

## 15. GSA Environmental Sustainability Management Plan



### Background

The University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association (GSA) has developed an Environmental Sustainability Management Plan with assistance from the University of Melbourne Sustainability Team. This Plan outlines our commitment to sustainability and our aim to reduce our environmental impact as an organisation. In this Plan, we have identified strategies which aim to educate and empower staff, elected representatives and our student community to act in ways that support sustainability principles.

### Authorisation

Chief Executive Officer to authorise Plan.

Managers to implement Plan.

## Objectives

To achieve our goal of improving and promoting environmentally responsible practice across GSA, we have developed the following overall objectives:

1. Improve knowledge of, and engagement in, environmentally responsible behaviours among GSA staff members, elected representatives and graduate student community.
2. Improve environmental performance across all areas of our activity, including the management and operation of our facilities and equipment.

## Key Focus Areas

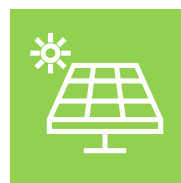
The following key focus areas of this plan are placed in decreasing order of GSA’s power to influence the goals and actions belonging to each Focus Area. The goals are intended to enable sustainability in GSA’s operations and procedures.



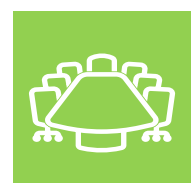
**Waste Management**



**Sustainable Events**



**Green Procurement**



**Governance**






**Promoting Environmentally Responsible Practices**








**Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions**










**Efficient Water Consumption**

Key Focus Areas	Goals	Action Points
<p><b>Waste Reduction</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce landfill waste.</li> <li>• Reduce recyclable waste.</li> <li>• Advocate for expansions to recycling services.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>For internal meetings:</b> GSA will invest in reusable containers, utensils, trays, cutlery, etc. to use in internal meetings.</li> <li>2. <b>For students:</b> GSA will encourage students to use reusable utensils and promote the use of the <a href="#">Choose to Reuse</a> program for Grad Group events.</li> <li>3. GSA will advocate for the University promote its existing recycling services and expand them to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass, plastic, cardboard, and paper</li> <li>• Ink toner, cartridges, pens, markers.</li> <li>• Batteries and electrical waste</li> <li>• Shredded paper</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. GSA will collaborate with the University to responsibly dispose of organic and recyclable waste.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Sustainable Events</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise food and landfill waste in events.</li> <li>• Empower local caterers and vendors.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GSA will prioritise providers who are fairtrade and sustainable when ordering catering. GSA will also communicate our preferences for sustainable and zero-waste packaging with providers when ordering.</li> <li>2. GSA will use the University's <b>'Choose to Re-use'</b> and <b>"Green my Plate"</b> initiatives for events whenever possible</li> </ol>

<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p> 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Reduce Paper wastage:</b> GSA will try to go paperless in organising events and meetings.</li> <li>4. <b>Reduce Landfill waste:</b> GSA will minimise the distribution of pamphlets and single-use merchandise at events. GSA will instead prioritise the distribution of reusable merchandise (e.g. – water bottles, lunch boxes, tote bags, etc.), particularly those sourced from fairtrade providers.</li> <li>5. <b>Minimising single-use items:</b> GSA will consult the <a href="#">University of Melbourne Single Use Items – Standard</a> if disposable single-use items must be used.</li> <li>6. GSA event organisers will remind attendees to <b>bring their coffee cups and their reusable water bottles</b> on the Eventbrite page.</li> <li>7. <b>Reduce food waste:</b> GSA will minimise food waste by distributing leftover food to staff, students or food waste charities whenever possible.</li> <li>8. <b>Correct disposal of waste:</b> GSA will ensure that organic, recyclable and landfill waste is disposed of separately. Signs will be displayed near bins and GSA will utilise the Waste Warriors program whenever possible.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Green Procurement</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure suppliers have environmentally responsible practices.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Electrical equipment:</b> GSA will try to purchase energy and water efficient equipment with a minimum of 3-star rating.</li> <li>2. <b>Stationery:</b> GSA will try to buy stationery, particularly paper, with some amount of recycled materials.</li> <li>3. <b>Furniture:</b> GSA will try buy second-hand furniture, or furniture from vendors that use recycled materials.</li> <li>4. <b>Food and reusable dishes:</b> GSA will try to source food supplies (e.g. – breakfast cereal) and reusable supplies from ethical, local or fairtrade vendors.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Governance</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smooth and Sustainable operations.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sustainable events checklist</b> – event organisers will be encouraged to consult the <a href="#">University of Melbourne Sustainable Events checklist</a> when planning events. Elected representatives will also be required to report on sustainability practices when completing a campaign proposal.</li> <li>2. <b>Carbon footprint:</b> GSA will calculate its annual carbon footprint, set an annual goal, and review it for future reductions.</li> <li>3. <b>Annual Sustainability Report:</b> GSA will embed sustainability reporting within its annual report and report on goals achieved.</li> </ol>

		<p>4. <b>Continuous Improvement:</b> GSA will try to continuously improve its environment and sustainability practices, based on feedback from relevant stakeholders, including graduate students.</p> <p>5. <b>Transparent Reporting:</b> GSA will ensure that progress towards fulfilling these objectives is transparently reported.</p>
<p><b>Promoting Environmentally Responsible Practice</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving staff and students' commitment to environmentally responsible behaviours.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Education:</b> GSA will educate staff, elected representatives and students about waste reduction actions (including those listed above).</li> <li><b>Green Impact program:</b> GSA will encourage staff, elected representatives and students to participate in the <a href="#">Green Impact</a> program.</li> <li><b>Sustainable behaviour:</b> GSA staff will print documents only when necessary and set printing default settings to black and white double-sided. GSA staff will try to delete files that are not required anymore (wherever possible) to reduce carbon footprint generated by cloud storage.</li> <li>GSA will embed environmentally responsible practices within relevant policies and procedures.</li> <li><b>Sustainable events induction:</b> GSA will organise a sustainable</li> </ol>

		<p>events induction for Board, Representative Council, Faculty Council and staff members at the start of the new term.</p>
<p><b>Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b></p>  <p>Contributes to SDG -</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fossil fuels (Petrol, Gas, Diesel)</li> <li>Electricity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Shut down equipment:</b> GSA will encourage staff to turn off lights and computers at the end of the day, unless they are being used.</li> <li>2. <b>Energy efficient equipment:</b> GSA will advocate for the University to use energy efficient light bulbs and electrical equipment in the 1888 Building.</li> <li>3. <b>Insulation:</b> GSA will advocate for the University to improve existing wall insulation and seal any leakage areas in the 1888 Building.</li> <li>4. <b>Reduce gas consumption:</b> GSA will advocate for the University to reduce gas consumption</li> </ol>
<p><b>Efficient Water Consumption</b></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce water usage.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GSA will advocate for the University to ensure that all taps and shower heads in the 1888 Building are fitted with water saver washers.</li> <li>2. GSA staff and members will only use the dishwasher when it is full whenever possible.</li> </ol>

Contributes to SDG -		3. GSA will advocate for the University to ensure the 1888 Building complies with the Water Efficiency Standards and uses water-efficient appliances with a minimum 3-star rating.
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