**Heriot Watt University Student Union**

**Main Environmental Aspects and Impacts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity/product/ service** | **Impact** | **How can it be reduced** | **Current Impact rating** | | | **Target Impact rating** | | |
| I | S | **T** | I | S | **T[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| Packaging on incoming products and goods from suppliers, food waste, office waste | * Cost of landfill adds to Union waste costs * Landfill sights are running out * Negative environmental impact from leachate * Gas from waste contributes to climate change * Packaging and paper increases natural recourse depletion, such as forestry | * Increased recycling will help to reduce landfill * Use a compost maker for food waste * Work with our suppliers to make sure they reduce their packaging * Use recyclable products * Ensure all staff do not print off documents unless they need to | 2 | 3 | **6** | 1 | 3 | **3** |
| Power for computers, lighting, heat, power for operational systems | * Burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change and increases global warming * Uses depleting natural resources | * Switch off computers and equipment over night and when not in use * Using energy saving light bulbs reduces co2 emissions * Look into motion sensor lighting * Install and use solar hot water * Heat exchangers to reduce co2 emissions | 3 | 3 | **9** | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Canteen facilities, drinking waters, toilets | * Use of a natural resource | * Urinal water reducers reduce water consumption * Toilet flush controllers * Use only the amount of water needed for catering * Switch off taps when not in use * Water butt to collect rain water | 2 | 2 | **4** | 1 | 2 | **2** |
| Packaging on incoming products and goods from suppliers | * Cost of landfill adds to Union waste costs * Transport usage increases co2 emissions, contributing to climate change and air pollution * Packaging increases natural recourse depletion, such as forestry * Landfill sights are running out * Negative environmental impact from leachate * Gas from waste contributes to climate change * Animal welfare | * Increased recycling will help to reduce landfill * Work with our suppliers to make sure they reduce their packaging * Use recyclable products * Ensure our supply chain is as ethically responsible as possible and look for alternatives if needed * Meat supplies from known farms * Use free range eggs * Source goods from local sources to reduce transport and co2 emissions | 2 | 3 | **6** | 1 | 3 | **3** |
| Packaging on incoming products and goods from suppliers, food sources, coffee and tea | * Cost of landfill adds to Union waste costs * Transport usage increases co2 emissions, contributing to climate change and air pollution * Packaging increases natural recourse depletion, such as forestry * Supply chain issues, including workfare and animal welfare * Pollution from fertilisers and pesticides * Animal welfare | * Use recyclable products * Ensure our supply chain is as ethically responsible as possible and look for alternatives if needed * Meat supplies from known farms * Use free range eggs * Source goods from local sources to reduce transport and co2 emissions | 2 | 3 | **6** | 1 | 3 | **3** |
| Documents and papers for meetings, campaigns, promotional materials, post | * Energy usage increases co2 emissions * Printer cartridge disposal adds to landfill * Printing process – water based inks deplete water resources * VOC based inks add to air pollution * Paper increases natural recourse depletion, such as forestry | * Only print documents if absolutely necessary * Recycle all printer cartridges * Switch off printers and photocopiers when not in use * Monitor how much printing/photocopying is done by each department * Use only recycled paper * Recycle all paper | 2 | 3 | **6** | 1 | 2 | **3** |
| Travel to other Unions, meetings, NUS | * Vehicle emissions increase global warming | * Do not fly when on Union business * Take public transport to reduce car usage * Take the train or bus * Record the carbon emissions of each journey | 2 | 2 | **4** | 1 | 2 | **2** |
| Daily cleaning | * Increases our environmental impact through land and water contamination | * Bleach will not be used to clean anything in the building * Use natural based products for cleaning | 2 | 3 | **6** | 1 | 2 | **2** |

1. I = Impact; S = Severity; T = Total [↑](#footnote-ref-1)