Sustainability Committee shall be entitled to support from, and request attendance from, relevant staff from within the Students' Union.

**[1]** <https://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org/news/young-people-and-the-sustainability-agenda-three-avenues-for-impact/>

**[2]** <https://wsimag.com/economy-and-politics/65516-sustainopreneurship-is-the-future>

**[3]** <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/09/why-young-people-are-key-to-achieving-the-sdgs/>

**[4]** <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/sustainability>