

Undeb Bangor Sustainable Procurement Policy

Definition:

Sustainable procurement is about integrating sustainability principles into procurement of items purchased by the union by considering the **environmental**, **ethical** and **social** factors whilst still obtaining good value for money.

Aim:

Undeb Bangor is committed to sustainability and the adoption of a sustainable procurement policy will encourage staff and students to embrace sustainability principals that will lead to positive social and environmental impacts – making the SU an organisation that promotes best practice through all of its actions and to our students.

Processes:

The policy will offer support and advice to help staff members and students understand how to purchase ethical products to aid Undeb Bangor's sustainability impact. When purchasing products, staff and students will be encouraged to consider various other substitutes and to assess their environmental and social impact and not only price before judging best value for money, preferentially purchasing products with the least negative / most positive impact.

When purchasing products, staff and students are encouraged to consider these points before confirming the purchase:

With any purchase or if providing 'Freebies' or 'Giveaways' to members, have a real think about the resource implications of any products you're ordering. How and where are the materials sourced that they are made from; what labour, manufacturing and ethical issues might be associated with them; how useful are the items to members?

1. Is the purchase truly necessary?
2. Is it possible to buy a product that could be reused to reduce future purchasing?
3. Does the product have any clearly stated environmentally friendly qualities?
e.g. 100% recycled, FSC certified, 100% recyclable, locally produced.
4. Have you considered a more sustainable product?
5. To reduce delivery costs: Will you need to purchase the item again within 28 days? Consider buying a larger quantity if not.
6. Can the product be easily repaired or upgraded if necessary, in future to ensure that it has a long lifecycle?
7. Before finalising purchase, check with other relevant members of staff that they won't need to purchase anything from the same supplier within a short space of time.
8. Does the company have accreditation to groups such as the Living Wage Foundation, the Fairtrade Foundation or Electronics Watch?

Events Procurement

For events such as Serendipity, Varsity, Awards Dinners etc. there are often large quantities of single-use items bought by Undeb Bangor as well as our students. Undeb Bangor recommends that single-use items are avoided wherever possible and if required, the following points are considered.

1. Are the items recyclable? Be aware of Gwynedd recycling guidelines.

2. Compostable items cannot be recycled in Bangor, they aren't accepted in food bins and are often worse than plastic as they can't be recycled and will not degrade in the environment.
3. Do you need the single use items? It's a common thought that students just want free things, but they want useful free things.