

034 - Sustainable SU Shop

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Union Notes

1. It is estimated, in the UK, five million tonnes of plastic is used every year, nearly half of which is packaging¹
2. That in a recent (2020) sustainability survey by the Students' Union, the majority of student respondents felt that reducing single-use plastics on campus was the main 'green' aim that the SU should be focusing on
3. Currently, the SU Shop stocks essential food items in single-use plastic packaging
4. Keele Students' Union have successfully implemented a zero-waste area in their Union shop which offers food, toiletries, and other sustainable products²

Union Believes

1. The Students' Union should take steps to reduce plastic waste by converting a section of the SU Shop into a zero-waste area where students are able to choose to go plastic free
2. Leeds Trinity SU has already made significant progress in this area by stocking sustainable products and banning single-use plastic freebies
3. That this policy could also build on the work done by the Students' Union to introduce sustainable menstrual products into the SU Shop
4. Plastic packaging significantly contributes to plastic waste and should therefore be the next focus for the SU
5. That refill stations can also be more convenient and cheaper for students as products can be bought in bulk

Union Resolves

1. That the SU should significantly reduce the amount of plastic packaging in the SU Shop
2. To mandate the Vice President and Sustainability Officer to work on introducing a refill area into the SU Shop, based on existing models such as those mentioned at Keele SU and ASDA in Leeds³; this refill area should include products such as pasta, rice, cereal, tea bags, coffee, and sugar
3. To mandate the Vice President and Sustainability Officer to expand the current bottle top recycling scheme outside the SU Shop
4. To mandate the Vice President and Sustainability officer to introduce a recycling centre in the SU Shop where students are able to recycle items such as batteries, make-up, clothing, crisp packets and other items that are difficult to recycle

¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8515/>

² <https://keelesu.com/shopsandservices/foodanddrink/weightogo/>

³ <https://corporate.asda.com/newsroom/2020/10/20/asda-opens-new-sustainability-store>