



TYU's Environmental Programme

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1. TYY as an environmental actor and climate influencer

TYY's Environmental Programme provides guidelines for considering environmental issues in the Student Union of the University of Turku. The focus of the programme is the Student Union's internal activities and advocacy, but it also serves as a basis for supporting the activities of student organizations. The target of TYY's climate advocacy is TYY's members, organizations, the University, and other interest groups, as well as decision-makers at different levels of administration. Acting as an example, following actions, and communicating using this programme are key forms of TYY's climate advocacy.

The term 'environment' refers to the local and global living environment, the condition and quality of which is affected by human physical, social and cultural activities. Climate change is an established part of TYY's operations. According to TYY's Political Agenda, the Student Union must play an active role in the social debate related to the environmental and climate crisis, as well as in actions to prevent the climate crisis. The student union must be a pioneer that actively talks with interest groups, such as the University of Turku, the campus cities, and students.

TYY's strategy makes ecological, social, financial and administrative responsibility a central principle of the student union. Based on this, the Environmental Programme works especially as a basis for TYY's ecological responsibility, but also works in dialogue with other themes related to sustainability.

The responsibility for stopping the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis lies with the public authorities, especially in the global North. Public decision-making must be in line with the current international climate agreement and aim to curb the increase in the global average temperature to the current level of 1.5 degrees. Finland must be a pioneer and pursue a climate policy that is more ambitious than the current one in international climate negotiations and in the European Union.

TYY demands action both to stop the climate and the biodiversity crises, and for activities that renew the environment. The Political Agenda states that: "*TYY promotes equality among generations.*" The environmental crisis is the biggest generational political issue of our time, because due to insufficient political actions, the manifold costs brought by the climate crisis, overuse of



natural resources and loss of nature, such as psychological burden, accumulate on young people.

2. Sustainable TYY

The climate crisis and loss of nature are the biggest challenges of our time, which will affect our future considerably. TYY also plays a role both in causing these crises and in solving them. TYY's operation causes negative environmental effects, for example through emissions. However, it is possible to minimize negative effects, for example through emission reductions and choices that take the environment into account. In addition, TYY shows its own organizations an example of how they can be part of the solution to these crises in their own activities. This paragraph outlines how TYY strives towards environmental positivity in its own operations. In this way, TYY can, in addition to influencing work, prevent the climate crisis and loss of nature.

2.1 Reducing emissions and negative impacts

By reducing emissions from its operations, TYY can minimize its negative environmental impact.

TYY prepares a two-year emission reduction plan (environment sector, executive board).

- In order for the emission reduction to actually take place, TYY makes a two-year emission reduction plan based on the results of the carbon footprint and biodiversity footprint measurement.

2.1.1 Partnerships

Partnerships and business cooperation are a growing part of TYY's operations. The kind of partners that TYY advertises and uses in its operations has an impact on both TYY's own operations and the choices made by TYY's members. When choosing partners, TYY's values and the goals of the environmental program are considered. In addition, partners are evaluated from the point of view of their own environmental impact. TYY strives to choose as responsible partners as possible.

Partnerships are evaluated with regard to the environment (corporate co-operations, environmental sector).



The sustainability of the co-operation partner is evaluated from these perspectives:

- Do the values of TYU and a potential partner meet?
- Climate and environmental impact of the partner. What are the partner's operations like and how much impact do the partner's operations have on the environment?
- What actions does the partner take to minimize environmental impacts?
- Does the partner have an environmental/responsibility program or something similar. Does the potential partner try to minimize environmental harm?

2.1.2 Sustainable events

TYU organizes numerous large events during the year. In addition to these, TYU organizes many smaller events throughout the year. Like the rest of TYU's activities, events should also be organized as sustainably as possible. By organizing events and occasions with environmental issues in mind, the negative environmental effects of the events are reduced, and the community is influenced by setting an example of how events are organized sustainably. Even in the planning phase, it is important to determine which principles will be considered when organizing the event.

Especially for larger events, TYU strives to reduce their carbon footprint, and an environmental plan is made for the events during the planning phase. When organizing events, it is assessed how the event's emissions can be reduced and the carbon footprint of large events is calculated.

The carbon footprint of events is measured (culture sector, environment sector).

Environmental plans are made for the events (culture, volunteers, environment).

- The carbon footprint of events is reduced where possible.

Voluntary compensations are introduced in the events (culture, environmental sector).



2.1.3 Purchases and facilities

Making ecologically sustainable purchases is part of the everyday choices of the student union and organizations. Changing consumer habits has significant environmental effects, so environmental aspects must be considered in the acquisition, use and maintenance of facilities and materials.

TYU's food purchases are sustainable (executive board).

- Vegan and Fair-Trade certified products as well as domestic seasonal products and waste food are preferred in food procurement.
- The amount of food waste decreases.
- TYU does not make unnecessary purchases, and supports the circular economy.
- No electricity or water is wasted in TYU's facilities and events.

2.1.4 Travelling

When planning the way of travel, the effects of travel on the environment must be considered. Emissions from travelling are reduced by favoring public transport and train travel. In cases where using a car or a bus is necessary, we try to fill the means of transport as efficiently as possible. The aim is to minimize air travel and eliminate the harmful effects of emissions from flying

TYU monitors and reduces the emissions caused by travel (environmental, and international sectors, chair).

- Public, and especially train, transport is recommended when traveling to seminars.
- We try to travel to foreign seminars as ecologically as possible, preferring to travel by land and avoiding indirect flights.
- If it is necessary to fly to the event, the importance of participation in terms of TYU's interests will be considered, and if possible only one representative will be sent to the event.



- The adverse effects of emissions caused by air travel are reversed.

2.2 Reversing the effects of emissions

Part of reducing emissions and moving towards carbon neutrality or carbon positivity is cancelling the negative effects of the generated emissions. Reversal is done through various projects related to environmental restoration, research or carbon sequestration. Projects are available on the free carbon market. As the operation continues the means offered in the free carbon market for canceling the disadvantages of emissions must be critically evaluated. For example, the Ministry of the Environment has listed minimum criteria for projects that these projects must meet. With the help of these criteria, the effectiveness and functionality of the alternatives offered by the free carbon market can be evaluated.

TYY cancels at least some of the negative effects of its emissions

- TYY prepares criteria for the projects aimed to cancelling the harmful effects of emissions.
- TYY is looking for suitable ways/projects for canceling emissions and will cancel part of the effects of its emissions.

3. TYY as a climate and environmental influencer

Environmental issues are a cross-cutting theme in society, and thus every member of the student union and organizations can affect the environment. Active environmental advocacy can increase students' participation in environmental issues. The goal of environmental advocacy is to increase awareness of the themes of sustainable development and the climate crisis, and to influence TYY's organizations, interest groups and the entire surrounding society in favor of concrete environmental measures.

TYY plays an active role in the social debate related to the environmental and climate crises (executive board, environmental member).

- We follow the political debate related to the environment and participate in it from the student's point of view.
- At election time, environmental themes are brought up from the students' point of view.



TYY's environmental protection is planned and goal-oriented (executive board, environmental sector).

- The environmental sector monitors the implementation of the objectives of the environmental program.
- The sectors discuss environmental advocacy annually at minimum.

TYY's environmental advocacy involves the entire student union (executive board).

- Volunteers in the environmental sector and environmental managers of organizations have the opportunity to be heard in TYY's environmental interest monitoring in program planning.
- Volunteers are invited to meet co-operating parties on environmental matters.

TYY's environmental interest monitoring strives to make information related to sustainability attainable (environmental sector, communication sector, volunteers).

- Campaigns and events related to sustainability will be held, focusing on easy information about concrete climate actions in cooperation with the university and volunteers.

TYY encourages active citizenship regarding environmental values (environmental sector).

- TYY follows demonstrations or campaigns demanding climate action and participates when possible. Organizations are encouraged to participate for example in the Climate March,
- TYY actively takes a stance in favor of stopping the climate crisis by participating in or organizing at least one campaign or event yearly.

3.1 The environment in TYY's advocacy

TYY's environmental values guide different operational sectors in a cross-cutting manner. This section reviews the environmental impact goals of the larger advocacy sectors, as well as guidelines affecting the sector's internal operations.

The diversity and comfort of the environment is of primary importance both in terms of study comfort and student culture. When advocating for facilities,



sustainable construction, multi-use spaces, comfort and biodiversity are always considered.

In the social policy sector, the relationship between the environment and well-being is highlighted. Climate and environmental crises cause significant psychologically severe symptoms, especially in young people. Diverse nature is important for physical well-being, and pleasant outdoor recreation areas also encourage exercise. Intergenerational equality must consider the transgenerational effects of environmental crises.

- The ecological sustainability of the system is considered in wider social political advocacy.
- Efforts are made to increase the consumption of vegetarian food, and the health effects of a plant-based diet are also emphasized.
- When affecting student meals, ethical and health perspectives are highlighted.
- Bring out the importance of outdoor exercise opportunities for CampusSport.
- We will continue to connect wellness events with nature, and we will highlight the common theme of diversity and well-being in the events.

In the education policy sector, the visibility of environmental themes in education is influenced. TYY's voice is heard at the university in environmental matters. Teaching environmental sciences increases the attractiveness of the university and offers employment opportunities. TYY promotes that the university is ready to change its education programs according to societal needs.

- TYY is represented in the university's environment-related groups. TYY communicates the work done in groups to organizations and members.
- TYY also brings up environmental themes in meetings of the rectorate, deans, and organizations.
- All degrees must have studies that contain sustainable development themes in a way that is appropriate for the field.



- The University of Turku must continue to offer degrees in environmental science.
- Mere awareness of environmental crises or the principles of sustainable development is not enough, but TYY must also support solution-oriented educational content.
- The University should continue mapping its sustainability research and strive to be a pioneer in organizing sustainable education.

We influence the campus towns for a greener everyday student life. (municipal political sectors). The Political Agenda advocates for a pleasant urban environment. This includes the preference for more sustainable means of transport, but also the importance of a circular economy and zero waste. It is important to support the city in its goal of carbon neutrality, but also to influence more and more ambitious goals in line with TYY's values.

- TYY raises the importance of biodiversity for cities.
- Long-termism is supported in urban planning in terms of sustainable construction and public and light transport.
- Attention is paid to cycling safety and its ease, especially in the vicinity of the campus and student apartments.

3.1 Organizations — Increasing environmental awareness and actions in the student community

The objectives of this section concern the operation of TYY's organizations and its guidance. The operations of organizations must be environmentally aware, effective and sustainable in procurement and events. In addition, TYY must support and guide organizations in realizing their goals. Goals related to each perspective are written under it.

The activities of the organizations are supported by TYY's environmental guide, which contains more concrete measures and instructions. The environmental manager of the organization is responsible for the organization part of the program together with the board. The parties organizing the events of each organization are responsible for ensuring that the events comply with TYY's environmental program, the goals of which can also be found in the environmental guide.



Organizations take ecological responsibility for their activities.

- Organizations have an environmental officer trained in the task.
- The organizations have familiarized themselves with TYY's environmental program.
- Organizations have their own environmental plan, which is used to monitor, for example, the sustainability of events.

The organizations' procurements are sustainable.

- Organizations prefer vegan and Fair-Trade certified products as well as domestic seasonal products and waste food.
- The amount of food waste decreases.
- The organization does not make unnecessary purchases and supports the circular economy.

The facilities and events of the organizations are sustainable.

- No electricity or water is wasted on the organization's premises and events.
- The organization reduces emissions from travel.
- All waste is recycled on the organization's premises.
- Waste generated from events is reduced.

Organizations do environmental influencing.

- The organization presents environmental issues to its members.
- Subject and faculty organizations actively promote environmental issues in their subject or faculty.

TYY influences the activities of its organizations so that ecological sustainability is widely realized in the university community (environmental, organizational and communication sectors). TYY's organizations are encouraged to act in accordance with the values of the student union, especially with the help of operating aid criteria.

- The environmental goals are shown in the grant criteria.
- Environmental training is held in TYY's organization forums.
- An environmental council is held at least twice a year.
- TYY's trainings highlight the environmental aspects related to the theme being trained.



- The organizational part of the environmental program is actively implemented.
- TYY communicates its environmental solutions to organizations and members.
- Organizations are helped to better understand the environmental impacts of their operations, and concrete advice is given to reduce negative environmental impacts.
- We collect feedback from organizations on the functionality of TYY's environmental impact, instructions, and criteria.

4. Monitoring, reporting and updating

The achievement of the goals is monitored for each sector as a part of other continuous activities in the annual reports. Organizations' goals are monitored according to the lines of the organizational section.

The TYY board's environmental officer and the secretary general monitor the implementation of the program on an annual basis, ensuring that each sector has recorded the progress of the sustainable development goals for its part in the activity report. The board's environmental officer and an employee of the environmental sector record actions that are not sector-specific in the activity report and compile an overview of the implementation of the environmental program in the half-yearly report.

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The environmental manager schedules one responsibility-related situation review per year for the office's staff and the board. The environmental manager, together with the environmental wing, examines the up-to-datedness of the environmental program and the need for updating every four years, or if necessary, the Environmental Guide is updated no later than the year following the program's update.