

Environmental Policy Workshop – Briefing

Workshop to create the University's new environmental policy

- ❖ What is your vision of a sustainable Cambridge?
- ❖ Do you want to help create the platform for future environmental change in Cambridge?
- ❖ Do you want the University to aim for higher carbon reduction targets, improve local biodiversity or divest from investing in fossil fuel companies?
- ❖ Do you want to see stronger more ambitious commitments in other areas of sustainability and the environment?

The time has come to collate your society's opinions and thoughts about what the NEW Cambridge University Environmental Policy should look like. We invite all Cambridge student environmental societies to help us create a 'Cambridge Student's Environmental Policy'. We think it would be really powerful to submit a joint 'submission of evidence' from all the environmental societies.

Energise Cambridge and CUSU Ethical Affairs will be facilitating a workshop to collate your ideas and draft the policy that we want to see.

Thursday 5th December 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Riley Auditorium, Gillespie Centre, Memorial Court, Clare College

Background and Context

The University is revising their current Environmental Policy and are asking the students for their input. Energise Cambridge and CUSU Ethical Affairs are the student representatives on the Environmental Policy Revision Committee of the University. See here for the current policy: <http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/policy-overview>.

University administration and Estate Management, Academic schools, Departmental Environment and Energy Coordinators and local MP are being consulted about this – but we are also on this list!

We want to tell the University that students expect them to excel and exceed expectations on environmental issues as they do on some many other aspects.

The policy will cover these areas:

- Areas of activity where the University has direct control. For example: carbon emissions; energy consumption; water consumption; business travel; waste management; biodiversity and grounds management; construction and refurbishment; legal compliance; and minimising pollution.
- Areas of activity where the University has limited control but some influence. For example: equality and diversity; commuting by staff and students; sustainable and ethical procurement; relationship with the Colleges; socially responsible investment; and the activities of tenants in property leased from the University.
- Areas of activity where the work of the University has widespread impacts on the activities of others. For example, teaching; research; knowledge exchange; the influence of our intellectual property; and community engagement.

Before the workshop on the 5th December,

- Please discuss the policy with your societies and develop draft targets for two topics that you want included in the policy. Make them specific, measurable, ambitious yet realistic and time bound.
- Select the top five priorities that you want the university to focus on.
- Select a representative to attend the workshop to voice your ideas.

During the workshop we will discuss and draft the:

- Statement of intent (with some background context on how it fits into University's vision and strategy).
- Guiding principles (what the policy should be based on and how it should be formed)
- Specific targets for each topic (Think **short term** and **long term**)
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Waste
 - Biodiversity
 - Ethical Investment
 - Procurement
 - Transport
 - Building/Construction
 - Food
 - Teaching and Learning

After the workshop we will circulate the draft policy and ask for comments and approval from all societies that want to be involved.

Key questions:

- Which key areas and activities should be covered by the University's new policy? For example, energy, water, waste, biodiversity etc.
- What should be the key objectives and targets and how should these be defined?
- What would be appropriate management and governance arrangements?
- How should the policy be disseminated to stakeholders and implemented?
- What incentives and mechanisms should be in place to improve uptake of the policy?

Current timeline for the Review Committee

Time	Task
13th-26th November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation on background research on Environmental Policies in other Universities and organisations.- Agree purpose and outline timetable for the Review.- Agree questions for call for evidence- Identify stakeholders to be invited to give verbal evidence.
Early January	Call for evidence about specific questions
15/16 January 2014	Review Committee meets to hear verbal evidence
Late January	Deadline for written evidence