

Su3a ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & GUIDELINES 2023-2025

Background

In the summer of 2022 SU3A members were surveyed to gather information about what they thought should be included if SU3A decided to develop and implement an environmental policy. This followed concerns expressed by some members about how environmental issues could be addressed within SU3A.

In January 2023 SU3A Executive Committee asked the Research and Shared Learning Group together with the Co-ordinators of the Sustainability Group and The Environment Group to develop a draft environmental policy informed by the findings of the survey. Members of all three groups were asked for comments on the initial version of the draft policy.

Policy Statement and Aims of the Policy & Guidelines

SU3A is committed to reducing the environmental impact of group activities and to mitigating the effects of climate change. This policy has been drawn up to introduce environmental guidelines for member groups. Monitoring the extent to which the aims of the policy are being achieved is recognised as important to understand the extent to which the policy is being adopted.

The policy aims to encourage dialogue within SU3A about environmental issues, The ultimate aim will be to minimise the environmental impact of SU3A Group activities. Providing information to co-ordinators on how groups might reduce their environmental impact will be a key aim of the policy, as will communicating the policy to the membership.

The policy introduces small changes approved by the membership. It does not include some of the more ambitious items which were included in the consultation.

Objectives of the policy

- To appoint an SU3A member to encourage uptake of the policy objectives and to monitor environmental issues arising within SU3
- To ensure that Showroom Lectures for membership include some environmental topics.
- To encourage holding meetings in venues easily accessible by public transport, cycle or on foot, and by people with disabilities.
- To encourage car sharing where using a car is necessary.
- To support locally owned meeting venues, shops and products.
- To promote the adoption of these objectives by monitoring the extent to which the targets of the Action Plan are achieved.

Implementation

An Action Plan will be developed to enable SU3A to monitor the extent to which the objectives of the policy are being realised and to evaluate its impact.

Objective	What we will do	Steps to achieve this	Review Date
Monitor implementation of the guidelines	Adviser	Ad in Links and E News asking for expressions of interest	June 2024
Environmental issues are included as a topic in the monthly lectures		Liaise with lecture committee	May 2024
Group meetings are held in accessible meeting places	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and monitor	Monitor increase in number of group meetings held in accessible venues	Group Coordinators meeting 2024
Where cars are necessary to reach venues car sharing is boosted	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and monitor	Co-ordinators monitor increase in car sharing	Group Coordinators Meeting 2024
Support local venues, shops and products	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting	Co-ordinators focus on using local resources where possible	Group Coordinators Meeting 2024