

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Students' Union Carbon Management Working Group
Thursday 17 September

Filenote- All Staff Meeting in SU Management Team**Introduction**

At the Students' Union Executive Management Committee Meeting on the 9th September 2009, it was recommended by the Vice President Clubs and Societies, to implement a 'Students' Union Carbon Management Working Group'. This recommendation was unanimously passed by the group. Therefore, on the 17th September 2009, an all-staff meeting was held to consider some of the ways that carbon could be reduced by the Students' Union. From this, these ideas would be passed onto the Energy Manager at QUB Estates, Anthony Schmidt, where he and Paul Courtney could review these ideas and bring them to the University's Carbon Management Communications Working Group and the main Steering Group respectively. Please find below the ideas from the staff.

Energy

Solar panels should be put on the roof of the Union and/or Mandela Hall.

Meters- a test to see what areas of the building are using the most energy should be taken. Targets should be met each quarter.

There should be more awareness of the benefits of reducing carbon emissions- this could be done through a communication strategy.

Travel and Transport

Purchasing:

- Use local suppliers
- Less deliveries
- Less packaging
- Use suppliers that have environmental standards; although this is said to be done already, more investigations should take place

Cars:

- We should influence Translink to provide improved travel infrastructure
- Improve cycling- although this is said to be done already, this needs great improvements. Park and ride facilities should be provided for staff.
- An investigation to how staff travels to work should be carried out.
- The storage facilities need to be improved.
- There needs to be more provision for safe places for people to put their bikes.

Minimise trips away:

- Promote conference calls and meetings instead of going abroad.
- Ban foreign excursions unless completely essential.

Waste Management

- Reusable glasses in all of the nightclubs here in the Union
- Recyclable coffee cups
- Change to lower water usage toilets
- Reusable bottles for vending machines
- Office sized recycling stations
- More communications and less individual leaflets
- Duplex printers for all buildings in University
- Hospitality services should compost food wastes
- Minimise waste in every department in the building- whether this be through the bars, clerical office or in the shops.
- All businesses within the Union should be investigated to see how much waste they produce, if it could be minimised and how they are going about recycling this waste.

Water

- Rain water harvesting- this happens in the newly refurbished Co. Kildare Council buildings. This system collects the water and then sends it through the systems for the toilets.
- A review of the toilet system should be looked at.
- This system is very cheap and reduces the consumption of water tremendously.
- Incentivise reduction of water- through more water purifiers.
- Solar power water heaters.
- 'Name and Motivate' the main users.