

Environmental Aspects and Impacts

The below represents Winchester Student Union’s **Environmental Aspects and Impacts** for 2023/2024.

Winchester Student Union provides activities and services on behalf of our student members, whilst representing those students to the University and beyond. We physically operate in the University buildings, the King Alfred Centre and the West Downs Annex and our facilities include offices, shops, laundries, venue spaces and bars. We also operate two vehicles (a 16 seat Minibus and 7 seater MPV) to provide transport solutions for members.

Winchester Student Union recognises that all of our products, activities and services have an impact on the environment (local and global) and we are committed to identifying and managing the environmental and social impacts of our work.

The following matrix establishes our top environmental aspects.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Severity of Impact ð | Very Low | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Frequency ò |
| Very Infrequent |  |  |  |  |  |
| Infrequent |  |  |  |  |  |
| Middling |  |  | Water | Transport |  |
| Frequent |  |  | Procurement | Waste  | Utilities |
| Very Frequent |  |  |  |  |  |

**Waste & Waste Management**:

The Union has identified that waste contributes negatively to our environmental impact. We define waste to include the below streams. We are governed by waste contracts held by the University, and we have defined that strong recycling, reclamation and diversion from landfill form part of our requirements as a tenant. Improper waste management can lead to landfill contributions, resource depletion, and potential pollution of land and water bodies.

* Food waste, as generated via our coffee bar, shops and catered events
* Recyclable materials
* Solid waste from daily operations
* Paper waste from administrative processes, publicity and other activities
* WEEE waste

**Utilities (Gas, Electricity):**

The Union has identified that use of utilities through energy consumption contributes negatively to our environmental impact. We define utilities to include the below streams. We are governed by utilities contracts held by the University, and we have defined that green a tariff form part of our requirements as a tenant. As a tenant the Student Union should receive detailed monthly analysis of utility usage as these forms the basis of our charging. However, this has proven to be sporadic and impacts our ability to track and respond to actual usage. The energy consumption associated with these facilities contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

* Lighting and heating in buildings
* Operation of electrical equipment and appliances
* Energy consumption during events and activities/Mechanical ventilation

**Water usage:**

The Union has identified that use of water for domestic and business use contributes negatively to our environmental impact. We define water usage to include the below streams. We are governed by water contracts held by the University. As a tenant the Student Union should receive detailed monthly analysis of water usage as these forms the basis of our charging. However, this has proven to be sporadic and impacts our ability to track and respond to actual usage.

* Water consumption in buildings for sanitation
* Water consumption in buildings for laundry supply
* Water consumption through delivery of bars and events provision
* Water consumption through office and staff needs

**Transport:**

The Union has identified that use of vehicles for commuting, event attendance, sports fixture attendance and transportation of goods and materials to support Union activities, contributes negatively to our environmental impact. We define water usage to include the below streams. Alongside staff and member use of own vehicles, the Union operate two vehicles (a 16 seat Minibus and 7 seater MPV). Use of transportation is a contributing factor to carbon emissions, traffic congestion, and air pollution.

* Travel for business, staff and officers
* Travel for activities, staff and members
* Delivery of goods, commercial operations
* Delivery of goods, membership and administration

**Procurement:**

The Union has identified that the purchasing and supply of goods and services, contributes negatively to our environmental impact. We define procurement below and further in our [procurement guide](https://assets.prod.unioncloud-internal.com/document/documents/108151/3981ba4c47819669a614e07c14f93bd7/Policy_-_Sustainability_for_senate_approved.pdf). Unsustainable sourcing practices can lead to resource depletion, generation of packaging waste, a significant carbon footprint associated with transportation, and the potential support of unethical employment practices.

* Purchasing goods and services, commercial operations
* Purchasing goods and services, membership services
* Packaging waste from received items
* Longevity/lifespan of items