

# Detailed Report of Carbon Footprint Reduction: UNA LASER AGM 2020 by Environment Officer



## UNA LONDON & SOUTHEAST REGION

**1. Executive Summary:** This report is based on 10 minutes survey for Carbon Footprint Reduction Resolution. We have 16 branches and 14 universities at our London and South-East Region (LASER) and from those 16 branches and 14 universities, 7 branches, 1 university and UNA LASER region responded to my survey. I asked 3 compulsory questions on personal information and 7 questions on action taken by branches for current & future Carbon Footprint Reduction and Uganda tree-planting project. None of the branches had formal policies to reduce their carbon footprints but here are some of the actions they are taking. Some branches are planning their policy implementation. Some Branches were considering other offsetting activities on Uganda Tree planting project.

**2. Introduction:** We have 9 regions in England, UK and as LASER we are working actively on carbon footprint reduction along with offsetting activities of Uganda tree planting project.

**3. Who Participated:-** We have 16 branches and 14 universities at LASER and from those 16 branches and 14 universities, these following 7 branches, 1 university and UNA LASER region responded to my survey:

- **Canterbury:** Emily Shirley
- **Harpenden:** John Trevor Evans
- **London Metropolitan University MUN:** Maria M Khan
- **Merton UNA:** Alison Williams
- **Streatham & Clapham UNA:** Sarah Webster
- **Tunbridge Wells & Wealden:** Jane Elizabeth Beeley
- **UNA Westminster:** Martin Grixoni

- **Bexhill and Hasting UNA Branch:** Barbara Echlin
- **London and South East Region:** Patricia Rogers

**4. Questions of Survey:** In this survey I asked following 3 compulsory questions on personal information and 7 questions on action taken by branches and universities for current & future Carbon Footprint Reduction and Uganda tree-planting project.

- Your Full Name (**Compulsory**)
- Name of your branch (**Compulsory**)
- Email address of your branch (**Compulsory**)
- Please share a statement of your branch's policies to reduce your carbon footprints. (**Optional**)
- Please share your current progress in implementing these policies. (**Optional**)
- Are you considering adopting any future policies to reduce your branch's carbon footprint? (**Optional**)
- Does your branch have any links or planned links with UNA Eastbourne's Uganda tree-planting project? (**Optional**)
- Please give details of any links or planned links. (**Optional**)
- Do you have any other offsetting activities for the reduction of your carbon footprint, planned or current? (**Optional**)
- Is there anything you would like to add? (**Optional**)

**4.1. Please share a statement of your branch's policies to reduce your carbon footprints:-**

Canterbury branch is mainly working on climate change via the SDGs. Harpenden branch is Organising meetings to inform members about climate change. London Metropolitan University MUN is mostly following the university's sustainability policies and decided to try and reuse as much as possible, in terms of placards and other paper products. Although Merton UNA don't have any written policies but their members receive relevant information by e-mail frequently and some of them attend meetings and share on how they are trying to reduce their own carbon footprints. Tunbridge Wells & Wealden have not formalised any branch policy particularly to reduce their carbon footprint. However they are using several practical ways in which they are trying to do this by encouraging people to use public transport to attend meetings and circulating maps to aid this, they encourage using car share, ensuring each year their annual MUNGA included environmental motion to be debated the highlighted topic and spread the word about the importance of reducing carbon footprint amongst their staff and more local schools. On a personal level, they have not flown anywhere for the past two and a half years, recycling as much as possible. UNA Westminster mentioned that as a branch they advocate the *five R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rot and Recycle*. As individuals they are encouraging those within their sphere of influence to implement five R's and as a branch they advertise 5 R's, and holding Zoom meeting rather than face to face meetings in London. London and South East Region is trying to be environment friendly as much possible in all their activities.



**4.2. Please share your current progress in implementing these policies:-** Canterbury branch is trying to influence the outcome of the Canterbury Local Plan which is in the process of being revised so that it is rewritten to reflect the SDG goals and targets. Also they are arranging urgent consultation with Canterbury SDG Forums like alliance of universities, local NGOs and so on. Harpenden is doing group activity which is suspended at the moment. London Metropolitan University MUN said that due to the current situation, a lot of their work has moved online, however they will be attempting to further digitise their activities. Merton UNA said that they have a long way to go. Streatham & Clapham UNA said that they have been thinking about it. Tunbridge Wells & Wealden are using zoom for LaSER Policy Conference in May at which branches voted to include the 'Acting on our own Carbon Footprint' branch policy. They joined other local people as signatories with an open letter addressed to the borough and county council leaders, urging them to consider 'clean, green infrastructure' which was published in the local press to broadcast the importance of reducing town's carbon footprint to the local public. They are actively encouraging those South East branches which run environmental campaigns to submit articles on these topics. On a personal level, they are reducing the use of their personal car, purchasing groceries online, walking to local shops and pharmacies, wearing washable masks, donating 6 bags of clothing and other items to Oxfam and have no plans to travel abroad this year. London and South East Region is trying to minimise their use of paper and car transport.

**4.3. Are you considering adopting any future policies to reduce your branch's carbon footprint:-** Canterbury said that they do not have any plan yet, but at personal level they are doing a lot. They gave up car ownership 30 years ago and a handful of active members of them are mostly and almost all of them are very committed for reducing carbon footprint. Harpenden has no policy here. London Metropolitan University MUN is considering some, however due to the current situation they are waiting for the university's reopening to finalise any decisions. Merton UNA has a very interesting policy. They encourage more to use the carbon calculator to monitor their emissions. Streatham & Clapham UNA said that they might want to have, but it is difficult as most of it is related to holding meetings. Tunbridge Wells & Wealden are Planning for Zoom meeting where public may register and marking UN75 November event with two speakers, one on the oceans & growing amount of plastic waste there, and the second speaker on efforts to make the town plastic free. The local FoE, and teenagers in the local Youth Forum has been invited to participate. UNA Westminster has a tree planting project. London and South East Region has no policy yet to be considered for this.

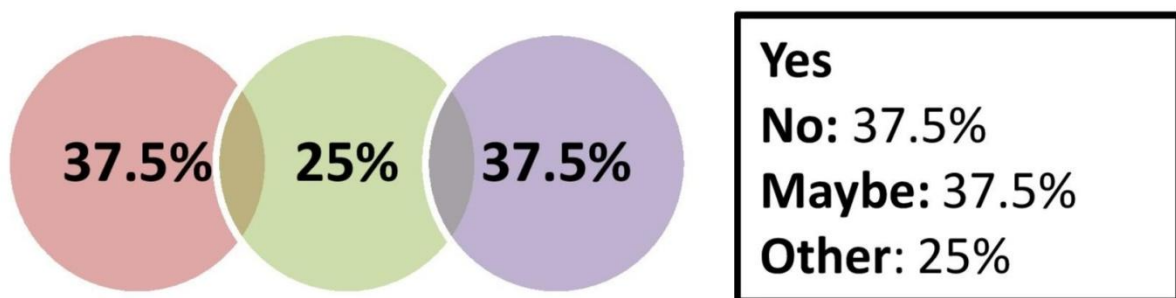
**4.4. Does your branch have any links or planned links with UNA's Eastbourne's Uganda tree planting project:-** Tunbridge Wells & Wealden said may be they have, but all other branches, LASER Region and universities said that they do not have any planning.



<b>Yes</b>
<b>No: 87.5%</b>
<b>Maybe: 12.5%</b>

**4.5. Please give details of any links or planned links:-** Canterbury is working on setting up a partnership with Entebbe re the SDGs and climate change in particular. Harpenden have links with local environmental campaigning groups. Merton UNA has shared their carbon calculator with us. Streatham & Clapham UNA said that they may have some planning in the future. Tunbridge Wells & Wealden has actively supported Gonzalo Alvarez and his work on Climate and Oceans. They have been invited to join the Climate and Oceans Committee formed by him and they look forward to sharing in this work to publicise the threat to our oceans and seek ways to minimise carbon footprint which would establish good links with UNA Eastbourne's project.

**4.6. Do you have any other offsetting activities for the reduction of your carbon footprint, planned or current:-** Tunbridge Wells & Wealden has hoped to hold further 'virtual' meetings, reducing the need for travel. UNA Westminster said maybe. London and South East Region said that some of them give money to tree-planting to offset their air travel.



**4.7. Is there anything you would like to add:-** Canterbury's key activity has been working on the local implementation of the SDGs and their annual World Peace Service at Canterbury Cathedral, but this year's service will not be going ahead because of C-19. Harpenden would support action by the region and UNA-UK to lobby the UK government on climate change in the preparations for COP26 and to encourage groups to engage with local government on this issue. Tunbridge Wells & Wealden said that transport plays a great role in Climate change. Merton UNA and UNA Westminster found our survey method helpful. London and South East Region said that they shall be interested to see what branches are doing.

**4.8. UNA Bexhill and Hastings:-** UNA Bexhill and Hastings did not replied my question directly, but they send me their works in a different way. At 2019 they took themes the plight of our Oceans and Peace in our troubled world, and the impact that climate disruption as their main work. They are collaborating with other local, regional and national groups and organisations. Following 2018 Peace Event, they intend to form a network of local groups to work with them to enhance the UN's capacity for maintaining global peace and security. They are hearing from the local Syrian Refugee Group about how refugees are being helped in their area. They are holding meeting on UN's latest report from the IPCC calling for urgent action to keep warming levels below 1.5°C the imminent threat of climate change. At 2020 their local UNA programme for 2020 reflects the dominance of climate disruption and in this way they are responding to that threat. Locally both Rother and Hastings local councils have declared a climate emergency.

**5. Conclusion:-** In conclusion, I want to conclude by saying that branches and universities need to take more planning and actions for carbon footprint reduction and development of Uganda tree planting project.