

Motion Title: Tackling Climate Change Framework

Proposer: Shad Islam (Ethics & Environmental Officer)

Second: Ellie Foulger (Disabled Students' Officer)

This Union notes:

1. There is a consensus within the scientific community that the greatest cause of climate change is human activity.
2. The UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2019 Emissions Gap Report states the world is on course for a 3.2°C rise in global temperature – significantly higher than the Paris Agreement's target of 1.5°C.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that keeping below the target of 1.5°C would require “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” – which includes Higher and Further Education.
4. Climate change is causing more extreme weather conditions/events around the world including forest fires, droughts, loss of land and habitats, extinction of species and famine.
5. Poorer nations which are equipped the least to deal with the effects of climate change could be the most severely affected regions in the world.

This Union believes:

1. The issue of climate change is an issue that affects and will continue to affect us all.
2. Responding to climate change is one of the biggest challenges humans will face and everyone including the university must contribute to tackling the issue.
3. Educational institutions have an obligation to act and contribute to the combating of climate change and its symptoms.
4. The University and Union should act now in order to align themselves to the work of the National Union of Students (NUS), University and College Union (UCU) and Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) and their Green New Deal (GND).

This Union Resolves:

1. For the Union and University to formally acknowledge the Climate Crisis by declaring a climate emergency by the end of the academic year and publish their year-to-year blueprints to meet carbon neutrality.

2. The Union should publish an action plan covering the next 3 years documenting how it will implement environmental and energy policies and practices.
3. The SU should begin student consultation in the academic year 2020/21 for a "Climate Proof Curriculum Project". This work should follow the framework and structure of the De-Colonisation and Black Awarding Gap work done nationwide.
4. The Union will commit to full divestment in fossil fuels, including any banking with companies that invest in fossil fuels. The Union should also begin a Divestment Campaign in which to apply pressure on the university to ensure they also only make ethical investments.
5. The Union should implement a no-flights policy for work journeys within England, Scotland and Wales.
6. To publish all policies relating to food, travel, land usage and carbon and energy management used by the Union either directly or through their partnership with the University.
7. The Union will engage in the NUS GND and provide termly updates on how it has supported this work. Additionally, The Union will table a motion once the GND is published to adopt its findings and plans.