

Student Sustainability Alliance (SSA)

Context

Exeter's students have long been champions for sustainability and climate issues – officer/staff-led project, specialist student groups, and collectives.

The last couple of years have seen a renewal of interest from institutions and unprecedented grass-roots activism (especially from younger people).

To maintain and grow this momentum, as well as consolidate our influence for the greatest impact potential, we need to reimagine how we, as a campus community, work together to bring about lasting positive change for the sake of the planet and natural environment.

Purpose of SSA

Collaboration: The SSA will be the primary group for cross-campus collaboration on issues to do with sustainability, climate, and conservation.

Coordination: It will facilitate student-led coordination and networking between the relevant student groups of the Guild, AU clubs, student reps, and other interested students.

Consultation: As part of the Guild, will be a point of contact and consultation for the University on sustainability issues.

Terms of Reference

Through its collaboration, coordination, and consultation, the SSA will seek to do the following:

1. Take account of widely-accepted targets such as the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) and agreements made at [COP](#).
2. Hold the University and campus partners to account on pledges already made (e.g. the University's climate [white paper](#) and [policy statement](#)).
3. Lobby the University and campus partners for more ambitious goals and actions where needed.
4. Work collaboratively, wherever possible, with the University as the primary stakeholder on campus. Including meeting at least termly with the University's Environment and Climate Emergency Team.
5. Support, encourage, and challenge students, student communities, and student groups to set and meet sustainability targets.
6. Will celebrate achievements, improvements, and positive action in the campus community.
7. Upskill, develop, and encourage student leaders and activists.

Goals

Through the above, the SSA seeks to achieve the following:

1. The University at least meets (but ideally exceeds) its sustainability and climate targets.
2. Most organised student groups on campus to have met targets / benchmarks / received relevant accreditation for operating sustainably.
3. [etc.]

Organisation

Membership

The SSA is a partnership between interested groups of students. It is open to:

- The Guild's student groups whose aims and objectives are to do with sustainability.
- The Guild's student groups who have received the 'Sustainability Badge.'
- AU clubs with a stated intention to be sustainable and/or track record of improving sustainability within the club.
- Other groups of students (rep groups, college teams, project teams) whose purpose is to do with sustainability.
- Individual students who want to make positive change for improving sustainability.
- Guild officers.

As such, the SSA will comprise of students representing organised or semi-organised groups of students as well as individuals.

Chair

The SSA will be chaired by xxx.

The Chair will be responsible for

- Scheduling meetings (monthly in term-time).
- Setting the agenda for meetings based of submissions from the members.
- Chairing the meetings of the SSA.
- Being the lead point of contact for the SSA.

Project Leaders

All members of the SSA can become a Project Leaders. Project Leaders take a more active, ongoing role within the SSA on consultation, project development and delivery, and SSA management.

Meetings

The SSA will meet formally once a month during term-time. Additional meetings can be called.

Meetings of the SSA will be timed to allow them to feed into upcoming University meetings.

All members of the SSA can attend and contribute.

Additional project or working groups can be set up and meet more regularly if required.