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| **Motion title: Ban single use plastic!** | |
| **Proposer:** Joe Bloggs (Tree Society Rep)  **Seconder:** Jane Bloggs (Sustainability Society Rep) | |
| **Summary:**  This motion proposes a ban on single use plastic across the UEA campus to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability. It highlights the significant contribution of plastics to pollution, especially in oceans and ecosystems. The ban would include items like plastic bottles, bags, cutlery, and straws, encouraging alternatives like reusable containers and biodegradable materials. The motion argues that this change would help the university reduce its carbon footprint, align with global sustainability efforts, raise environmental awareness among students and staff, fostering long term eco-friendly habits. | |
| **Proposer’s Engagement and Thought Formation**  **1. Thought Process**  I very much care about the environment and sustainability of our campus and all living beings on and around it. I wanted to find a way to get rid of single use plastic as part of becoming an environmentally friendly campus. If this gets implemented, we can reach out to environment clubs, local sustainability organisations, and campus vendors to explore viable alternatives.  **2. Student Consultation**  I have conducted a campus-wide survey to gauge student and staff opinions on the environment impact of single use plastics. After much research I discovered successful implementations of similar bans at other universities ad considered the logistical and financial implementations. This collaborative process allowed me to form a well-rounded perspective, ensuring the proposal addressed both environmental goals and practical concerns, and education efforts for the UEA community. | |
| **Union Notes:**   1. Up to 12 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean every year, taking centuries to degrades 2. The UK currently has no deposit return scheme for plastic bottles 3. The National Union of Students ran a campaign called “The Last Straw” in 2017/18, calling for a reduction in the use of single use plastic straws | |
| **Union Believes:**   1. The levels of plastic pollution in our local and international environment cannot be allowed to continue at its current rate 2. Organisations, including UEASU and UEA, have a responsibility to reduce their impact on the environment | |
| **Union Resolves:**   1. To raise awareness of plastic pollution and ways in which students can reduce their personal pollution 2. To lobby the university to increase the amount of recycling points around campus 3. To lobby the university for bottle filling stations around campus 4. To reduce the use of single use plastic by the Union, through using alternative materials wherever possible | |
| **EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) Considerations**  **1. Positive Impact**  Encourages reusable and biodegradable alternatives fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students and staff. Leading sustainable practices can elevate the university’s image, attracting environmentally conscious students and partners.  **2. Potential Negative Impact**  The university might need to upgrade its waste disposal systems to accommodate and efficiently process biodegradable alternatives. | |
| **Action** | **Assigned to and resource required** |
| 1. Implementation plan and timeline | Sustainability working group |
| 1. Awareness and Education Campaign | Working group with the help of Students’ Union |
| 1. Partnerships with vendors and suppliers | UEA |