

Negative Sustainability Impacts Report-2021-2022

As a Union we've identified what our most significant sustainability impacts are to help us address issues and to prioritize the actions we'll take in the future.

Due to the pandemic and associated restrictions, many staff have been working remotely in combination with working from the office an average of two days a week. Therefore, impacts such as the use of electricity and transport have been lower than the conventional year pre-covid. These impacts are based on activities that were still able to take place this year.

Impact	Reason for its significance	Suggestions for possible actions in the future
1. Travel/Use of Fossil Fuel- Release of CO2 through the combustion of fossil fuels. Indirect use of fossil fuels creating CO2 and pollutants, potential for increased global warming, reduction in air quality.	<p>Release of CO2 due to events and student group activities currently takes place through 3 different transportation methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minibuses 2. Coaches booked externally 3. Taxis booked externally <p>The Students' Union makes use of minibuses for group and event transport. The total mileage for 2020-2022 was 1,441 miles. This is very low in comparison to 28,000- 35,000 pre-pandemic.</p> <p>However, few students are qualified to drive minibuses at present due to age and qualification requirements. This leads to the use of external coach and taxi companies where drivers are not available.</p> <p>In some cases, coaches booked are larger than the number of students who attend activities on the day due to drop-outs and low sign-up numbers. For example, a 54-seater coach was booked for an activity on the 27th of April 2022 but only 16 student used transport on the day. Equally, a 54-seater coach was booked for an activity on the 3rd of April, but 20 students attended.</p> <p>Due to the lack of minibus drivers, which would usually be used to</p>	<p>Encourage low or non-carbon and transport to and from the University, for work purposes and student group trips e.g., public transport, walking, cycling, lift sharing.</p> <p>Students' Union staff to review the current minibus system and identify ways to increase the pool of drivers with the aim of increasing minibus use and decreasing taxi and coach use.</p>

	transport service users to and from elderly volunteering events, taxis have been booked to transport individual service users.	
2. Waste from Purchased Items- if not recycled, properly, waste could end up in a landfill site	<p>High numbers of staff, over 200 clubs and societies and 60 volunteering projects generate high levels of waste on a daily basis through work/society/club or project related activities and online purchases which produce waste packaging.</p> <p>Disposable items have been purchased for events e.g., disposable cardboard cups.</p> <p>A large amount of merchandise is bought for Welcome Fest (freshers' event) every year and there is no guarantee that these will be kept by students in the long term. Some examples of merchandise bought for Welcome Fest 2022 (freshers' event) include:</p> <p>1,000 Course Rep + Student Council Beer Mats 1,000 academic Advice Beer Mat</p> <p>Volunteering: 1000 lanyards 1000 post it 500 water bottles 500 tote bags 500 three colour highlighters</p> <p>UMCB: 1000 stress balls 1000 bottle openers 1000 pens 1000 lanyards</p> <p>Undeb: 1500 tote bags 3000 hand sanitisers 2000 lanyards 2000 pens 500 pop sockets 500 lanyards 500 water bottles 500 three colour highlighters 500 USB sticks 500 sticky notes 500 bottle opener/phone holder</p>	<p>Reduce waste and use of resources by promoting a zero-waste culture and waste management procedure of reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.</p> <p>Encourage staff and students to carefully consider quantities ordered.</p> <p>Hold more events to provide students with an opportunity to reduce, reuse, recycle and repair e.g., swap shops for items.</p> <p>Encourage donation through the Big Give for non-perishable items further.</p> <p>Focus on purchasing reusable products in place of disposable products e.g., reusable cups.</p> <p>Encourage student groups to recycle packaging obtained through orders made for activities. Student Centre staff to remind students of this upon collection.</p> <p>Consider merchandise purchases for Welcome Fest carefully and aim to buy products that are practical, that students will benefit from for a long time.</p> <p>Consider encouraging students to return t-shirts after events or when they no longer have use for them for re-use.</p>

	<p>Purchases amounted to £25,000 this year.</p> <p>Products left over can be used for the following year.</p> <p>Clothing is often bought for events, student groups and to represent areas of the students' union e.g., volunteering, clubs, societies etc. Once given to students, these are not returned meaning students who they are no longer relevant too, keep them in their possession.</p>	
3. Purchasing of ethical and sustainable products	<p>Many student groups and staff at the purchase items online and there is currently no monitoring system for these purchases or purchasing practices.</p> <p>Amazon is a popular supplier due to its quick delivery time and affordability.</p>	<p>Consider a policy around Amazon and engage Student Council and Course Reps to ascertain support and develop policy specifics.</p> <p>Develop monitoring system for student group purchasing practices.</p> <p>Educate staff and students on sustainable and ethical purchasing practices and encourage them to adopt them as much as possible.</p> <p>Ensure all staff, officers and student leaders receive training in Ethical Investment and day-to-day working practices as part of their standard induction.</p> <p>Encourage staff to offer alternative prizes to Amazon vouchers for prize draws e.g., experiences in the local area or items/produce from local suppliers.</p> <p>Develop a list of local and environmentally friendly suppliers, accessible for all student groups and staff.</p>
4. Biodiversity- Use of Land-Protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage on campus.	<p>Need to work closer with the University to utilise the University land around the SU and work harder to respect and promote biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Keep a strong collaboration with the relevant University Staff Members and environmental student groups to monitor the Union's activities related to land use and the space outside the SU.</p> <p>Support and encourage student groups responsible for maintaining and developing green and natural environments locally e.g. The</p>

		Healing Gardens, Sensory Gardens, Elwy working Woods, Beach Clean etc.
5. Network usage/storage	<p>Beyond the individual device, all data that is processed and stored is sent to data centres. Their 24/7 operation makes online browsing, storage and communication possible, but delivering the data requires large amounts of electricity, which is more often than not, non-renewable. Data centres also produce a large amount of heat and require constant cooling, using more electricity.</p> <p>As a result of the pandemic and the move towards remote working, the union recently stopped using our U drive and transferred our data to Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Before transferring, we had 726GB of data on the drive, and after transferring we have 88GB of data, meaning we have reclaimed 638GB of U drive space (and 88% reduction). As part of the transfer process, departments were asked to delete old and unused files.</p> <p>IT have a "Quota System" in place which keeps track of our network storage. The system automatically sends emails to individual staff members when they reach their limit on the M; \ drive which asks them to delete old and unused files.</p> <p>Having taken important measures to reduce our impact through data processing and storage, further steps could be taken by staff on an individual level.</p>	<p>Educate staff on the environmental impacts of data usage and storage-possible training session.</p> <p>Promote sustainable digital behaviours among staff and remind staff of the specific actions they can take to minimise their individual impact:</p> <p>Be mindful of time spent browsing social media and streaming videos unless necessary for work purposes.</p> <p>To delete unwanted files from cloud storage spaces.</p> <p>Delete old emails.</p> <p>Unsubscribe from unwanted emails.</p> <p>Encourage staff to use meeting time productively and limit time spent working together silently on calls or discussing non-work-related matters.</p> <p>Encourage staff to minimise duplication of files on Teams where possible.</p>
6. Printing and paper wastage	<p>Naturally, paper wastage has reduced since the pandemic and remote working with a move towards digital working. The majority of paper documents are now online documents e.g. finance documents, DBS forms, student group Handover documents etc. However, the Students' Union has still printed some items this year:</p>	<p>Encourage staff to consider online solutions to printing e.g., use of QR codes to link students to resources, emailing students medical forms.</p> <p>Consider purchasing more environmentally friendly and recyclable posters/booklets/flyers</p>

	<p>5,000 information booklets were printed for Welcome Fest 2022. These booklets were printed in 90gsm Uncoated, Saddle Stitched, 40pp.</p> <p>80 medical forms were printed for Give it a Go activities 2022.</p> <p>General promotional items bought from supplier Instantprint: Flyers, certificates, posters, flyers business cards etc.</p> <p>2000 AU Training timetable A3 and 1000 Au taster sessions A3. These were printed in Double Sided, 150gsm Silk.</p>	<p>etc. Complete a cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>Training for staff and student leaders around the using digital planning tools and software to reduce use of paper planners and notebooks.</p>
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