

Climate Change and Green Electricity Motion

This union notes:

1. That this University is currently powered by 'brown electricity', electricity produced by burning fossil fuels.
2. That together, Britain's Universities are major energy users, spending millions of pounds every year on electricity to heat, light and power their facilities.
3. That the Students' Union building also uses brown electricity.
4. That other universities, including Leeds Metropolitan, with whom Bradford has a strategic alliance, already purchase a substantial proportion of their electricity from renewable sources.
5. That the university's own environmental policy states "The University of Bradford is conscious that its activities impact on the environment locally, nationally and globally. It acknowledges that it has a responsibility to demonstrate environmental awareness, protection, and sustainability through appropriate teaching, research and institutional practice."
6. That in the year 2000 alone, floods swept across Britain, while in Mozambique floods left 700 people dead and 300,000 were forced to flee from their homes, more than 10 million people were affected by floods in India and in the Horn of Africa tens of millions were affected by drought, causing severe food shortages.
7. That 96% of deaths from so-called 'natural' disasters happen in poor countries.

This union believes:

1. That climate change is wreaking havoc across the world, destroying millions of people's lives.
2. That as long as this University is powered by electricity produced by burning fossil fuels, then it is part of the problem rather than the solution.

3. That this university has a moral responsibility to switch to green electricity.
4. That it is important to take local action on this global issue.
5. That by burning fossil fuels – oil, coal and gas – wealthy countries like Britain are responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions, causing climate change.
6. That climate change means that weather related disasters – floods, droughts, hurricanes, storms – will hit harder and more often. In the 1960s there were 16 climate-related natural disasters; in the 1990s there were 70.

This union resolves:

1. To actively support People & Planet's campaign for the University to switch to green electricity.
2. That the SU Exec lobby the Vice Chancellor to switch the University to green electricity.
3. That the SU Exec make this a priority issue.

Proposer: Adrian Platt

Seconder: Cat Moreno

Ratified: UC20011122

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