

Policy 2421

UEA on Ecosia:

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Summary: Earlier this year, the University of East Anglia declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and stated they would aim to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050. Tree planting can offset carbon emissions through the sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Additionally, planted trees can aid habitat restoration.

Ecosia – an alternative search engine that has the functionality of Google – uses its' profits to plant trees. On average, Ecosia plants one tree for every 49 searches. With the number of searches made on University computer systems, UEA could make notable contributions to Ecosia tree planting schemes.

Union Council notes:

1. In June this year, the University of East Anglia declared a climate and biodiversity emergency;
2. The University aims to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050; and,
3. Carbon offsetting and habitat restoration are possible through tree planting – Ecosia facilitates this.

Union Council believes:

1. The University have made good progress in decarbonising campus;
2. Ecosia is a competitive search engine that can be used without the loss of Google functionality; and,
3. Ecosia offers a very simple and cheap addition to the efforts that the University can make to toward atmospheric decarbonisation and habitat restoration.

Union Council resolves:

1. The University should make Ecosia the default search engine on all campus computers