
Approval Date:	March 2022	Approval Authority:	LUSA Executive
Review Date:	May 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 of New Zealand.
 - Ensure all LUSA-run events minimise negative environmental and social impacts.
 - Commit to the reduction of LUSA's environmental footprint within office operations.
 - Enable LUSA to become a zero-waste organisation by 2030.

Principles

3. LUSA commits to making sustainability and environmental protection central to all its events, practices and programmes.
4. LUSA recognises 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 O'Week, Re:O'Week, Winterball, and Garden Party. Sustainability Plans for each of the major events will be produced which will address specific areas such as waste minimisation, rubbish sorting plan, utilisation of biodegradable packaging for food service, and sustainable methods of transportation (if applicable) where appropriate.

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:
 - LUSA will keep printing to a minimum.
 - Written communication will be primarily electronic.
- 5.3 Waste reduction and disposal:
 - LUSA will take all reasonable steps possible to minimise waste by first investigating if/how any items can be reused or recycled
 - Where items are discarded, care will be taken to ensure that they are placed in the correct bin.

Where possible, any organic waste will be deposited into an organic waste bin or composted

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.

LUSA's stance on Lincoln University's Environmental policies will be to support environmentally supportive initiatives unless the proposed initiatives contradict student interest. Additionally, LUSA will support Encouragement-based approaches before punishment-based approaches.

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 for the Environment 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, Ops report, and President Report.
- Informal reporting will also be done by the Sustainability Representative at the end of each term and after large events (Garden Party, WinterBall, and O'Week) to the exec during a weekly meeting.

Responsibilities

7. The President, Executive and employees will:

- Uphold the principles of this policy wherever practical.
- Uphold that reporting is effective and acted upon.

The President will:

- Ensure that the Executive does not act in contradiction to the objectives of this policy

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.
- Ensure that the employees does not act in contradiction to the objectives of this policy

Review

8. This policy should be reviewed annually by the LUSA Executive in conjunction with the Ops, President, and annual reports' sustainability sections.