

## **Single-Use Plastic Giveaway Policy**

**Board approved; Nov 2020**

**Next Board Review; Nov 2022**

### **1. Policy statement**

1.1 Leeds Trinity Students' Union is committed to embedding sustainability throughout our activities as we strive to be a best practice organisation that integrates ethical practices into our everyday work. This policy outlines our position on giving away single-use plastic items ("freebies") to our members, most typically at Freshers' events. Leeds Trinity SU will not give away any items that are made from single-use plastic.

1.2 The organisation is committed to ensuring that students feel confident that their Students' Union are doing all that they can to combat unnecessary waste, and particularly single-use plastics. Students have made clear that they do not want single-use plastic items on campus, so it is the Union's responsibility to provide sufficient response to this.

1.3 This policy applies to all "freebies" and giveaway items handed out by the Students' Union including those who represent the Union such as club and society members.

### **2. Scope**

2.1 In response to motion "033 – SU to ban single-use plastics" (Appendix A) as passed by Student Council, this policy mandates the Students' Union to:

- 2.1.1 Ban single-use plastic giveaways and "freebies" being distributed by the Union and any of its members (when they are representing Leeds Trinity SU).
- 2.1.2 Implement a formal process of reviewing and monitoring to consider which items are given away to students, to further reduce waste.
- 2.1.3 Move towards more "Sustainable" giveaway items whilst considering the waste produced by these items in line with the reviewing and monitoring process.
- 2.1.4 Work with the Union's commercial partners to encourage alternatives to single-use plastic giveaways at events such as Freshers' Fair.
- 2.1.5 Aspire to reduce single-use plastics across other areas of the Students' Union (i.e. commercial outlets).

### **3. Responsibilities**

3.1 All staff, Sabbatical Officers, and members of the Students' Union will be responsible for ensuring that any "freebies" handed out to students are not single-use plastic items. The General Manager of the Students' Union is responsible for sourcing alternative items to give away through the appropriate suppliers, and for working with the Union's commercial partners to provide alternatives.

## Appendix A

### **033 - SU to ban single-use plastics (Freebie Policy)**

*Proposer: Chris Dow*

#### **Union Notes**

1. It is estimated that between 4.8 and 12.7 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year, therefore killing or injuring marine wildlife<sup>1</sup>
2. The Students' Union hand out freebies each year, particularly during Freshers' Week, to engage with new students
3. Students feedback that free items during Freshers are not always useful or sustainable<sup>2</sup>

#### **Union Believes**

1. The Students' Union should take steps to reduce plastic waste by considering which free items are given away to students, through a formal process or reviewing and monitoring
2. A move towards more 'ethical' freebies is encouraged but the waste produced by these must be considered as well
3. Single-use plastic items are particularly wasteful and should be banned in line with the Students' Union's overall approach to limiting single-use plastic

#### **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the Vice President to author a 'Freebie Policy' which guides the Students' Union to ban single-use plastic giveaways and freebies
2. For the Vice President to bring this policy to the Trustee Board for approval
3. For the Students' Union to review other items that are given away as freebies and prizes

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<sup>1</sup> Gov UK Press Release, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/start-of-ban-on-plastic-straws-stirrers-andcotton-buds>

<sup>2</sup> Green Impact (SOS-UK)