

# ENSA SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

▶▶▶ SESSION 20/21 ◀◀◀

The Sustainability Charter outlines the responsibilities of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) and its staff in developing and promoting a sustainable environment in which students are empowered to make positive changes and in support of the University's new environmental strategy.

This charter was informed by comments from ENSA employees and trustees, the Edinburgh Napier Sustainable Society (ENSS), the Edinburgh Napier Sustainability team and through a survey completed by the wider student group. The charter is divided into 10 areas of sustainability and each subsection contains targets for the 2021/22 academic year.

## ➤ WASTE, EMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES

Integrate waste (resource) management into our operations, encouraging staff and students to adopt the waste hierarchy of Prevention, Reuse, Recycling and Recovery in order to reduce waste to landfill. Commit to controlling emissions and discharges, to minimise and prevent pollution as much as possible. This includes the Full-Time Officers supporting the improvement and awareness of waste management on campus and at student accommodation.

### Target 2021/22:

- Develop an ENSA campaign encouraging students to reduce waste in conjunction with ENSS and Edinburgh Napier University. *External.*
- Review paper use by ENSA. Find alternatives to flyers and paper: promote digital options. Discourage use of flyers for student campaigns, elections and other activities. *Internal.*

## ➤ SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Integrate sustainable procurement by encouraging staff and students to reuse before buying new, seek out more sustainable and efficient products and consider the whole lifecycle, carbon footprint and environmental impact of products. Ensure that ENSA is considering the sustainability of the supply chain and choosing local products. ENSA will aim to purchase ethical and environmentally-considerate products and services where possible, minimising the use of damaging substances and processes.

### Target 2021/22:

- When purchasing a product or service, choose the sustainable product option if within 10% price margin of what is affordable. *Internal.*
- Offer sustainable prizes to students - e.g. cash prizes instead of Amazon vouchers. Suggest donation to the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' charity with every prize: 'Would you like to donate 10% of your prize money to charity?'. *External.*

## ➤ ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Support Edinburgh Napier University's objectives and targets, by integrating carbon reduction in our operations and encouraging staff and students to reduce energy and water consumption. Work with external organisations to educate staff and students on energy saving on campus and at home.

### Target 2021/22:

- Staff computers and laptops should be switched off overnight and devices unplugged when fully charged or not in use. *Internal.*
- ENSA to investigate emission offsetting possibilities. *Internal.*
- In the office: kettle only to be filled for amount of water needed or staff to offer to boil kettle for all at once. *Internal.*

## ➤ FOOD

Encourage the promotion and development of more local, plant based, zero-waste packaged food at Edinburgh Napier University. Support students and staff to switch to more sustainable diets.

### Target 2021/22:

- Run internal campaign to encourage the reduction of animal product consumption. Propose alternatives and have a staff meeting to explain initiative and its benefits. *Internal.*
- Encourage staff and students to choose the vegetarian or vegan options at the cafeteria as much as possible and learn to apply positive changes in their daily life on and off campus.  
*Internal/external.*

## ➤ BIODIVERSITY

Consider the organisation's impact on the surrounding flora and fauna and encourage staff and students to protect and enhance the biodiversity on campus and beyond. Integrate all activities with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, managed by the city of Edinburgh Council.

### Target 2021/22:

- Support the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative.  
*Internal/External.*
- Organise more student events to encourage nature connection.  
*External.*
- Encourage staff to support and volunteer at the University campus gardens (ex: The Lion's Gate permaculture garden).  
*Internal.*

## ➤ TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

Actively encourage staff and students to make use of the sustainable travel options available, both on and off campus. Push for the improvement of cycling provisions for staff and students, promote sustainable and active travel and the reduction of unnecessary transport, mainly air and car. Support remote teaching and learning where possible to avoid unnecessary travel to and between campuses.

### Target 2021/22:

- Develop a policy for ENSA staff to work from home. *Internal.*
- Work with University cycling officer to add bikes on campuses and accommodation for students and staff. *External.*
- Consider signing ENSA up to the [Cycle to Work scheme](#). *Internal.*

## ➤ COMMUNICATION

Support, and assist in, communications promoting Environmental Sustainability, and actively encourage the dissemination of information through all our channels.

Raise sustainability awareness ourselves through social media promotion, campaigns, sharing relevant volunteering opportunities and supporting the Programme Reps and Sports and Societies to empower students and share information.

### Target 2021/22:

- Share posts from ENSS and Edinburgh Napier Sustainability channels. *External.*
- Choose electronic communications instead of paper when possible. *Internal.*

## ➤ PARTNERSHIPS

Work with the Edinburgh Napier Sustainability Team, the ENSS and any other key stakeholders to improve sustainability within the University and student accommodation. Work with organisations external to the University to nudge students into adopting more sustainable lifestyles.

### Target 2021/22:

- ENSA officers to remain engaged at a strategic level in sustainability discussions. Maintain presence in sustainability groups and identify one officer to be designated to attend such meetings. *Internal.*

## ➤ EDUCATION

Supporting the integration of sustainability into the Edinburgh Napier University curriculum. Working with external organisations such as NUS to encourage the University to increase teaching of sustainability in all Edinburgh Napier programmes. Ensure that ENSA is continuously teaching students about sustainability through information sharing, events and learning opportunities.

### Target 2021/22:

- Encourage blended learning and lecture recording to reduce student travel to campus. *External.*
- Encourage students to enrol in the new sustainability module: “Achieving Sustainability: a better world is possible.”. *External.*
- Promote the ENSS amongst students. *External.*

## ➤ CONSTRUCTION, REFURBISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ESTATE

Work with Facilities Management to integrate sustainable solutions into the buildings and estate as well as improve the performance of our estate by encouraging staff and students to correctly utilise, respect and look after the buildings, grounds and gardens.

### Target 2021/22:

- Promote student environmental responsibility and respect for property. *External.*
- ENSA to work with University to review what is being achieved at each campus to improve sustainability. *Internal.*