

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND IMPACTS OF THE UNION OPERATIONS 2018-19

The Union recognises that our activities have an impact on the environment and are dedicated to ensuring that we act in an environmentally responsible manner. The Union is committed to the continual assessment of our environmental impact and to make continual improvements in our environmental performance. As such, we have identified our most significant negative environmental impacts and ranked them in terms of the relative size of the negative impact. This allows us to more easily prioritise our sustainability actions. Aspects and impacts are listed in this document in order of most to least impact.

An aspect is an element of an organisation's activities or products or services that can interact with the environment.

An impact is any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partly resulting from an organisation's environmental aspects.

Rank	Aspect	Impact
1	Energy usage linked to the operation of The Union building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 692 TONNES of CO2e IN 2018 (1,201,491 kWh GAS & ELECTRICITY) - Depletion of finite fuel resources - Contribution to climate change through release of carbon into atmosphere - Air pollution
2	Generation and disposal of waste from Union activity, events and commercial services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76.5 TONNES OF WASTE PRODUCED ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18 - Large amounts of waste going to incineration (leading to air pollution) - Transportation of waste and running of machinery deplete finite fuel resources, release carbon into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change and air pollution.
3	Procurement of goods sold in commercial outlets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70,121 PLASTIC BOTTLES SOLD IN THE SHOP IN 2018 (83% OF TOTAL DRINKS SOLD) - Depletion of finite fuel resources and contribution to climate

		<p>change during production and transportation of goods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supply chain issues such as workforce welfare, habitat loss, land degradation and animal welfare - Air and water pollution linked with the production of clothing items - Creation of waste linked to products sold
4	Transport of staff and members for Union business (including transport between Manchester and Crewe sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3.67 TONNES of CO2e FROM BUSINESS TRAVEL IN 2018 - Depletion of finite fuel resources - Contribution to climate change through release of carbon into atmosphere - Air pollution from vehicles
5	Supply and treatment of water linked to the operation of The Union building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 TONNES OF CO2e IN 2018 (SUPPLY & TREATMENT OF 2892m³ WATER) - Depletion of finite fuel resources - Contribution to climate change through release of carbon into atmosphere
6	Procurement of miscellaneous consumables (such as stationary, marketing and promotional paraphernalia, paper and ink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 142,000 PIECES OF PAPER PRINTED IN 2018 - Depletion of finite fuel resources and contribution to climate change during production and transportation of goods - Increased generation of waste

1: Energy Usage

Examples of what we're already doing	What more could we do?
<p>A key priority of moving to the new Union building on Higher Cambridge Street was to improve the environmental management of the building. All of our lights are LEDs which use 1/3rd to 1/30th the energy of other conventional bulbs, and many of these are on motion sensors. There are a number of thermostat controlled spaces which allow efficient heating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get energy data from the university on a quarterly basis, allowing us to set quarterly targets to measure ourselves against. - Encourage staff members to take more care in turning off IT equipment at the end of every shift to avoid wasted standby power.

<p>of The Union. We get all our energy from the university, and we work closely with them to evaluate energy usage and see where we can do more. Other examples include a Zip Hydrotap for boiling water in the staff room (more efficient than a kettle) and “please switch off” signs in rooms without timed lights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign responsibility within staff teams to make sure lights aren’t left on when they don’t need to be. - Investigate who takes ownership of the radiators in the stairwells and the purpose of them. - Create energy shutdown checklists for every team in The Union
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2: Waste

Examples of what we’re already doing	What more could we do?
<p>We already do a lot to reduce the amount of waste we generate. There are recycling bins placed around the building in both student-facing areas and staff offices. All commercial staff receive training on how to use each of the recycling streams in their induction. Currently, paper, plastic, metal, glass and battery waste streams are available front of house, with waste food and cooking oil both recycled behind the bar additionally. We encourage members to say no to disposable coffee cups by offering a discount for bringing a reusable cup and selling a great variety of these in our shop. We are also currently supporting MMU People & Planet Society in their campaign for the university to introduce a ‘latte levy’ on disposable cups. We have run initiatives such as food bank collections and an upcycled Christmas decoration session to engage students and community members with ways to reduce the amount of waste we generate in the first place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run a waste awareness campaign, accompanied by advice on how to reduce waste. - Work with the University to improve signage at the recycling bins to reduce contamination. - Explore more engaging and creative ways to reuse or upcycle our waste. - Proactively identify viable alternatives to any single-use plastics in the building. - Introduce food waste bins in the staff kitchen and/or main hall.

3: Procurement of Goods

Examples of what we’re already doing	What more could we do?
<p>We have a joint Fairtrade policy with the university and strive where possible to source Fairtrade products, including the coffee we serve and a selection of Fairtrade ranges in the shop. The Salutation serves locally sourced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the range of Fairtrade and ethically sourced products in all of our commercial outlets. - Decrease the number of drinks in plastic bottles sold by encouraging the

produce as well as a choice of drinks from local breweries.	purchase of canned drinks or reusable bottles.
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4: Travel

Examples of what we're already doing	What more could we do?
For students, we sell student bus passes from the Finance office so they can get around Manchester with a reduced carbon footprint. As for staff, we encourage all staff during induction and throughout their employment to use sustainable methods of transport for their commute. We are part of a cycle to work scheme and have shower facilities on site. We have conference calling equipment which we make good use of for meetings between staff based in Manchester and Crewe. We also have an active policy which bans air travel for domestic journeys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the university to ensure convenient, secure bike storage is available to Union staff and students so they can continue to cycle to and from The Union. - Introduce initiatives to incentivise a sustainable commute to work, such as taking part in Cycle to Work Day. - Improve our shower facility and work with the university to map out on campus where alternative facilities are on campus. - Increase the number of business journeys by train as opposed to car.

5: Water

Examples of what we're already doing	What more could we do?
The move to the new Union building also helped for reducing the amount of water we use. The toilets have a half-flush setting, the urinals are waterless and all the taps are on timers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor our water usage quarterly with the university to set targets to measure ourselves against. - Work with the university's environment team to identify new ways to save water.

6: Procurement of Misc. Consumables

Examples of what we're already doing	What more could we do?
All the paper we stock for use in our printers is 100% recycled, and teams across the union over the years have introduced ways to save paper (such as the Advice Centre's transition to a digital recording system and equipping the Student Officers with tablets). Staff offices have desktop recyclers so staff can separate their desk waste for proper recycling. Our marketing team make good use of digital to promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete a paper audit in every team in The Union to see where we can cut down on paper usage. - Review if there are realistic, more sustainable alternatives to the stationary and other consumables (i.e. cleaning products) we use.

Union activity such as social media and digital screens. We also recycle ink cartridges.	
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