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Sustainability Directive

Nachhaltigkeitsrichtlinie der Verfassten Studierendenschaft

The university's constituted student body (Verfasste Studierendenschaft) recognises its responsibility for environmental protection and sustainability and takes a stand against the exploitation of natural resources and is committed to sustainable consumption. To this end, it adopts guidelines, the implementation of which are monitored by the Referat für Ökologie und Nachhaltigkeit (Office for Ecology and Sustainability). The Referat für Ökologie und Nachhaltigkeit draws up a report once a year on the current situation with regard to the application of the criteria and implementation of the resolutions. In addition, the Referat für Ökologie und Nachhaltigkeit revises the following guidelines on sustainable consumption on an ongoing basis.

1. Food

When buying food, attention is paid to regionality and seasonality, and as little packaging as possible should be purchased. Packaging should be minimised as far as possible; unpackaged shops or food cooperatives are ideal for this. Preference is given to food from organic farming. The StuRa is generally in favour of vegetarian catering. If non-vegetarian catering is offered, this must be justified for financing purposes. When purchasing animal products, species-appropriate husbandry conditions should take precedence over the lowest price. Specifically, for example, no eggs from caged or barn rearing are purchased. Milk and dairy products are sourced from regional and well-known farms in accordance with the criteria. In particular, this excludes discount milk from the low-price spectrum. The same applies to the purchase of meat. In addition, meat-free alternatives must be offered at events organised by the student body. If a choice is available, vegan products should be favoured, e.g. in the case of soup powder, agar instead of gelatine, etc. The purchase of bottled water should be avoided wherever possible.

2. Printed Matter

When printing, care should always be taken to ensure that recycled paper is used as a priority, in addition, when ordering print jobs, CO2 offsetting should be purchased where possible. In general, the principle of economy should apply to print orders and not an excessive amount of material should be ordered, e.g. less resource-intensive advertising measures should be favoured (flyers < posters < creative alternatives).

3. Events

Disposable crockery and cutlery (paper, cardboard or plastic) should not be used at events organised by the Verfasste Studierendenschaft. Crockery and cutlery should either be borrowed/rented or the event participants should bring their own crockery and cutlery. Participants are also asked to bring appropriate crockery for the distribution and collection of leftovers. In principle, however, events should be planned in such a way that there is as little leftovers as possible. Nevertheless, any rubbish should be disposed of in suitable containers provided for this purpose while observing waste separation. At event venues, attention should be paid to the energy balance and energy-intensive measures such as mushroom heaters and searchlights should be avoided. When advertising events, attention should also be paid to the energy balance (see printed materials). It is expressly pointed out that crockery can be borrowed from the VS and that the StuWe also lends crockery at a moderate price.

4. Travel and Transport

For transport journeys for the Verfasste Studierendenschaft, non-motorised transport options are to be chosen (e.g. cargo bikes instead of cars); if motorised means of transport are unavoidable, an alternative without a combustion engine should be preferred (e.g. electric cars). If a means of transport with an internal combustion engine is used, CO₂ compensation must be ensured. However, saving resources always comes before offsetting. When travelling, carpooling should be used wherever possible or better use public transport if possible.

5. General purchases

Before new purchases are made, all borrowing options should be checked (free loan from the StuRa-Ausleihe or from Fachschaften or from chargeable providers in the region). When purchasing textiles for screen printing, for example, local purchases should be favoured and it is best to collect them yourself (see section Travel and Transport). Consumables for general needs (cleaning agents, toilet paper) and project-specific needs (e.g. for gardening clubs, workshops) should also be environmentally friendly and sustainable.

German Version:

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