

Negative Environmental Impacts in the Students' Union

We have identified the negative environmental impacts that we have as a Students' Union, to help us develop and improve these in the future. Some are beyond our control (for example, the building we are in), however, there are some that we can make a difference in.

Paper usage

We have a printer in our office and we use this for day-to-day printing. In some instances, printing is necessary, such as receipts for finances, however there are opportunities where we could use less paper and we should think before we print. The printer is also never turned off. Where printing is used it should be an appropriate size and printed double sided.

We try to avoid printing posters where possible and use online marketing instead. We do use recycled paper for the office.

Any paper that has been used is always recycled, as is any cardboard in the office.

Personal heaters

Some members of staff have personal heaters as it can get quite cold in the old building (and we are wimps!). These are not very energy efficient and their use should be avoided.

Electrical equipment

Lights must be turned off and not used when natural light is available. Lights in communal spaces such as the kitchen could be turned off when not in use as these are sometimes left on all day, despite not being used all the time.

Sometimes computers are left on standby over night and not switched off entirely. They are also kept plugged in constantly which is also not good.

We have two vending machines in the Student Lounge which are left on 24/7. These could be unplugged over the weekend.

Kettle

The kettle is used a lot (we are a busy bunch after all!), however we should only boil the amount of water needed, or try to make drinks at the same time. We have currently started using a Bobble bottle filtered jug to cut down on the use of plastic water bottle while still giving staff access to water.

We could also move towards fair-trade, local or organic tea, coffee and sugar.

Cleaning supplies

With all those cups of tea, comes lots of washing up! We currently use regular cleaning supplies but should perhaps consider changing to an eco brand or using natural options such as baking soda or vinegar.

Transportation

We all drive into work (for some of us, it is unavoidable, we live almost 2 hours away!), however perhaps we should try to carpool, or even walk or cycle. When popping to the supermarket for lunch, a lot of us drive whereas we should try to walk.

Light bulbs

The light bulbs in the office are not eco friendly. It would be difficult to change these as they are fluorescent strip lights however this is something we can look into. We do

not have a say in the energy company we use as the building is owned by the University, however we could lobby the University to switch to greener energy.