

University of Worcester Students' Union Environmental Aspects and Impacts 2022-23

Rank	Aspect	Impact	Actions
Positive impact			
1	Promotion of environmental activity through projects, for example, through events based in the Students' Union building and support of NUS projects, Go Green Week and Green Impact.	Increase in environmental awareness throughout the student community. The Students' Union is in a unique position to promote awareness and embed sustainability activities within the student community (for example energy saving awareness, awareness of SDG's).	Continue to put on and support activities during Go Green Week. Promote sustainability to student groups in Training, Promotion of SDGs on posters online and in person, Updates on Green Impact Students' Union in Welfare and Inclusion Council.
2	Encourage and influence the institution to embed sustainability in the formal and informal curriculum (Responsible Futures Partnership)	Increase in environmental awareness and sustainability for all students. Arguably, this will have the greatest impact, as our students will become the decision makers of the future. NUS research has illustrated that student's value sustainability learning within the curriculum.	Promoting and Participating in the annual SDG Teach in and Responsible Futures framework.
3	Supporting the procurement of locally- sourced, seasonal food/Fairtrade products.	Reduction in food miles leading to reduction in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions helps to reduce climate change. Sourcing local produce in season also reduces need for transportation and refrigeration (for example, veg box schemes, The Fold Community Farm). Supporting the University to source and stock Fairtrade-certified products ensures a fairer deal for primary producers and will help to improve working conditions, encourage fairer wages and better living conditions. Local produce is a healthier option as the produce does not have time to deteriorate and leads to improvement in general health and well-being.	Supporting the University during Fairtrade Fortnight. The SU contribute to the University's Fairtrade Policy. Promote the Hive's Study Happy events where they often provide free fairtrade chocolate to students. The SU procure and use fairtrade tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sugar in SU kitchenette as well as in internal meetings.

4	Promotion of cycle use to students and Students' Union staff by supporting the institutions' sustainable travel initiative, for example bike loan scheme.	Reduction of carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions and a reduced impact on local air quality, damage to plants and biodiversity. Benefits to human health, fitness and well-being.	The Woo Bike scheme is promoted to all staff at the SU as well as students. Annual staff and student travel survey is also promoted each year to understand travel behaviour and encourage students and staff to make use of the scheme.
5	Plastic Free/ Single-use plastic	Plastic pollution is harmful to the environment by harming marine life, leaching toxins into the soil and waters in landfills which affects human, animal and plant life and due to its non-biodegradable nature means it breaks up in tiny pieces over time becoming microplastics which again can affect human health. Whilst we aim to and have been significantly reducing our plastic waste, aiming of reducing to zero in 2 years and raising awareness of the issue with students and staff, there is still more we can do.	We were previous members of Plastic Free Worcester and are now in the early stages of getting involved with our local plastic free community to become a Community Ally. This involves helping their campaign and signing to pledge 3 items of plastic from our business.
Negative aspects			
1	Waste management and recycling	Less waste sent to landfill reduces methane and other greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change. Correct disposal and storage of all waste has environmental and human benefits in terms of reduced pollution and risk to health, reduced depletion of natural resources/deforestation, soil erosion and habitat loss. Significant benefits in terms of rodent/pest control and minimisation of waste storage facilities. Reduced potential contamination and eco-toxicity but negative contribution to climate change arises from CO2 emissions and resource use from transport and some energy-inefficient recycling processes. Support charities and social enterprises through diverting potential waste to re-use schemes.	Currently to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill on campus we have multiple bins around the SU and University buildings that are easily accessible. In the SU staff areas, there is clear information on what should be recycled and what should not. Bins on site include mixed recycling (cans, paper), household waste, Bra recycling bin, battery recycling bin and spectacle and hearing aid recycling bins. The SU plans to increase its communication to students about where to recycle on campus and why it is important. The SU are also in the planning stages of becoming a provider of Vape/e-cigarette recycling

			bins where students will be able to dispose of their vapes responsibly.
2	Electricity provided by the National Grid and used for lighting, heating, electrical and electronic appliances in the Students' Union building	<p>Use of non-renewable fossil fuel resulting in depletion of finite gas and oil resources. Production of CO2 accelerates climate change resulting in sea-level rises, incidence of pest/diseases, damage to human health/quality of life and reduced/impaired biodiversity.</p> <p>Production of sulphur dioxide leads to damage to human respiratory health and formation of acid rain resulting in forest decline and lake acidification.</p> <p>Also leads to risk of light pollution on SJC when inappropriate use of external lighting at night. The students Union Building is currently has an Operational Rating of C, 68 points (average public buildings are rated at 100). None of this energy comes from renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Staff at the SU turn lights off when leaving a room. We keep staff room doors closed to preserve heat and discourage the use of personal heaters and fans. The SU building is controlled by the University. For example, the heaters are programmed to come on a certain time and go up to a certain temperature depending on the temperature outside. The University aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and the SU supports this.</p>
3	Nuisance generation for example noise.	<p>Generation of any form of nuisance in the local environment including disturbance to students, staff, neighbours and habitats. This can include noise caused in the community from students after attending students' union organised events. Music during the daytime in the Hangar is set to 18 decibels with night-time operation up to 100 decibels with louder music and DJs for example.</p>	<p>On busy nights, security is on entrance and encourage students to leave carefully and quietly. The Venue and Events manager is currently working on creating Bar signs to encourage visitors to leave quietly.</p>
4	Disposal of food waste/ composting	<p>Composting food waste on site reduces waste to landfill and methane and other greenhouse gas emissions. Produces organic fertilisers which can be used by campus grounds management staff to enhance soil fertility and productivity. Removing food waste from landfill prevents pollution from leaching or discharge to land and water. Potential mixing of hazardous and controlled water or different types of hazardous waste increases the risk of pollution to the environment or requires additional disposal processes. It is a legal requirement to segregate waste into the correct category. This means it can</p>	<p>A compost bin is available to staff in the SU building, which is changed frequently and emptied into the bigger compost waste bins on St John's Campus that the university also uses.</p>

		be handled in a way that prevents pollution from leaching or discharge to land and water.	
5	Road transport to and from campus by all Students' Union staff	<p>Depletion of finite, non-renewable natural resource. Emission of CO₂, SO_x, NO_x and other contaminants and hydrocarbons which result in climate change/global warming. Reduction in local air quality due to above emissions. Impact on human health due to increasing likelihood of photochemical smog, damage to plants and impaired biodiversity.</p> <p>Removal of vegetation for construction of car-parking spaces results in loss of habitats and campus biodiversity.</p> <p>Contamination of groundwater with petrol, diesel, oil, salt and heavy metals such as lead and platinum. Possible entry into freshwater and soil ecosystems leading to reduction in species diversity, contamination of water supplies and risk to human health and threat to human health. Loss of amenity and green space reducing campus open recreational and sporting facilities for staff and students, impacting on health and well-being.</p>	The Union encourages the cycle to work scheme, car shares, public transport and walking as sustainable travel where appropriate for staff whilst also maintaining staff safety. These methods are all utilised by the Union staff.
6	Water used by staff, students and visitors using Students' Union facilities	<p>Depletion of natural resource essential for all life on earth. Over-consumption can negatively affect local water supplies. Over-use of chlorine/ozone and fluoride in treatment is a potential risk of damage to human health and ecosystems. Potential for water pollution and negative impact on the environment due to uncontrolled discharges to water. Release of nitrates, phosphates and organic elements can reduce water quality, damage local plant and fish ecosystems and reduce biodiversity. Discharge of car park and other run-off can contaminate groundwater with petrol, diesel, oil, salt and heavy metals. Any pollution of drinking water supplies will</p>	<p>Taps in the bathrooms around campuses use an automated function where they turn off automatically. In the Kitchenette area of the SU, there is signage by the taps to ensure taps are turned off. The Welcome desk and staff team also do the washing up in bulk and catch waster in a bowl within the sink rather than letting it all just flow away to reduce water waste. We have also identified that more work needs to be done in this area so will be having conversations with the University Director of</p>

		affect human health, freshwater and soil ecosystems.	Sustainability around more sustainable ways to use water
7	Smoking in public areas	Airborne cancer-producing chemicals and litter production. Air pollution for nearby students and staff.	The University of Worcester is a smoke free campus. There are Smoking areas allocated in one area per campus to minimise the area of staff, students and visitors affected by the pollution from nearby smoke