

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approval Date:	March 2022	Approval Authority:	LUSA Executive
Review Date:	March 2024	Contact Officer:	LUSA President

Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to state the commitment of the Lincoln University Students' Association (LUSA) to promote and operate in an environmentally sustainable way in both the short and long term. This commitment is linked to Lincoln University's strategic direction, which is to be implemented by the university community as a whole.

Outcomes

2. This policy seeks to:
 - Position LUSA as a role model for sustainability to the other students' associations and businesses in New Zealand.
 - Encourage LUSA to run events that minimise negative environmental and social impacts.
 - Reduce the environmental footprint of LUSA office operations.
 - Enable LUSA to look to operate as a zero-waste organisation by 2030.
 - Enable LUSA to operate effectively, ensuring it is here for the long haul.
 - Ensure LUSA is actively involved with Lincoln University to achieve its goals as outlined in the Lincoln University Action Plan

Principles

3. LUSA commits to making sustainability and environmental protection central to all its events, practices and programmes.
4. LUSA recognises that Ngāti Te Ruahikihiki, as the *mana whenua* of the Lincoln area, who have an important natural role to play in its sustainability as well as the significance of supporting and understanding of Māori environmental rights, lore and values.

Policy objectives:

LUSA will incorporate measures to reduce the environmental impact of events, particularly larger events such as Garden Party. The focus will be on reducing food wastage, implementing rubbish collection systems, utilising biodegradable packaging, reducing paper usage, providing free transportation where appropriate and sourcing locally produced food where financially applicable

To continuously improve the sustainability of our day-to-day operations the following principles shall apply wherever possible:

- 5.1 Minimisation of electricity consumption:
 - Electrical appliances and equipment shall be turned off at the wall when not in use.
 - Energy efficient appliances and equipment shall be considered in purchase decisions.
- 5.2 Paper usage:
 - Attempts will be made to keep printing to a minimum.
 - Written communication will be primarily electronic.

5.3 Waste disposal:

- Items will aim to be reused or recycled as a preference over disposal.
- Where items are discarded, care will be taken to ensure that they are placed in the correct bin.
- Look to maximise composting and use of organic waste.

5.4 Procurement and purchasing:

- LUSA will seek to purchase materials, products, and services that are produced in a sustainable way, including environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and social equity. In the event where an affordable option to procure from sustainable and ethical supply chain, LUSA should pursue as the preferred option.
- LUSA merchandise will aim to utilise sustainable and recyclable packaging.
- A quality over quantity approach should be taken in merchandise procurement decisions.

5.5 Regarding the wider student body:

- Students will be assisted and encouraged to live more sustainably through the promotion of environmental initiatives and events organised by the association itself, affiliated clubs, the university, the SAGE group, or community groups.
- LUSA will promote the use of sustainable transport options by students travelling to the University, with a particular focus on increasing the use of carpooling, public transportation, cycling and walking.
- LUSA will encourage a positive environmental ethic by Lincoln University and hold Lincoln University accountable to its environmental impacts.

Implementation

6. LUSA will:

- Be actively involved in the implementation of the Lincoln University Sustainability Action Plan. This will involve advocating for sustainability both as a member of the Lincoln University Sustainability Action Group and elsewhere within the university.
- Ensure the Strategic Sustainability Plan is underpinned by clear goals and long-term and short-term targets with indicators for achieving these, which will be reviewed annually.
- Publish appropriate sustainability metrics in the LUSA annual report.

Responsibilities

7. The President, Executive and employees will:

- Uphold the principles of this policy wherever practical.

The General Manager will:

- Ensure the principles are upheld in the running and organisations of events, and place reminder signs around LUSA to encourage sustainable practices to be followed.

Review

8. This policy should be reviewed biennially by the LUSA Executive.