

## Environmental and Community Rep

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### Union Notes:

1. Sustainability is a large part of the Students' Union three year strategic plan.
2. The policy for "An Environmental Students' Union" for 2013 went through previously but lapses in this February.
3. Our Students' Union and University participate in the NUS directive: Green Impact.
4. At the last Union Council more Portfolio Representative's were introduced including; Women's Rep and LGBT Rep to go alongside the Communications Rep and the Welfare Campaign Rep.
5. National research by the HEA (Higher Education Academy) and the NUS (National Union of Students) identified that over 75% of first, second and third years see universities as key players in the delivery of sustainability skills<sup>1</sup>.

### Union Believes:

1. When the previous policies expire the University still needs an active role on Sustainability and Community.
2. With the rise of student environmental societies such as; Roots and Shoots, Wildlife society, Vegan society and Greenpeace, it demonstrates a need for environmental representation within the Students' Union.
3. The introduction of the Environmental and Community Rep can contribute to the University achieving a Gold Green Impact award which we have not been to attained yet and add a student focus to Green Impact engagement within our Students' Union.
4. The University need a focus on increased health and wellbeing amongst students and staff through activities and enhancing access to healthy food.
5. The role will help to educate and engage students in the skills, knowledge and experience with sustainability.
6. It will allow the Students' Union to develop partnerships to ensure wider community benefit through supporting local charities and projects. This will increase our reputation in the community and provide more opportunities for our students to develop skills, networks and a sense of belonging on and around campus.
7. Enhance biodiversity and embed sustainability into the core of the University will reduce the University's environmental impact.

### Union Resolves:

1. The Students' Union should create an Environmental and Community Portfolio Rep position.
2. This position would be introduced from the Rep Elections for the next academic year (2014).
3. This position should have appropriate support from both staff and Officers within the Students' Union and links with our University departments.

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<sup>1</sup> Student attitudes towards and skills for sustainable development, NUS and HEA, 2012.