Imperial College Union
Sustainability Strategy / 25 February 2026

Sustainability Strategy Progress Update

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Purpose: To report on the progress of ICU sustainability strategy
Decision(s): To note

1. Context

ICU's sustainability strategy was implemented from 2024/25 after development in the prior academic year.

The strategy was refocused after officer and student feedback into four core strands:

- **Educate.** Work with the University to ensure all Imperial students have excellent sustainability educational access and opportunities inside and outside the formal curriculum.
- **Lobby.** Advocate for students to influence the University to enhance their sustainability commitments.
- **Minimise**. Work to reduce the Union's carbon footprint and mitigate our climate impact.
- **Deliver.** Through our services aim to bring visible impact to the student community.

2. Progress

The strategy has been operational for one academic year. A summary of progress against each theme is below.

Aim	Progress to date
Educate all Imperial students on sustainability	ICU training for student groups has included sustainability embedded into sessions on event planning and sponsorships. ICU has been involved in curriculum mapping exercise to understand extent of education for sustainability in the curriculum. ICU has fed in to and supported the university's plan for class of 2030's education for sustainability
Lobby Imperial to enhance their sustainability commitments	Through ICU presidents, ICU has worked collaboratively to input on the Imperial Zero Index and are engaged on the University's committee for Socially Responsible Investments. Officers and staff have helped develop the University sustainability strategy (to be launched in 2026).
Minimise the Union's carbon footprint to mitigate our climate impact	Undertaken a carbon audit of Student Group activity. Undertook Green Impact Students' Union accreditation scheme. ICU achieved good kitemark.

	All Union staff undertook climate literacy training. Formal Sustainability Committee established. Catering brought in house, 50% plant based menu launching March 2026.
Deliver social impact to our community	Working with the University to enhance green spaces including improved Beit Quad. Community organising training provided to staff and officers.

3. Priorities and Next Steps

The priority for the remainder of the academic year is to embed the Sustainability Strategy fully into the Union's governance and operational model. The following key areas will be our focus:

- Consulting relevant stakeholders to develop the 2026/27 action plan aligned with the strategy aims.
- Establishing the Union's new Sustainability Committee.
- Establishing clear performance indicators and reporting arrangements for monitoring by Management Committee.
- Continue collaboration with the University on their strategy development.
- Work towards 'very good' rating in Green Impact.
- Complete carbon audit of all ICU operations and set reduction targets for 2026/27.
- Deliver a sustainable catering offer at Beit.
- Review ICU sustainability policies including travel, procurement.

Progress on sustainability should be included as a regular annual item for the Board embedded in the 2026/27 planning cycle.