



Making your Club more Sustainable – Guidance for Committees

Sustainability is an important part of The Union's activity, including the fantastic work of our student-led groups. From reducing the amount of paper or single-use plastics you use to volunteering in the local community, there are many ways you as a committee member can make the world a better place by making your club more sustainable in line with some of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This document contains some ideas and examples for how to make your club even more environmentally friendly and socially responsible!

Transport

Something to think about is how your members travel to and from where they need to go for club activity such as training, fixtures and socials. Apart from away fixtures where transport is booked through MMU Sport, you could reduce carbon emissions **and** save your members money by encouraging them to use sustainable forms of travel:

- If you have little to no kit with you and it's not far to travel, consider walking or cycling places. It's great exercise and the most sustainable way to get around.
- If you've got further to go or are burdened with heavy or bulky kit and equipment, public transport might be a more appropriate form of travel. And for students, it's affordable too. You can buy Stagecoach and First student bus passes from The Union Finance office.
- Avoid driving or getting a taxi just for yourself. It's bad for the environment *and* your bank account. You can resolve this by carpooling or sharing taxis. Not only will it be cheaper per person, but filling a four-seater taxi rather than getting one each cuts your carbon emission by 75%.
- Is your club going on tour abroad? While flying is faster, aeroplane travel is one of the worst contributors to climate change. The Union strongly advises that if your club is travelling abroad, you should choose a combination of coach and ferry instead of flying. Not only will it hurt the environment significantly less but it can also work out far cheaper for your members. Also, many hours on a coach with all your teammates? Who doesn't

Flyering & Promotion

Question: Does anyone enjoy handing out flyers? More important question: Does anyone enjoy *being* flyered? When it comes to promotion of your club or events, it's easy to simply default to printing out hundreds of flyers, thinking that's a good way to get your message across. However, unless your club has solid evidence that flyers have led to an increase in memberships or attendance to an event, you may be throwing away cash and wasting paper with miniscule to zero benefit. Most flyers end up never handed out because of over ordering or in the bin without being read. There are so many more effective, environmentally friendly ways to promote your club:

- Instead of spending cash on printing, spend time developing your social media platforms. One of the first things people interested in a club or event do nowadays is search to see if they have a Facebook page or event. Not to mention you can sponsor posts to reach people not actively searching for you.
- If you are looking to promote a specific event, there's scope to get some airtime on the digital screens around The Union. Get in touch with s.u.marketing@mmu.ac.uk to find out more.
- Face-to-face interaction is the best way to engage others in meaningful conversations and get people's attention. Also, it's free!

Volunteering in the Local Community

Volunteering is defined as an activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or individuals or groups. People volunteer for many different reasons. They may choose to volunteer to develop skills or gain experience, to socialise or to give something back to society. They may also volunteer because they feel a moral duty or compelling reasons to take part in voluntary action or support a particular cause. Volunteering is a fantastic opportunity for clubs to get involved with. Volunteering is also a great activity to mention on your CV. For more information, contact volunteering@mmu.ac.uk. You could collaborate with an external organization on a volunteering project or with a charity, volunteer in a school, deliver coaching to a youth club, hold a collection appeal for a foodbank, hold a shoebox appeal for children near Christmas, or run a session where you share your skills with the community.

Remember to keep us up to date with all of the great volunteering your team is doing! You can keep track of your volunteering on the Sports Volunteering website by signing up to your committee position here [<https://mmusv.com>] and logging your hours throughout the year. You can also can

earn rewards for the hours that you have logged through our Reward and Recognition Scheme, just get in touch at volunteering@mmu.ac.uk for more information.



Develop Your Skills With Sport Volunteering

Earn rewards as you log your volunteering hours

Hours	Level	Rewards
5	START UP	Access to the MMU Sport development programme and opportunities.
25	BRONZE	MMU Sport volunteering t-shirt.
50	SILVER	LinkedIn skill endorsement x 3
100	GOLD	Access to £100 training & development bursary, LinkedIn & CV endorsement.
200	PLATINUM	Personalised MMU Sport volunteering hoodie.

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Facebook: [MMUSportVol](https://www.facebook.com/MMUSportVol) | Twitter: [@mmusportvol](https://twitter.com/mmusportvol)

Reducing waste

Depending on the nature of your club, your events, activities or socials might involve using certain props, decorations, items of clothing, food, costumes etc. If this is the case, be conscious about how much you are buying in the first place and try to find a home for anything you don't need any more that isn't the bin. Some ideas for how to reduce waste such as this:

- Donate items of clothing or costumes to a local charity shop, Swap It! event or a reuse scheme such as the British Heart Foundation's donation bins (found in The Union foyer).
- Ask other clubs if they could make use of anything you don't need anymore.

- Rewind to when you're buying stuff in the first place. Ask yourself; do you *really* need this? How much will it actually add to the event or activity? Do you already own something that would do the job? Could you borrow something from someone else?
- Try to avoid single-use plastics as much as possible. Take balloons for example. They look nice for all of a couple of hours and then go in the bin. Consider making decorations out of upcycled materials or something recyclable such as paper. Even better, something reusable like a painted canvas or banner?
- Do you have a committee member with a particularly large cellar? They could offer to store things there. This is especially useful for things you might use again for a future or recurring event; you won't have to buy it again, saving you money and reducing your environmental impact. *Just remember to find a new home for it before the end of the housing contract.*
- Remember you can safely store things in the Opportunities Store Room on Floor 1. Just head into Opportunities Office and ask for the keys.

Example of good practice: DON8 IT!



In 2021, student led project, DON8 IT! Revolved around students donating kitchen items during the end of their residency in halls. They dropped off their items at The Union collection point, which were then given away to new students during a Free Shop during Welcome Week. This was a great way to recycle unwanted kitchen and to provide free items to underprivileged students.

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social media. This was a great way to give back to the community while reducing waste at the same time!

General Advice/Ideas

- Nominate one or more of your committee members to be a sustainability champion, add sustainability into the responsibilities of one an existing committee position or even create a new sustainability committee role! Any of these three would help to ensure someone takes ownership of making sure your club is as environmentally friendly as possible.
- If you do something green or that gives back to the local community, don't keep it a secret –shout about it! Get in touch with other clubs and societies, tell the Opportunities team or your Sports Officer who can share your success or, most importantly, inform your members! This way, your great work can inspire others to do the same or give someone a great idea on how they can improve their club.

Key Contacts

- Sports Officer – s.u.sportsofficer@mmu.ac.uk
- Opportunities Team – s.u.societies@mmu.ac.uk
- Volunteering Team - volunteering@mmu.ac.uk
- Project Coordinator – makechange@mmu.ac.uk

Information

- Sustainability at The Union – <https://www.theunionmmu.org/sustainability>
- UN's Sustainable Development Goals – <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>