

Sustainability Policy of the Linnaeus Union

Background

The issue of environmental degradation and climate change is one of the greatest threats in the world. Thus, the Linnaeus Union should have its own policy, that is implemented, revised and updated if needed. This policy aims to clarify the principles and goals of the Linnaeus Union regarding the environment and social responsibility. It is important that this policy is communicated within, and is available to, everyone who is working or who is active within the organisation and its associations.

The vision of the sustainability policy promotes activities that are aimed at reducing environmental and negative social impact of all sectors of the Linnaeus Union's operations. The goal is to promote progressive environmental friendliness and social action throughout the university and to promote individual actions among students as well.

The purpose of the Linnaeus Union sustainability policy is to determine that the operation of the Linnaeus Union functions in a way that tries to limit its negative environmental and negative social impact. Universities and Linnaeus Unions should always try to work for a better tomorrow. The policy is divided in two: sustainable sourcing and raising awareness.

Sustainable sourcing

In all its activities, Linnaeus Union should strive for sustainable consumption. This means consumption which minimizes the use of resources, and whenever possible, they should come from sustainable sources. The Linnaeus Union should critically discuss the climate effects and social effects of new procurements and actions taken, if there is an environmental or social concern.

- Water, paper and energy consumption should be at a sustainable level. Documents needed for meetings should be available in an electronic form and only in paper form if a member asks for it or if it is necessary for other reasons. Usage of plastic should be minimised, and plastic should always be recycled properly if possible.
- All purchases should be made bearing in mind sustainability - prevention, reducing, recycling and reusing of products. The longevity and quality, social impact, price and environmental friendliness should be discussed when making new purchases.
- Linnaeus Union should always work towards being sustainable in terms of food. That means that any eventual meat-consumption is opt-in rather than opt-out, we always choose restaurants that have good vegan options and that all events include vegan options. Whenever possible, food purchases should favour food that is produced locally and/or fair trade.
- Linnaeus Union should always use the greenest possible energy available that is within the budget. Should the Linnaeus Union invest money, the investments must be consistent with the objectives of this policy.

- Waste should be recycled and sorted properly, and single-use and disposable goods should be used as little as possible.
- Linnaeus Union should always try to opt for the least polluting option when it comes to travelling - domestic trips should not be made by flying.

Raising awareness

In its activities, Linnaeus Union should strive for raising awareness of environmental and social issues in different sectors.

- The Linnaeus Union board is responsible for implementing the sustainability policy.
- All Linnaeus Union associations should be made aware of the policy, and they should be able to seek help and support in implementing it from the Linnaeus Union board. Associations are encouraged to be as environmentally and socially friendly as possible and are encouraged to promote environmental and social awareness among their members as well.
- Linnaeus Union should take political stances towards the university, the city and the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS) if they take decisions or promote decisions that are not in line with environmental and social friendliness, and whenever there is a chance and a capacity, the Linnaeus Union should also cooperate with different sectors to promote environmental and social friendliness. Linnaeus Union should encourage and support different sectors striving for more environmentally and social friendliness.
- Linnaeus Union should promote environmental and social friendliness among students as well as, whenever possible, support the students in making more environmentally and socially friendly decisions.