

SU3A ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & GUIDELINES 2025

Background

In the summer of 2022 SU3A members were surveyed to gather views on what should be included in 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.

In January 2025, following further consultation with the above groups, the policy was revised, to incorporate a greater element of monitoring. The revised policy also takes account of the national U3A sample policy.

Thanks are due to Veronica Wigley and the late Jo Coudry for their work on the original policy.

Policy Statement and Aims of the Policy & Guidelines

SU3A is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities and to mitigating the effects of climate change. We believe that we have an obligation to look after this world for the sake of future generations.

This policy has been drawn up to maintain environmental guidelines for the SU3A and its member groups. Monitoring the extent to which the aims of the policy are being achieved is recognised as essential.

The policy aims to encourage dialogue within SU3A about environmental issues. The ultimate aim will be to minimise the environmental impact of all SU3A activities. Providing information to officers and co-ordinators on the potential reduction of their environmental impact will be a key aim of the policy, as will communicating the policy to the membership.

Objectives of the policy

- 🕒 1. To appoint a SU3A member to encourage uptake of the policy objectives and to monitor environmental issues arising within SU3.
- 🕒 2. To ensure that Showroom Lectures for membership include some environmental topics.
3. To use the platforms of Facebook and Links, and meetings to promote good practice.
- 🕒 4. To encourage holding meetings and outdoor activities in locations easily accessible by public transport, cycle or on foot, and by people with disabilities.
- 🕒 5. To encourage the use of car sharing (*see below) where using a car is necessary.
- 🕒 6. To support locally owned meeting venues, shops and products.

- ⌚ 7. To encourage a culture of awareness and a sense of responsibility within the membership with respect to sustainability and environmental issues
- ⌚ 8. To provide information to members on how they might reduce their adverse impact on the environment
- ⌚ 9. To minimise the environmental impact of organised u3a activities
- ⌚ 10. To promote the adoption of these objectives by monitoring the extent to which the targets of the Action Plan are achieved.

* most car insurance policies allow for this if not for profit, but you are advised to check

Implementation

An Action Plan is attached, enabling SU3A to monitor the extent to which the objectives of the policy are being realised and to evaluate its impact.

January 2025

SU3A Environmental Policy Action Plan 2025

Objective	Action	Steps to achieve this	People Responsible	Review Date
Enable monitoring of implementation of the guidelines	Appoint a committee member with this responsibility (EO)	Discuss at Committee	SU3A Committee	June 2025
Environmental issues are included as a topic in the monthly lectures		Liaise with Lecture organisers	EO	Dec 2025
Group meetings and outdoor activities are held where possible in accessible locations	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and via Links and monitor	Monitor increase in number of group meetings held in accessible venues	EO and Coordinators	Dec 2025
Where cars are necessary to reach venues car sharing (check insurance) is boosted	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and via Links and monitor	Monitor and encourage instances of car sharing	EO and coordinators	Dec 2025
Support local venues, shops and products	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and via Links	Co-ordinators focus on using local resources where possible	Coordinators	Dec 2025
To encourage a culture of awareness and a sense of responsibility within the membership with respect to sustainability and the environment	Disseminate information about this at the co-ordinators meeting and via Links	Present issues as a positive message at meetings	EO	Dec 2025
To minimise the environmental impact of centrally organised U3A activities	Raise awareness of environmentally friendly ways to organise activities	Liaise with organisers of travel activities, catering for events and anniversary events	The organisers of these events. EO	Dec 2025
To provide information to members on how they might reduce their adverse	Remind members to consider environmentally friendly options in their activities	Meetings. Consider article in Links	EO	Dec 2025

impact on the environment				
To share good practice and encourage a sense of progress in addressing the above issues	Use available platforms to share positive progress and ideas	Regular features on Facebook Regular items in Links Use of group and home pages to show responses to the policy Emails to Group Coordinators to ask for examples of good practice	Committee members EO Publicity Officer Links editor EO	Dec 2025

January 2025