

041 - Cut Back on Amazon

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Union Notes:

1. Amazon exploits workers rights and fights union ie. In September, Amazon put out job advertisements for intelligence analysts responsible for tracking risks including "labour organizing threats against the company". Amazon has since removed the job advertisements and stated that their posting was an error¹
2. The company has managed to head off major labour unions since its founding in 1994. Labour unions have organized some of Amazon's European workforce, but no U.S. facility has successfully formed or joined a union²
3. Various news outlets have documented how Amazon have treated their workers poorly³
4. Amazon generated 465 million pounds of plastic packaging waste in 2019⁴
5. Amazon have consistently avoided corporation tax⁵

Union Believes

1. Workers should have rights to be able to join a union and effectively stand up for what they believe in.
2. As a union we believe everyone should be treated fairly in the workplace.
3. Recycling and sustainability are at the forefront of what we continuously work on at the Students' Union and Amazon goes against this.

Union Resolves

1. Create a policy for Union staff to encourage the reduction of purchases from Amazon where possible
2. The policy should encourage alternatives such as supporting SU outlets and/or independent, local businesses
3. Highlight to students the waste produced by Amazon and offer information on how to recycle packaging
4. Within the policy it should be explicit that any purchasing undertaken by the SU should consider the rights of workers at these distributors

Motion passed 17/01/22 following amendments

¹ [Amazon Deletes Job Posts Seeking Analysts to Track 'Labor Organizing Threats' | WIRED](#)

² <https://time.com/956/how-amazon-crushed-the-union-movement/>

³ [Boycott Amazon – Housmans Bookshop](#)

⁴ [Amazon Generated More Than 465 Million Pounds of Plastic Packaging Waste in 2019 Pollution Solutions Online \(pollutionsolutions-online.com\)](#)

⁵ [Amazon ethical issues | Ethical Consumer](#)