



Association of International Affairs

Policy

Environmental policy

Adopted at board meeting: 18/03/2021

Revised at board meeting 5: 02/11/2022

We, Umeå association of international affairs (UAIA), are aware that anthropogenic climate change is one of the challenges the world is facing today. As an association of international affairs we take our responsibility to minimize our carbon footprint and understand the urgent importance of the problem. Since UAIA is a part of SAIA (Sweden Association of International Affairs) we agree to follow their general environmental policy. UAIA's operations shall always stay within the environmental laws of the European Union, and Swedish laws.

Transport:

Vision:

UAIA aims to have a sustainable travel standard to minimize negative emissions as long as it does not interfere with our goal to spread knowledge on international affairs. When emissions can't be avoided we shall take responsibility over the negative emissions, and therefore UAIA aims to make environmental compensations through fitting means and in consideration of our budget. To avoid unnecessary trips, we shall aim to work with local speakers and use the local knowledge.

In practice:

- The board members and invited guests should always aim to take the train instead of flying.
- When trains are not a reasonable alternative, we will climate compensate through environmental organizations.
- We climate compensate through organizations such as Naturskyddsforeningen, Atmosfair, Myclimate, Climatecare, Tricorona, Greenseat and the Carbon Neutral Company.

Purchases:

Vision:

UAIA aims to ensure that all purchases are made with the environment in consideration. By choosing the most sustainable products we minimize the impact of our consumption. This goes hand in hand with avoiding disposable goods and other types of exaggerated consumption. UpF will aim to buy reused products and vegetarian/vegan options to minimize our global footprint. We also aim to, through discussion with our suppliers, purchase goods with minimal environmental production and transportation costs.

In practice:

- We strive to make sure all food and beverages bought or consumed at UpF Umeå's event are sustainable.
- We strive to buy and serve vegetarian, preferably vegan, food at our events and meetings to lower the carbon dioxide emission.
- We encourage all attendants at our events to bring their own cups/water bottles etc. If we provide coffee mugs, these should be reusable or if there is no other alternative, we choose environmentally marked disposable paper mugs.

Other:*Vision:*

During UAIA-events the environmental impact should be minimal and all venues should therefore be chosen accordingly. Encouraging all attendants at our events to act with respect towards the environment individually, during the event as well as after it, is also a part of our environmental commitment.

In practice:

- We will aim to have or work together with other organizations to have one event on the environment.
- If we or our speakers are staying at a hotel/hostel we aim to choose those that have an environmental commitment.
- We encourage all attendants to not litter before, during or after our events and help clean up any trash found at our events.
- We shall aim to recycle at our events and meetings and therefore choose the event location where this is possible and keep recycling options in our room.
- We do not print agendas, posters or other documents if not necessary, and we should use more environmentally friendly options if possible.