

The Sustainability Regulations – Amendment of the Financial Regulation of the Student Body

A Booklet

At its meeting on 19 May 2021, the 15th Student Parliament of the University of Lüneburg passed an amendment to the financial regulations of the University of Lüneburg's student body at the second reading with the required majority of two thirds of the members. The inserted section on sustainability ('the Sustainability Regulations') was developed by the Sustainability Committee in dialogue with various other university committees and the student body.

The new requirements are intended to ensure that the university's student body reduces its footprint and takes responsibility for the (consumption) decisions it makes.

In this accompanying booklet, we want to present the relevant information clearly and vividly and give you tips on how to implement the sustainability regulations. The Financial Regulations remain the legal basis. If you find sustainable alternatives to the provisions listed here and in the financial regulations, you can informally explain this to the Finance Officer and get it approved. The student body's funds should in general be linked to the principle of sustainability.

April, 2021

The Sustainability Committee of the 15th Student Parliament

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§ 18 – Dishes and Beverages

- If you want to buy food, pay attention to the organic certification:



- Products must bear the German or European organic seal. If necessary, products with the seals of higher quality associations are also okay.
- You can find organic food in most supermarkets and discount stores. In Lüneburg, there are also some organic and wholefood shops.

- Drinks must be bought in glass or reusable packaging
 - The exception to this is milk and large containers of more than 5 liters.



You can tell whether a bottle is reusable or not by checking the deposit. A 25cent deposit means the bottle is not for reusing, if the deposit is 8 or 15 cents, it means it is a reusable one.

- Externally prepared food does not have to be organic but must be vegetarian.
 - You want to buy bakery products? Get them from a bakery. Nearby are e.g. “Kruse”, “Harms” or “Der Heidebäcker”.
 - When eating out in cafés or restaurants, think of the fact that only vegetarian or vegan dishes are covered.
 - Vegetarian or vegan food from delivery services or catering is available from many providers, for example “Peter Pane” for burgers or “Milano” for pizza.

§ 19 – Consumables and Equipment

(Electronic devices, textiles, office utensils, decorative items)

- Before new goods are purchased, it must be checked whether the objects can be
 - repaired,
 - borrowed or
 - bought second-hand.

- If a new purchase is made, preference should be given to products that can be used for a longer period of time, repaired economically, recycled or result in less waste.
 - o In order to reduce emissions during transport, the chosen products are supposed to have been produced in the European economic area, Switzerland or the United Kingdom.
- New purchases should fulfil one of the following criteria:
 - a. be certified organic,
 - b. bear the Blue Angel label,
 - c. the latest Tjänstemännens Central Organisation (TCO) standard or
 - d. the seal of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



- Paper should be preferred to plastic for consumables.
- Paper, such as sanitary, printing or toilet paper, must be sourced from 100% recycled paper.

Further tips on the procurement of office supplies:

- Refillable mechanical pencils and pens made of wood or metal avoid waste, as do refillable highlighters.
- Rebuilt toners are remanufactured toner cartridges and some ink cartridges can also be refilled.
- Rechargeable batteries are more durable than batteries.
- To reduce harmful substances, make sure that adhesives, correction fluids etc. are solvent-free.

- Clothing and other textiles can only be covered if they:
 - o are certified organic and
 - o no leather or fur
- Clothing and textiles must also **either** bear one of the following seals **or** be manufactured in the European Economic Area, Switzerland or the United Kingdom:...



Further tips on electrical appliances:

- Before buying, the website [ifixit.de](https://www.ifixit.de) provides information on whether devices are repairable
- SSD hard disks, additional memory (RAM) or clean-up programmes speed up computers that have become slow.
- Pay attention to the energy efficiency class when buying.
- Old appliances can be disposed of at the recycling centre or taken to the collection point for electrical appliances in whole sale.
- Switch off devices that are not being used.

Further information:

- www.umweltbundesamt.de/umwelttipps-fuer-den-alltag
- www.siegelklarheit.de
- www.ifixit.de
- www.kompass-nachhaltigkeit.de
- www.utopia.de

§ 20 – Financing of Traveling Expenses

When travelling, the train should always be chosen as the first mode of transport, as this is the least emitting mode of transport. Only if the emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided and/or reduced, compensating them should be considered. Do your research before choosing an compensation provider: inform yourself about which projects are supported by your payment and weigh up whether these payments make sense.

- Do you have to travel by plane?
 - o Flights of less than 1500 km air-line distance between the starting point and destination are not funded.
 - o Flights over 1500 km air-line distance between the starting point and destination may only be financed with the **prior** approval of the Finance Officer and the Finance Committee.
 - o Flights will only be reimbursed if emissions have been compensated. The costs for the compensation will be reimbursed.
- Did you travel by car?
 - Offset the CO₂ emission, the costs will be reimbursed.
- Emission compensation
 - When it comes to emissions offsetting, preference should be given to offers that save emissions in the European Economic Area, Switzerland or the United Kingdom.

How to offset emissions:

1. Calculate the individual amount of CO₂ released by your journey.
You can do this here, for example: <https://www.greensfair.de/>
2. Choose a provider for CO₂ offsetting that compensates emissions in Europe, preferably locally.
You can find two examples below ↓
3. You can offset your emissions by purchasing a certificate. Present this to the finance officer.

Bus, train and carpooling are
the most sustainable forms of
travel.

§ 21 – Control and Exceptions

All applications for reimbursement of costs relating to §§ 18 to 20 must be submitted to the finance officer in written form. It must be recognizable that the products purchased meet the requirements for reimbursement. You can ensure this, for example, by providing receipts or photos of the products.

You have found products that are more sustainable than the requirements in the sustainable financial regulations (e.g. local, sustainably grown vegetables for your next barbecue, but which are not certified)? There is an exception rule for these and other cases!

Exceptions to the specified criteria can be discussed and with the finance officer prior to the purchase and approved, for example if the price of organic products is disproportionate. Subsequent approval is more difficult, so submit your exception requests before the purchase if possible!

Closing Words

Do you have suggestions, questions, problems or any other need to discuss the new sustainable financial regulations? Are you missing certain aspects or having difficulties with implementation? We as the sustainability committee would like to support you on your way to more sustainable shopping. Let us know your concerns, we would enjoy finding solutions together with you to make our consumption more sustainable!

This little booklet is intended to help you plan your purchases better and adapt them to the sustainable financial order. If you identify a lack of certain aspects here, please let us know we will then add them!

We are looking forward to working with you to develop the smallest possible ecological footprint as a student body, we hope you are as motivated as we are!

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Cost reimbursement application:

<https://www.asta-lueneburg.de/wp-content/uploads/Nachhaltiger-Kostenerstattungsantrag-1.pdf>

Application for travel compensation:

https://asta-lueneburg.de/wp-content/uploads/2020-09-30_Wegstreckenentschaedigung.pdf