

Environmental Issues Policy for Tynedale u3a

1. Policy Statement

Tynedale u3a is a learning cooperative and membership charity which enables members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Members draw on their knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other (peer to peer learning). Tynedale u3a recognises the concerns regarding climate change amongst members. In recognising these concerns, there is a need to mitigate the effects of human activity on the environment and Tynedale u3a wishes to minimise any detrimental effect of its activities.

The definition of Environmental issues in this policy is the negative effects of human activity on the natural world, including climate change, pollution, drought and biodiversity loss. Environmental protection is the practice of working to slow, halt or reverse this.

2. Aims of Policy

This policy has been drawn up to raise awareness of the current environmental issues of the membership:

- Firstly, to encourage awareness, communication and dialogue regarding possible environmental issues resulting from u3a activities.
- Secondly, to minimise the environmental impact of organised u3a activities.
- Thirdly, to encourage members to share their knowledge, skills and experience of climate change to teach and learn from each other.

This policy is aimed at increasing the cultural awareness of sustainability and a sense of responsibility within the whole group whilst upholding the principles of the u3a – *live, laugh, learn*.

It is written to enable the committee and the members of Tynedale u3a to address environmental issues by

- reviewing any planned whole group events and encouraging convenors to review any group events against the known impacts of environmental issues
- checking whether venues operate environmentally responsible policies such as using local suppliers and encouraging them to do so
- maintaining and increasing an environmental awareness amongst members by keeping members informed of developments in environmental risks and environmental protection measures
- ensuring that at least annually, a speaker provides a talk which addresses the effects of human activity on the environment
- encouraging u3a members to share their knowledge, skills and experience of climate change to teach and learn from each other through groups

In taking these actions Tynedale u3a will seek to minimise any detrimental effect of its activities on the environment.

3. Procedure

All groups within Tynedale u3a to be encouraged, where possible, to incorporate environmental concerns into planning and decision making. Where possible to consider the impact of activities

which take place outside, in natural eco systems e.g. walking and nature groups and how trips and holidays can be made more sustainable. To encourage travel to u3a events by walking, car sharing or public transport. To ensure as far as possible that refreshments are served in an environmentally friendly manner e.g. crockery rather than disposable cup and plates.

4. Course of action

The committee will share this policy with members by drawing their attention to it in the newsletter.

The group fixer will ask group convenors to review their group activities against the issues described in this policy.

To review this policy and these concerns, against the increasing knowledge of the effects of human activity on the environment and how to minimise any detrimental effect in the activities of Tynedale u3a.

May 2023