

STANLEY QUEK



Reduce **EMISSIONS**
Increase **BIODIVERSITY**
Tackle **GREENWASHING**

MY EXPERIENCE!

I am running for GU Environmental Officer because I am very concerned about the state of our world and our lack of action. I specialised in conservation while doing Part II Zoology. I am now doing an MPhil on ecological networks in my home country of Singapore. I have worked with experts within the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and can tap into the vast experience and knowledge of these experts.

For further queries:
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WHAT I THINK

The university has taken positive steps. For instance, it has trialled removing the labels on vegan and vegetarian food items and presenting them as equivalent food choices, and this has increased the uptake of these environmentally friendly options without removing alternative choices.

However, much more remains to be done. I read with horror the report published by the Cambridge Zero Carbon Society, a succinct, easily understood summary of the deeply intertwined nature of the university's relationship with the fossil fuel industry. 70% of emissions are enabled by only 100 companies, and this is deeply unsettling. I feel a paradigm shift is necessary in tackling this issue. Who provides the demand for this? In addition, this institution contains perhaps the highest density of environmentally conscious individuals, and yet, we are involved in so many overseas conferences which translates into a higher air mileage than the average consumer.

Most of the people involved in the environmental movement are not experts and are subject to media sensationalisation. Many companies are cognizant of the demand for "sustainable" alternatives, and yet, lack the will or ability to make concrete changes. A lack of understanding by the general consumer has allowed greenwashing to flood the market, instilling a misplaced sense of fulfilment in the hearts of consumers while giving the companies license to operate business as usual.

WHAT I PROPOSE

REDUCE EMISSIONS!

- *** I will call for heavy investments to improve our connectivity and broadcasting capabilities so that conference calls become a viable and acceptable alternative to travelling for conferences
- *** I will call for an increase in travel grants for train journeys to conferences within Europe
- *** I will continue to push for divestment
- *** I will also push for increased investments and ties with companies that seek to provide preferable employment alternatives for current workers in the fossil fuel industry so that the transition will not unduly penalise these workers

INCREASE BIODIVERSITY!

- *** I will use research to make informed interventions which will increase the biodiversity of college grounds and the university as a whole
- *** I will set up a task force to explore a university wide, coordinated biodiversity initiative which can implement large scale interventions, such as provisioning corridors, informing the location of green nodes and a community outreach program

TACKLING GREENWASHING!

- *** I will set up a task force to expose greenwashed labels
- *** This will reward companies and communities that are genuinely making a difference and disincentivise spending on those jumping on the bandwagon solely to protect their profits