

Farnham u3a Environmental Policy

Aims of this policy

Given the widespread concern amongst u3a members and wider society about climate change, Farnham u3a has adopted these guidelines and encourage groups and members to reflect on the way their activities may impact on climate change, biodiversity loss and the environment. This Policy reflects the National u3a policy.

The aims of this policy are:

- address the concerns of members and wider society with regard to environmental issues
- encourage communication and dialogue on environmental issues within Farnham u3a
- encourage a culture of awareness and a sense of responsibility within the membership with respect to sustainability and environmental issues
- provide information to members on how they might reduce their adverse impact on the environment
- minimise the environmental impact of organised u3a activities

Practical Measures

The following are practical measures to raise awareness and to minimise environmental impact. Please note that committee members and groups leaders have an important part to play in supporting these measures during the activities of the u3a.

- Appoint one member as an Environmental Officer to monitor environmental issues arising within the u3a.
- Consider arranging speakers on environmental topics for some monthly meetings.
- Wherever possible incorporate environmental concerns into planning and decision making.
- Consider the impact of activities which take place outdoors on natural ecosystems e.g. walking and nature groups and how trips and holidays could be made more sustainable.
- Encourage the formation of climate and environmental groups within the u3a.
- Check whether venues operate environmentally responsible policies such as using local suppliers, and encourage them to do so.
- Ensure as far as possible that refreshments are served in an environmentally friendly manner e.g. using crockery rather than disposable cups and plates.

- Minimise waste and encourage reuse and recycling.
- Encourage travel to meetings and events by walking, car sharing and public transport where available.
- Consider conducting a survey of members to seek their views on climate and the environment and suggestions for measures which might be taken by the u3a.
- Make this policy available on our website and draw our members' attention to it.
- Encourage dialogue on climate change issues with the wider population including e.g. younger people.