

Léa's Manifesto for 2020-21:

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." -E. Roosevelt



This Manifesto is for you. It is for all of us. It is for our future. Every day we lay the foundations for the next day. We manifest tomorrow. So, let's start manifesting.

Our world is in a Climate Emergency. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change we only have 10 years left to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions if we want to stay within a 1.5°C warmer world. A 1.5°C warmer world is already a compromise. Climate Change is already affecting people all around the world. Island inhabitants are having to relocate and migrate. Natural disasters are increasing in scale and frequency. Rainforests are on fire. A mass extinction of species is underway. Critical tipping points are already being reached. Our future is being traded for the profit of the few. However, in this short spec of time we still have agency. We have the opportunity to create change and build a society that is more just, more community-centred and more sustainable.

Change starts locally. It starts with us. Our emissions here are still melting glaciers somewhere else which means that what we do, and we don't do, does makes a difference.



About me:

My name is Léa Weimann, I am 21 years old and I am 3rd year undergraduate student studying Sustainable Development and International Relations. I was born in Germany but grew up and lived in Cape Town in South Africa for a long time. That is where I first encountered Climate Change and environmental pollution. Seeing plastic pollution wash up on the shores from all around the world, discovering sewage pollution affecting the beaches and swimmers, finding dead seals and fishes washed up on the beach, as well as recurrent and vast forest fires and

draughts affecting everyday life. It is hard to imagine how precious water is until there is a limit to how much you can use each day. As a result, I became very passionate about protecting the environment and standing up for climate justice from a very early age on. The first time that I called myself an “eco-activist” was when I was 15 years old and I set up my own website and blog called “Eco-Activists” which is still running and updated regularly. I wanted to build a community for people to inspire and support each other. I participated in my first global climate marches in Cape Town in 2014 and 2015. That then led me on to take up a whole host of environmental initiatives such as becoming Environment Head at my school and then in 2017 deciding to study Sustainable Development at St Andrews. Since my very first day here I have been involving myself with environmental groups and initiatives in St Andrews, building connections and cross-society collaborations and speaking up for climate justice.

My favourite pass-times are writing, being creative and spending time outside in nature. That is also how my poetry book “Dear Earth” came to life. It is a non- for- profit poetry collection about nature, activism, challenging the status quo and creating change. I published it Christmas 2019 and all profits of the book go to support environmental charities (such as Amazon Frontlines).

Societies and environmental groups I have been involved since I am in St Andrews:

- Transition Social Media Intern 2017-18
- Eco-Activist Journeys radio show on St Andrews Radio since 2017
- Sustainable Development Society Committee 2018-2019
- Environment Subcommittee Events and Society Liaison 2018-2020
- Enactus St Andrews 2018-2019
- Open Cages 2018-2019
- Co-founding Climate Action St Andrews in 2019 to help set up and organise the climate strikes in St Andrews
- Amnesty Committee- Head of Kenly Campaign Subcommittee since 2019
- Climate Arts Festival group 2020

NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE



With dozens of environmental groups and societies in St Andrews it can quickly become confusing. What to do? Where to get involved? Where are efforts most needed? 2020 is the year for change! The Subcommittee sits at a unique position for implementing and manifesting change within the University, student community and wider town. It is more than just another environmental society and it is time for it to realise that role.

My vision for the Environment Subcommittee:

- Environment Subcommittee acts as an overarching body and reference point for all environmental societies and groups in St Andrews.
- Environment Subcommittee transformed from a “society” to a forum for collaboration and change.
- Environment Subcommittee acts as a link between the University and students for all matters related to sustainability.
- Environment Subcommittee becomes a space for effective collaboration between environmental groups.

I would propose following new Subcommittee Structure and Positions:

- Environment Officer
- Secretary and Magazine Editor
- Community & Staff Liaison
- Student & Society Liaison
- Volunteer and Campaign Officer
- Events coordinator (Green Week and other events) x2
- Creative Design Officer
- Publicity and Awareness Officer
- Accommodation Rep

Green Week:

- Green Week has for many years been one of the main highlights for the Environment Subcommittee. While it is important to keep that tradition going, it is time to broaden the mission of the Subcommittee even further.
- Green Week has been very effective in raising awareness in St Andrews and will continue to play an important role.
- However, I would like to place a bigger focus on community involvement and engagement with the wider town and community of St Andrews
- It will be inclusive and open to town and gown alike, as well as church and faith groups and schools.

- Climate Change challenges us to unite all our efforts and create a space for inspiration and effective collaboration.
- Green Week will not just be the role of the events coordinator (or Green Week Coordinator as it was in the past) but of the whole committee combining all the different roles and focusses.

Yearly focus:

- 2-3 bigger focus events for the year that are envisioned by the new Committee
- St Andrews Sustainability Forum at the beginning and end of each year
 - Establishing St Andrews-wide connections for environmental groups and societies
 - Networking opportunity
 - Creating a St Andrews Sustainability Vision of the year
 - Reporting back on all the successes of the year
 - Set up goals and collaborative initiatives and events for the coming year
- Green Week
- Supporting environmental campaigns and initiatives throughout St Andrews

Eco-Connect Forum for Change:

- Space for community and society collaboration
- Meets once a month to report on St Andrews initiatives
- Feedback and announcement of all upcoming events to discuss how these can be supported
- Not just interacting with sustainability societies and groups but engaging and inviting societies from all around St Andrews
- Space for advising and support on sustainability matters

A manifesto for change in St Andrews:

The three cornerstones of my manifesto:

Community Action Wellbeing

1. Subcommittee and societies:
 - 1.1. Transform the mission and role of subcommittee
 - 1.2. Create a space and forum for effective collaboration
 - 1.3. Lay out a focus and vision for the upcoming year
 - 1.4. Build a strong community and team since a strong team is a key point for effective collaboration and creating change
 - 1.5. Help sustainability societies around St Andrews to set up larger events and have a far-reaching effect
 - 1.6. Create a space for sustainability advising, awareness and collaboration
 - 1.6.1. Include a clear section on environmental activities and initiatives on the Student Union website.
 - 1.7. Support environmental campaigns in St Andrews and push for Student Union support for campaigns with environmental focus such as the Kenly Campaign
 - 1.7.1. Pass a motion in the Student Association to support the Kenly windfarm campaign
2. St Andrews Community:
 - 2.1. Establishing a monthly Eco-Connect forum
 - 2.1.1. Establish stronger community and town-grown relationship that fosters collaboration and combined events and initiatives
 - 2.2. Organise a big town-wide climate action event for the COP26 in Glasgow
 - 2.3. Support the "Towards a Plastic Free St Andrews" initiative
 - 2.4. Work together with and support the St Andrews Environmental Network
 - 2.5. Work together with Transition and Environment Team on environmental projects and initiatives
 - 2.6. Establishing a connection for collaboration with the Council
 - 2.6.1. Collaborate to report on sustainability matters in St Andrews news
3. University and Student Union:
 - 3.1. Work and collaborate with new Environment Sustainability Board
 - 3.1.1. Help set up a new and ambitious sustainability strategy for the University of St Andrews
 - 3.2. Set up a tree-planting scheme for carbon offsetting
 - 3.3. Campaign for *Ecosia* to be set as a standard browser on University-owned laptops which will plant trees and support tree-planting campaigns and communities around the world to act as carbon sinks.
 - 3.4. Encourage every department and module to incorporate sustainability in their teaching
 - 3.5. Push for a plastic-free campus strategy for 2025
 - 3.6. Campaign to ban shaving foam cans from the Rasin Monday foam fight
 - 3.7. Address food waste and catering concerns
 - 3.8. Raise concerns of new Vegan Matter group around vegan food and products
 - 3.8.1. Raise awareness to facilitate a better understanding of ethical veganism and non-discrimination against it
4. Well-being and activism:

- 4.1. Encourage University to set up support for eco-anxiety and activist well-being
- 4.2. Collaborate with Wellbeing Committee
- 4.3. Build an activist community that support students to become active in environmentalism and supports them on their journey.
- 4.4. Create a space to discuss eco-anxiety and what it means to live in a world of Climate Emergency.
5. Halls and Student Accommodation:
 - 5.1. Meet with catering services to discuss and understand their sustainability strategy and efforts
 - 5.2. Work on and address food waste strategy
 - 5.3. Communicate a better understanding of plant-based diets and veganism and the reasons behind why more vegetarian and vegan options should be phased into catering
 - 5.4. Raise concerns on catering for more inclusive vegan and vegetarian options that speak to people with food allergies (e.g. gluten, nut, etc.)
 - 5.5. Suggest hall catering team to trial a similar scheme as the one at Oxford where students can get the option of indicating at the beginning of the year that they are vegetarian/vegan and as a result pay less. This will encourage more veggie options, will reduce catering's carbon footprint and support healthier lifestyle choices while at the same time being cheaper.
 - 5.6. Conduct sustainability training and recycling explanation at beginning of the year to all students in halls.
 - 5.7. Information signs and explanations about what gets recycled in the University and different bin systems
 - 5.8. Establish better communication and community between environmental hall reps of the different halls
6. Volunteering and campaigns
 - 6.1. Establish a Subcommittee volunteer network for those who want to actively help with campaigns and initiatives around St Andrews
 - 6.2. Work together with the Student Volunteering Service (SVS) to promote their environmental volunteering opportunities.
 - 6.3. Support individuals and groups with important environmental campaigns and new initiatives in St Andrews.

This is just the beginning. It is not an exhaustive list. There is much to do and lots to change but with passion and collaboration we can achieve all we set our hearts to. In the hope that we leave a legacy for change so that all those who live and are yet to live in this beautiful little Scottish town may find and manifest their dreams and hopes for a better future.