**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)