

Stephenson College Environment and Sustainability Policy

Section 1 – The ESO and JCR Policy

- a. The Environment and Sustainability Officer (ESO) role is an executive member responsible for the JCR's sustainability and overseeing the Environment Committee.
- b. The JCR is committed to becoming more environmentally responsible and taking measures to improve the environmental impact of the Stephenson College community through clear and achievable targets.
- c. The JCR recognizes a climate and ecological emergency.
- d. The sustainability policy is designed to increase awareness of environmental issues around college and offer pathways for solving them.
- e. The ESO will be responsible for ensuring that the sustainability policy is followed.

Section 2 – Definitions of Terminology

- a. Sustainable practices – practices which do not deplete the planet's natural resources and which respect the surrounding environment.
- b. Environmental responsibility – the duty of the JCR to protect the environment.
- c. Positive environmental impact – actions which reduce carbon emissions, promote biodiversity, and generally enrich our environment
- d. Greenspace Student Environment Group (GSEG) – a University initiative consisting of Student Environment Representatives from each college overseen by the Sustainability Coordinator. The Group meets during term time in order to: share ideas on how to encourage sustainable behaviours amongst students; plan student-orientated college and University environmental initiatives; represent student views on University-related environmental matters.

Actions and Guidance for the JCR

Section 3 – Aims of the ESO and JCR

- a. To develop more sustainable practices within college (see 2.a).
- b. To provide information to JCR members about ways to become more sustainable.
- c. To ensure that the environmental impacts of JCR societies, events and activities are reduced.

Section 4 – The Role of the ESO

- a. The ESO is responsible for assessing and maintaining all JCR documents with regards to sustainability.
- b. The ESO will represent the views of the JCR at regular GSEG and College Forum meetings (see 5.c).
- c. The ESO must produce a publicly-available yearly report including an overview of the JCR's sustainability, as well as projects carried out and plans for future actions.
- d. The ESO oversees the Environment Committee, which is responsible for supporting the aims of the Sustainability Policy. The ESO will meet regularly with the Environment Committee to delegate tasks, receive feedback, and discuss new ideas.

Section 5 – Developing Sustainable Practices within the JCR

- a. Purchasing:
 - i. All JCR purchases should be carbon neutral or as environmentally friendly as possible (to be agreed with the ESO), including avoiding purchasing single-use plastics and non-recyclable products.
- b. Stash and Formal-wear:
 - i. Clothing should come from outlets which promote sustainable practices (see section 9), and where possible should be sourced from local companies.
 - ii. Consideration should be given to the running of clothing exchanges, potentially with other colleges, to make clothing more accessible and affordable
- c. Working with College Office

- i. The JCR should encourage College Office to adopt more sustainable practices. This includes suggestions such as investigating possible compost and food waste collection services, installing energy efficient light bulbs, installing insulation and providing recycling.
 - ii. The ESO will hold termly forums with appropriate JCR Exec, College Office representatives, and the GSEG Coordinator in order to discuss matters regarding sustainability within college.
- d. The Platform One Bar
 - i. The JCR advocates that the Platform One Bar should use reusable cups for all drinks. If this is not possible, then recyclable single-use cups should be purchased.

Section 6 – Providing Information

- a. The JCR and Environment Committee will:
 - i. Promote low carbon-footprint diets by offering recipes, information on affordable ways to eat a plant-based diet, and suggestions on how to shop more sustainably.
 - ii. Encourage JCR members to walk, cycle, or take public transport, and provide information to assist with this.
 - iii. Promote low-waste lifestyle by encouraging sustainable fashion, cosmetic, and health choices by providing information on environmentally friendly outlets.
 - iv. Promote sustainable energy and water usage, including putting up signs about turning lights off and timers in bathrooms to help save water.

Section 7 – JCR Events and Activities

- a. Materials will be re-used and recycled wherever possible.
- b. Single-use plastics, especially cups, will be avoided.
- c. Plant-based meal options will be considered wherever possible, and food products should be sourced from ethical and sustainable suppliers (e.g. meat should be locally sourced and not battery-farmed).
- d. Waste should be reduced where possible by: ensuring that sufficient recycling facilities are visible across college; that decorations are recyclable or reusable.

- e. Events committees (e.g. Ball Committee) should consider having a member responsible for sustainable practices, and should make sure that all decisions keep ecological impact in mind.

Section 8 – Clubs and Societies

- a. JCR clubs and societies should take steps to reduce their own environmental impacts by:
 - i. Considering electing a member responsible for sustainable practices
 - ii. Ensure that stash comes from sustainable outlets and offer exchanges so that stash can be reused across years.
 - iii. Reduce waste where possible, especially from socials.

Section 9 – Resources

- a. UN Sustainable Living tips: https://www.unep.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/sustainable-lifestyles-options-and-opportunities?_ga=2.226871960.428641343.1654670910-698941101.1654670910
- b. UN Sustainable lifestyles in the workplace: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27204/SustLifestyles_Work.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- c. Action guide for sustainable living: <https://anatomyofaction.org>
- d. Ethical Revolution (useful advice on sustainable companies and consumption): <https://ethicalrevolution.co.uk>
- e. Sustainable Development Goals: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- f. The JCR uses Redbird for Stash who are climate conscious: <https://www.redbirdsupplyuk.com>
- g. WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>
- h. Greenspace Hub: <https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/Greenspace?siteid={834EC396-DDE7-4673-8ECB-73C35FEEDD51}&webid={39BF0D25-64D2-437F-B01A-DC41F50BE967}&uniqueid={9820824F-D099-4449-9ABE-063D06645438}>