

University of Manchester Students' Union

Environmental Aspects and Impacts 2011-2012

This document highlights the aspects of The University of Manchester Student's Unions Environmental Impact. UMSU is committed to improving its environmental impact in all areas of its operation and services. This document outlines the environmental aspects of UMSU and assesses the relevant impacts. It also includes a list of actions to help counter these impacts throughout UMSU's operations and services. The document will be reviewed annually.

Activity	Aspect	Impact	Actions
Commercial Activity (Bars - Student events/festivals and gigs)	Glass waste, noise, other non recyclable waste. Water usage for catering, kitchens, toilets and bar facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental contamination due to disposal of non recycled refuse to landfill sites. 2. Noise pollution, students leaving the bars, festival events. 3. Tap water, used in venue, catering contribution to climate change and water source depletion. 	<p>Staff training on recycling procedures and providing adequate recycling points around the building.</p> <p>Encouraging reduction of noise after events.</p> <p>Monitoring of water wastage.</p>
Commercial Activity (Catering and Retail – events and at commercial stands)	Food Waste, packaging and products purchased for resale.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Packaging – resource depletion, animal welfare, unsustainable forestry, landfill, volatile compounds and non biodegradable wastes. 2. Environmental contamination due to disposal of non recycled refuse to landfill sites. 3. Transport – transport of goods sold adds to climate change, noise and air pollution, fossil fuel usage and overall carbon footprint. 4. Energy – during production and manufacture as well as transportation and post life if not recycled properly. 5. Supply Chain – workers rights, animal welfare, land degradation and loss of land. 	<p>Sourcing food locally when available, ordering food from sustainable sources. Ordering products which are in line with our organic and fair trade policies.</p> <p>Sourcing sustainable packaging.</p> <p>Separating waste and recycling properly including recycling food waste and packaging and redistribution of unsold food.</p>

Central Services – Building Development	Redevelopment and refurbishment of spaces within the union building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy usage during the manufacture, delivery and storage of raw materials contributes to resource depletion, climate change and air pollution and carbon emissions. 2. Construction - Fossil Fuel depletion 	<p>Reuse of furniture and electrical equipment where available</p> <p>Introduction of improved waste segregation</p>
Commercial Activity (Printing & Promotional Activities – also including day to day activities)	Printing, transport, wastage, stationary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Printing Processes – water usage: VOCs from inks causing air pollution, contribution to climate change. 2. Environmental contamination due to disposal of non recycled refuse to landfill sites. 3. Transport – transport of goods sold adds to climate change, noise and air pollution, fossil fuel and overall carbon footprint. 4. Energy – during production and manufacture as well as transport. 5. Supply Chain – workers rights, animal welfare, land degradation and loss of land. 6. Packaging – resource depletion, animal welfare, unsustainable forestry, landfill, volatile compounds and non biodegradable wastes. 	<p>Sourcing all paper from ethical and environmentally friendly suppliers.</p> <p>Encouraging recycling on site and around the university.</p> <p>Environmental concerns take into place when developing promotional material both internally and externally.</p> <p>Encouraging printing only when necessary.</p> <p>Recycling and reusing toner cartridges.</p>
Central Services, Commercial and Membership Services day to day activities	IT usage, gas and electricity for lighting and heating.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy Usage – I.T Equipment – environmental impact, use of electricity and contributing to climate change. Natural resource depletion. 2. Lighting – energy usage, inefficiency. 	<p>Monitoring energy usage, developing energy conservation plans and improving efficiency by replacing products with energy efficient models.</p> <p>Advertising the Switch off campaign.</p> <p>Developing a holiday shutdown</p>

		3. Heating – burning fossil fuels, adding to carbon emissions and climate change.	programme.
Central Services, Membership and Commercial Services (Travel)	Travelling for business and for clubs & societies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fossil Fuels – depletion of natural resources used by most forms of transport, energy consumption and contribution to carbon emissions. 2. Air pollution – burning of fossil fuels. Air pollution and adding to global warming, noise pollution and climate change. 	<p>Travel should be reduced where possible (The Union has a no Fly Policy for Events)</p> <p>Encouragement of staff and students to use public transport and walking and cycling campaigns promoted.</p> <p>Monitoring of travel for union business.</p>
Central Services, Membership and Commercial Services (Cleaning)	All cleaning operations on site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Packaging - resource depletion, animal welfare, unsustainable forestry, landfill, volatile compounds and non biodegradable wastes. 2. Misuse of products leading to contamination of the environment. 3. Air Pollution – use and production of products can be harmful to the environment due to the mix of chemicals. 	<p>Training cleaning staff, following the recommendations of DEFRA and British Association of Chemical Specialities (BACS) on ‘Sustainable cleaning’.</p> <p>Using low chemical content products and biodegradable products and packaging.</p>