

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top with a star pattern and a white skirt, is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The path is lined with various green succulent plants, including large agave-like plants and smaller ones with orange flowers. In the background, there is a light-colored building with a sign that says "THEATRES".

UWA STUDENT
GUILD
ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABLE CLUBS GUIDE



This document was revised by the
**2019/2020 UWA Student Guild
Environment Department**

Any questions about this document?
Let us know via e-mail, Instagram and Facebook!

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FOREWORD

In a world of finite resources, UWA Student Guild aims to be a leader in sustainability. This includes not only providing platforms and initiatives to engage in sustainability, but also leading by example in our operations. This document provides the guidelines for event organisers to run successful club events and operations, while also minimising negative impacts on the environment. There are many benefits of incorporating sustainable practices into club operations, including reducing costs, minimising environmental impact, promoting social responsibility, supporting local Perth businesses, and enhancing your reputation and image as a sustainable organisation.

This guide is divided into key sections that outline different aspects of a club, each offering suggestions for how to better improve sustainability.

We acknowledge that UWA (Crawley) is situated on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that this land was stolen and sovereignty was never ceded. Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We would also like to acknowledge that first nations people are the original environmentalists. There can be no climate justice without racial justice.



EVENTS

Here are questions and tips that can guide you when running a sustainable event. The more questions answered with a yes — the more sustainable your event!

Energy

Checklist

- Are the lighting, equipment and ventilation energy-efficient (e.g. LED lights)?
- Is the venue powered by renewable energy?

Tips

- Switch off appliances (e.g. air-conditioning) when not in use.
- Choose the energy-efficient option when purchasing or hiring equipment and appliances.

Transport

Checklist

- Is the venue easily accessible by public transport?

Tips

- Provide information on walking and public transport routes to your event.
- Provide incentives to carpool or commute.



Purchasing habits

Checklist

- Are vegetarian, local and seasonal catering options provided?
- Is the venue aiming to minimise single-use waste (e.g. plastic straws, balloons, bottled water, disposable cups, plastic bags)?
- Is the venue providing more sustainable supplies (e.g. reusable tableware, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) paper products)?

Tips

- Purchase items that are reusable and durable, or made from recycled material.
- Purchase locally made products (i.e. low carbon miles).
- Avoid products with excessive packaging (e.g. swap single-serve packaged products with loose or bulk packaged items, shop at farmers markets).
- Ask caterers to avoid single-use waste products or products with excessive packaging (e.g. swap single-serve sauce packets for a condiment station).
- Purchase products with an environmental or social certification, such as compostable, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), fair trade or carbon neutral certifications.
- Encourage sharing goods and services (i.e. hiring or leasing) rather than buying.
- Avoid distributing disposable, non-durable giveaways as event prizes and merchandise in showbags.



Water

Checklist

- Are people able to fill their own bottles?
- Does the venue use water-efficient appliances (e.g. dual flush toilets)?

Tips

- Check venue for any leaking taps.
- Provide water stations or drink fountains.
- Purchase or lease water-efficient appliances.
- Hire a toilet provider that is water-efficient, waterless, or uses 'grey water' and disposes of waste water correctly.
- Make sure chemicals are responsibly thrown away and not poured down drains.
- Provide or remind attendees to bring their own reusable bottles or cups.

Waste and resource recovery

Checklist

- Are there any recycling facilities?
- Are the use of reusables promoted over the use of disposables?
- Are marketing materials and decorations made from recycled materials i.e. upcycled?
- Are there any organic waste facilities for food waste recycling?

Tips

- Avoid single-use waste (e.g. plastic bottles, straws, bags, cutlery, packaging).
- Incentivise using reusables by either charging extra for using disposables or giving a discount for using reusables.
- Partner with an organisation that collects leftover food and redistributes it to compost or people in need e.g. OzHarvest, Baaki.



COMMON ROOMS

- Turn off overhead lights when possible and make use of natural light instead.
- Install energy-efficient lighting.
- Add plants to your room to improve air quality.
- Purchase organic linen for sofa beds.
- Open windows or use fans instead of air conditioning.
- Take advantage of your appliances' energy-saving settings and turn them off when not in use.
- Buy solar-powered chargers for devices.
- Install sustainable tech platforms on common room computers:
 - UCapture: carbon-offsetting browser add-on (ucapture.com/uwa).
 - Ecosia: web search engine dedicated to reforestation (ecosia.org).
- Buy items secondhand or share resources between clubs.
- Ensure large appliances (e.g. refrigerators) are energy-efficient.
- Provide reusable tableware.
- Provide a recycling bin.
- Repair items before purchasing new.
- Donate items no longer required to charity.



PROJECT IDEAS

Here are examples of projects that clubs can run to promote sustainability:

- Promote better consumption:
 - Clubs can speak to their relevant faculty about adopting an online-only unit outline policy as most students don't require physical copies.
 - Encourage buying secondhand by running book/clothing sales and swaps.
- Reduce food miles by participating as a club in challenges like Meat Free Monday and Waste Free Lunch.
- Get your club involved in movements like Earth Hour, Ride2Work Day, and Clean Up Australia Day.
- Promoting biodiversity on campus by helping with tree planting and community gardening sessions.
- Reduce resource waste by running clean up days, recycling competitions, improving online marketing and reducing paper marketing.
- Spread ideas of sustainability by hosting keynote speakers, panel discussions or debates.

