

Environmental policy

Policy objectives

U3AC is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment, and to providing its members with information and resources on environmental issues.

Minimising U3AC's environmental impact

The following environmental protection principles will be observed:

- Eliminate – avoiding producing unnecessary waste
- Reduce – minimising waste
- Reuse – using items as many times as possible
- Recycle – recycling as many items as possible
- Dispose – disposing of items at the end of their useful lives in a responsible manner

Particular attention will be given to the following:

- Reducing energy – as far as possible using energy efficient lighting; turning off equipment when not in use; keeping windows and doors closed (bearing in mind windows may sometimes need to be opened to further improve ventilation and thereby help to prevent the transmission of infection)
- Minimising waste – communicating by electronic means whenever practical (bearing in mind the needs and wishes of members, particularly those who cannot or do not wish to access electronic communications); taking prompt action in the event of a reported water leak
- Recycling paper
- Encouraging the use of public and non-motorised transport for travel to our premises and outside venues as far as it is practicable
- Encouraging U3AC's catering committee to use local, sustainably produced foods whenever possible when catering for its events.

Significant decisions aimed at further reducing U3AC's impact on the environment will be covered in the Annual Report (Strategic Review).

Providing information and resources to members

U3AC's Environment Group (u3acenvgroup@gmail.com) is open to all members and holds regular meetings at which current issues are discussed. It also aims to organise at least one seminar a year on topical issues and/or to offer practical advice on how to reduce members' carbon footprint. The Environment Group page on the U3AC website has links to the Group's own website for local and national environment groups, seminars and other topical issues and advice.

Approved by Council: December 2024

Next review date: October 2026