

# SUSTAINABILITY & MODERN LANGUAGES

The department is committed to the UN's 17 SDGs (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>). We support efforts to develop a more sustainable future for our staff and students. In order to achieve a more sustainable departmental culture, the department pledges to commit to the following.

## OUR 10 SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGES

### 1 TRANSPORT

We will commute by bike, scooter, walk or use public transport where and whenever possible. Our default option for conferences and academic travel will be public transport. We will make a conscious effort to avoid flying and will favour carpooling and more sustainable modes of travel for all university travel.

### 2 FOOD

Members of staff will aim to make conscious and sustainable choices when ordering and buying food on campus. We will purchase local and sustainable products and avoid palm oil or intensive CO2 footprints either from farming/producing or transport.

### 3 WATER

We pledge to not buy water in plastic bottles and to lobby for a completely plastic free campus that includes plastic free vending machines. We will not waste water and ask Estates to install more water fountains and/or water refill stations in and around Hugh Owen.

### 4 WASTE

We will act responsibly and not produce excessive paper waste or non-reusable/recyclable waste. We will not buy or use one-way plastic or non-reusable or non-compostable coffee cups and food containers. We will urge AU to dispose of non-compostable or non-recyclable cups and food containers.

### 9 MONITORING

We pledge to add sustainability to our departmental meeting agendas as a standing item and provide annual sustainability reports and action plans.

### 5 TEACHING MATERIAL & RESOURCES

Our default position will be to provide teaching material online via blackboard and to reduce our annual printing volume for teaching preparation and class activities. We will not print email or any other correspondence unless where absolutely necessary.

### 6 ENERGY

We will make efforts to save energy and to reduce our department's carbon footprint from heating and our reliability on fossil fuels. We will turn down radiators in our offices and switch off unused equipment or lights when we leave the office to teach and at the end of the day.

### 7 TEACHING & CURRICULUM

We will aim to introduce more sustainability-related content into our curriculum and expand our current and future provision with sustainability related topics and modules (in keeping with AU strategy).

### 8 YEAR ABROAD

As the AU department with the highest number of year-abroad students, we pledge to work closely with Global Opportunities and develop a shared sustainable travel policy and sustainability pledge. Both our shared policy and pledge will be tailored specifically to our common year abroad procedures and to YA travel.

### 10 SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS

Together with AU's Student Union, we will recruit a student sustainability ambassador to assist with and to monitor our departmental efforts. The student ambassador will take part in SSCC meetings, contribute ideas and feedback to the department and work closely with SU and other student reps.