

For a fairer campus and a sustainable University

I believe UCL is failing to stand up for the ideals it claims to espouse. I hope to be part of a movement to change that, to reclaim the **values of progress and fairness**.

In People & Planet's 2009 "Green League", which measures the environmental impact of universities, UCL came a staggering 98 out of 113. For any university that's bad enough. For a university which prides itself on world-leading environmental and energy research, it's nothing short of shameful.



This has to change. There are several key things UCL could do to achieve **meaningful change**:

- Appoint a dedicated **director for the environment & sustainability**
- Drastically improve **free bike-storage** facilities to encourage cycling to campus
- Also improve **recycling** facilities drastically: the current bins are useless
- Access to **free water around UCL**, removing the sale of bottled water altogether
- Concerted programmes to improve **energy efficiency** and avoid electricity wastage on lights, computer screens, so on and so forth.
- The list could go on forever.

Sadly there is virtually as much room for improvement at UCLU. I am already working toward this end within the **UCLU Sustainability Committee**.

Students have to be the driving force behind this change. We know this by how reluctant UCL has been to instigate any meaningful changes thus far.

As Environment & Ethics Officer my priority will not be to simply speak *on your behalf*, but to facilitate discussion and **open, democratic participation in decision-making** within the Union. As an active participant in the Environment & Ethics Forum this year I know how valuable this is.

We should be actively fostering a **campaigning atmosphere** at UCL for students to voice their opinions, while simultaneously doing everything we can to protect fellow students in the light of severe public scrutiny, like has happened with the Islamic Society of late.

An important aspect of the Environment & Ethics Officer's role is that of holding the Union and college to account for their **moral responsibilities**. How the university invests its money is a large part of that – despite the success in getting UCL to sell its shares in the arms trade, there are still big battles to be won regarding monolithic oil companies driving climate change – but it does not stop there.

Both UCL and UCLU have a strong duty to treat those who work here well, be they student or full-time staff. I will actively take forward the mission to instate the **London Living Wage** around campus, and to **fight cuts to teaching and support staff**. As UCL steams ahead with £20m cuts to its operating budget, UCLU has been disgracefully slow at not only supporting our education by opposing these cuts, but also at even *publicising* that this is going on. This is a severe failure of what UCLU should be here for – to **support students**.