



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Utrikespolitiska Föreningen, Lund

The UPF Environmental Policy in Short

UPF does not want to be a part of destroying the planet. Therefore our vision is a minimal environmental impact. We hope to achieve this by always choosing the sustainable option when it comes to transportation, accommodation, eating and purchasing. At the same time we make sure to minimize waste by being resource effective, not using disposable items and recycling. Lastly we want environmental challenges and climate change to be considered obvious topics within foreign affairs, by covering related topics we make sure to contribute to that.

Purpose

As an Association of Foreign Affairs UPF recognises the environmental challenge the world faces. The development of climate change will have a large scale impact on development of the global future. Our aim is that no one should have to suffer the tremendous consequences and exaggerated global warming would imply. Therefore UPF is ready to take its responsibility in caring for our planet. As a polluter we are not very large, but since every contribution matters we commit to minimizing our environmental impact on a local and global level as much as possible. Furthermore the environment, and especially climate change, is a highly relevant issue within foreign affairs and as a forum for debate on just that we recognize our responsibility to cover environment related topics to spread knowledge and discussion on the topic.

Structure

UPF as an organisation changes from year to year as members change, therefore this environmental policy is structured to do the same. Although the purpose and the general guidelines in this document are written to withstand time. The general guidelines are to be considered by every member, in every aspect of UPFs operation. “Vision” clarifies the purpose and goal within every category. “In practise” shows the most recent approach to reaching the vision, however this approach can be changed as we gain new perspectives and when new members and their ideas join the association. Preferably this category should be developed with every new board. The president of the UPF board is ultimately responsible for making sure that the environmental policy is followed.

General guidelines

According to Swedish law all businesses and organisations are obliged to accumulate the knowledge needed to protect the environment against any hurt or inconvenience caused by them. Due to this UPF aims to understand the consequences of its actions. In all our operations we aim to minimize our environmental impact. This includes reducing our waste by avoiding disposable items and recycling. Furthermore, we aim to use as much carbon neutral transportation as possible for ourselves and externally invited people. We treat the local nature with care and respect when at home or away. With us, at all times, is the importance of treating climate change as a serious issue within foreign affairs.

Each Board Meeting should include an update on climate compensation to ensure that climate compensation is being conducted in a responsible and transparent manner.

The office *Vision*

UPF aspires to have an office furnished with sustainable materials and decorations. The office should also be used in such a way that no unnecessary harm to the environment is done. Waste should be avoided and any inevitable waste should be recycled.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- We turn off lights, computers and other electrical objects when not using them.
- We keep the heating at minimum levels and try to influence AF-borgen to choose electricity that is environmentally marked.
- We recycle and push AF-borgen to start offering recycling.
- We use porcelain mugs, glasses etc instead of disposable items.
- We buy organic and sustainable FIKA e.g. coffee, tea, cookies and fruit.
- Any new purchases to the office is done with a sustainability aspect in mind.
- We producing almost no waste, by for example using a tea pot instead of tea bags.
- We use utilities that are in the office carefully

UPF events

Vision

During events arranged by UPF to minimize impact on the environment is a natural part of the planning. Furthermore the participants during an event do all take responsibility to act in a way that does not harm the environment.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- We make every day actions that contribute to reducing our environmental impact such as turning off lights and electronics when we leave a room and remove chargers from outlets when not charging.
- We recycle at our events and therefore choose event locations where this is possible. For example during the Kick-off we tend to choose Studentgården in Skanör as venue.
- We do not print agendas or other documents if this is not considered the more environmental friendly option.
- The food cooked and/or served during an UPF event is preferably vegetarian and organic.
- When traveling within Sweden UPF always take the train, if travelling by other means of transportation climate compensation is conducted.
- We keep social events and gatherings within bike-able distance from the UPF office.

Committee specific environmental statements

Presidency

Vision

The presidency, here defined as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and UFS-representative, has the main responsibility for UPFs operation and therefore also for the environmental impact that comes from it. Therefore the presidency takes the environmental impact into account when strategically planning for the future. That the climate change and environmental concerns the world faces is a topic of foreign affairs is something that the presidency makes sure to emphasise.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- The presidency makes sure the environmental policy (this document) is followed by the members
- The presidency looks for improvements of the environmental policy to raise the ambitions and make sure it is up to date.
- To board meetings the fika and coffee is organic and the mugs used are not disposable.
- When planning events such as the kick-off the commitments under the category *Events* are considered.
- The presidency makes sure UPFs money are handled in a sustainable way
- The presidency works to digitize as much as possible of UPFs archive and documents to avoid unnecessary usage of paper

UPF in UFS/SAIA

Vision

UPF Lund should be a driving force in developing SAIA's environmental commitments and by doing so making sure all Associations of Foreign Affairs do the same. Therefore the UFS-representative always encourages ambition in this field within SAIA and the other member associations.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- The UFS-representative makes sure environmental aspects are considered when new documents, policies etc are developed.
- The UFS-representative encourages all forms of environmental commitments such as ambitious environmental policies, themes on environmental/climate related topics and buying organic fika.
- The UFS-representative climate compensates for the emissions of carbon dioxide produced by their booked flights. Climate compensation is recommended to be done



through klimatkompensera.se to ensure that the conducted climate compensation is efficient and contributes to long-term solutions.

- On behalf of UPF Lund the UFS-representative should make sure that the environmental policy of SAIA/UFS is ambitious and up to date.

The Travel Committee

Vision

The travel committee wants to show members of UPF different countries, cultures and aspects on foreign affairs where of which one is climate change and environmental issues. Therefore environmental organisations or organisations who deal with environmental issues locally or nationally are a natural part of the study visits that are conducted during a trip. This should be done at the same time as the climate/environmental impacts from the trip are minimized. This is achieved by travelling in a sustainable way when abroad, in regards to transportation, accommodation, activities etc. The transportation to the other country should have low or no environmental impact.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- If the country is in reasonable distance to get there by train, this is the transportation chosen.
- All committee members climate compensate for the emissions of carbon dioxide produced by their booked flights. Climate compensation is recommended to be done through klimatkompensera.se to ensure that the conducted climate compensation is efficient and contributes to long-term solutions.
- When abroad the travel committee strives to always choose the most environmentally friendly transportation.
- When choosing accommodation their environmental commitments are considered.
- Committee members act responsibly with regards to the environment and sustainability when abroad, this includes turning lights off, not using unnecessary amount of water, not contributing to waste on streets etc.
- When travelling with UPF purchases of souvenirs that harm the environment or animals are forbidden, such as ivory, corals etc.
- When planning a trip environmental organizations are researched and contacted to get a better understanding of possible study visits with an environmental focus.

The Lecture Committee

Vision

Lecture considers the general guidelines when it comes to commitments. To minimize waste from lectures and getting the lecturer to Lund in a sustainable way are two main focus areas. Furthermore less meat should be eaten during dinners with the lecturers.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by



- Book train before flights for lecturers if possible.
- The Committee climate compensates for the emissions of carbon dioxide produced by any booked trips. Climate compensation is recommended to be done through klimatkompensera.se to ensure that the conducted climate compensation is efficient and contributes to long-term solutions.
- Recycle waste after committee meetings.
- Try to use less paper cups for coffee for the pre-mingle and do not use plastic mugs at all
- The heads of lecture prefer vegetarian food to meat during lecture dinners.

The Career Committee

Vision

To minimize their carbon footprint and limit their negative impact on the climate. This is done by making sure committee meeting are environmentally friendly when it comes to transportation, food, fika and waste. The consumption of meat should decrease and the organic food/fika increase.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- Ensure that as many speakers and guests as possible are traveling to the committee by train.
- The heads of the committee prefer vegetarian dishes when dining with the guest/lecturer.
- Request organic cookies and coffee as well as reusable mugs or paper mugs for the committee's meetings.
- Limit paper hand-outs and instead handle the communication electronically.
- The Committee climate compensates for the emissions of carbon dioxide produced by any booked flights. Climate compensation is recommended to be done through klimatkompensera.se to ensure that the conducted climate compensation is efficient and contributes to long-term solutions.

The Activity Committee

Vision

Activity, just as the general guidelines, wants to include the environment as a part of the interpretation of foreign affairs. Furthermore the activities arranged by the committee should be environmentally friendly as possible. At sittings environmentally friendly food should be served and in cooperation with nations it should be settled that they are as environmentally friendly as they can be. This can be done by considering environmental certifications such as *Nationsgodan* or *KRAV*.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- Vegetarian food for everyone at sittings is standard practice, although exceptions can be made with good motivation.



- Activity has environment as one theme during discussion nights, if these are held.
- Activity tries to host events at Wermland, since it is certified by KRAV.
- Activity, just as the rest of UPF, choose train instead of flight within Sweden and if flying is a part of a study trip the flight is climate compensated.

The Magazine Committee

Vision

The largest ecological concern of the magazine committee is the printing process. This academic year we are set to print a total of 3000 magazines; a number that will continue to climb if membership increases in coming years. Not only does this use a lot of paper, the printer ink and energy requirements for such a load is massive. Magazine therefore strives to make sure that the environmental aspects of the printing is minimized. Furthermore the magazine strives to cover a varied range of topics, where the environment and sustainability is one.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- Our printer, Trydells Tryckeri carries the Swan label and is ISO 140001 certified. While their website does not discuss this in too much detail, there is an interview available with the environmental director of Trydells under this link (page 12 in the pdf file) <http://lib.hpublication.com/publication/cc3b110a/?p=12>. Even with such a good record, it is inevitable that the printing process has an environmental impact. It could be worth exploring other printer services in Skåne (and the rest of Sweden) to find out if there are more environmental printers out there. Ones that use more recycled materials, do more bulk printing (Trydell's seems to do more individual task based print jobs) and addresses concerns of fossil fuel use. As a final note, it should be mentioned that this course of action should not be taken on lightly. We have a working deal with a very affordable provider right now, and finding a new service could take time. If future boards would choose to explore this option, it would require careful consideration to avoid any unnecessary setbacks on the magazine work itself. Changing the service could in the worst case lead to changes in layout format, reduction in printing quality, rising printing costs, or delayed delivery time.
- Magazine has writers from a variety of disciplines to get coverage on environmental topics.

The PR Committee

Vision

The PR committee does not have a very big environmental impact. This does not make the PR committee stop trying to reduce the environmental impact even further. Focus is on decreasing the impact from posters and during committee meetings.



In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- Keep the number of posters relatively low.
- Focus on the important things, such as fika. By making tea in a teapot instead of using tea bags the committee reduces its waste.

The Webzine committee

Vision

Webzine aims to cover topics related to sustainability and environmental impact. This will spur a discussion with our contributors on the topic every semester which is crucial to show and uphold the association's environmental values.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- Webzine has a goal to publish at least one article per semester on the theme of sustainability and environmental impact.
- Webzine encourages its writers to cover more topics related to sustainability and environmental impact.
- Fika is organic and makes sure that the committee members know why.
- Do not use disposable items in the UPF office nor at social events outside it.
- Engage in recycling through AF, should UPF be given access to more than the "general waste" bins.

The Radio Committee

Vision

Although radios environmental impact probably is one of the smallest within the organisation the radio committee wants to make sure to contribute all it can.

In practice the current board chooses to achieve this by

- We use laptops instead of paper printouts as scripts for our radio shows.
- We make sure to produce shows concerning the environment.