



# ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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LUND EST. 1935

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

*UPF recognises the need for long term sustainable engagement. Therefore, our vision is 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 efficient, minimizing usage of disposable items and recycling. Lastly we want environmental challenges and climate change to be considered obvious topics within foreign affairs, and work towards this by covering related topics.*

## **Purpose**

As an Association of Foreign Affairs UPF recognizes the environmental challenge the world faces. Our aim is to play a part in minimizing the tremendous consequences further global warming would imply. Therefore, UPF is ready to take 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 we recognize our responsibility to cover environment-related topics to spread knowledge and discussion on the topic.

## **1. General Guidelines**

1.1 According to Swedish law all businesses and organizations 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 recycling and avoiding disposable items.

1.2 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.

1.3 We recognize the importance of treating climate change as a serious issue within foreign affairs.

1.4 The committee heads of every committee should always be mindful of how their specific activities affect the environment, and work continuously to minimize this impact.

## **2. The office**

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. This is to be achieved through the following measures:

2.1 We turn off lights, computers and other electrical objects when we are not using them.

- 2.2 We keep the heating at minimum levels and try to influence AF-borgen to choose electricity that is environmentally marked.
- 2.3 We recycle our waste.
- 2.4 We use porcelain mugs, glasses etc instead of disposable items.
- 2.5 We aim for sustainability, e.g. environmental and social when buying FIKA e.g. coffee, tea, cookies and fruit. For example, Fair Trade.
- 2.6 Any new purchases to the office is done with a sustainability aspect in mind.
- 2.7 We use utilities that are in the office carefully.

### **3. UPF events**

UPF recognises the potentially vast impact events could have on the environment, and tries to minimise this impact to the furthest extent possible.

This is to be achieved through the following measures:

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 the venue.
- 3.3 We do not print agendas or other documents if this is not considered the more environmentally friendly option, or deemed necessary. Instead we use social media to market our events to the largest extent possible.
- 3.4 The food cooked and/or served during an UPF event is preferably vegetarian and organic.
- 3.5 When traveling within Sweden UPF always takes the train, if travelling by other means of transportation climate compensation is conducted.
- 3.6 Lecturers and other invited guests should use the most environmentally friendly means of transportation available and possible.

### **4. Annually Updated Visions and Goals**

UPF as an organization changes from year to year, therefore this environmental policy is supposed to do the same. The Purpose and the General Guidelines are written with continuity and coherence in mind, whereas the Annually Updated Goals and Visions are supposed to reflect the current board's take on combating climate change. This should be done by the

board together at a meeting at the beginning of the operational year. This will hopefully result in a policy withstanding time, with continuous updates to reflect contemporary takes on the issue.