

LUSU's most significant environmental impacts and objectives

Here at Lancaster University Students' Union, we recognise that the first step to reducing our environmental impact is to identify what impacts our day-to-day business is having, and then assess how we can reduce these impacts by revising our policies and embedding more efficient and effective practices into our business.

In 2008-09, LUSU formally identified, prioritised and documented our significant environmental impacts and aspects via a bespoke environmental risk assessment. This has allowed us to highlight our most significant impacts, as well as take action to reduce them. Below is a summary of LUSU's most significant environmental impacts and aims and objectives for reducing these, as identified in our 2008-09 assessment.

Activities having significant environmental impacts

Activity		Environmental Impact	Impact Level
Office Administration	Use of electrical equipment	CO ² produced	Medium
		Hazardous waste generation	Medium
		Legal compliance	Medium
Management of Buildings	Air conditioning	CO ² produced	Medium
	Light fittings	CO ² produced	Medium
Purchasing and Shops	Supplier selection	Resource use	High
	Material or product selection	Resource use	High
	Cooking	Solid waste generation	Medium
Sugarhouse	Concerts and events	Community	Medium
Travel	Staff journeys to work	CO ² produced	High
	Student journeys to campus	CO ² produced	High
	Business journeys by staff	CO ² produced	High

Aim	Objectives	Output	Outcomes <i>Effect we hope it will achieve</i>	Outcome Indicators <i>How we'll know it has worked</i>
<i>Develop more sustainable procurement practices</i>	Embed sustainable procurement procedures Reduce negative environmental impact	Work with S'Up and LUSU stores to ensure transition to re-usable / biodegradable bags cutlery & crockery Facilitate LUSU supplies of Fairtrade teas and coffees for dept tab to increase use of fairtrade Facilitate uptake of recycled paper as standard use Develop links with student groups such as JCRs through sponsorship Fairtrade Steering Group – facilitate renewal of status, and coordination of meetings	Reduce negative impact in supply chain Improve environmental performance Improve LUSU (and wider LU) image	Shop sales of Fairtrade Evidenced by new lease conditions, greener procurement policy
<i>Reduce energy usage and cut carbon</i>	Raise student awareness of their own use	Continue to develop Carbon Competition incentivising students to reduce energy consumption in residences. Develop Energy Ambassadors project; student volunteers providing environmental audits, advice and awards to staff / departments Recruit, train and equip student volunteers to disseminate sustainable living and environmental advice to students and staff Continue to implement measures from Carbon Audit	Improvements in energy usage Greater student awareness Improvement in energy management infrastructure	Energy auditing information Student and staff feedback (improved) Sound Impact Accreditation
<i>Improve waste management and resource</i>	Continue to	Provide relevant info to residents on recycling (maps, recycling facilities available)	Less contamination and reduced waste	Reductions in tonnages general waste

usage	strengthen recycling message in residences Reduce waste	Implement project to engage students in recycling and increase use of recycling facilities available on campus, working with Facilities and Cleaning Services.	Greater student awareness	Increases in recyclates Positive feedback from Green Committee
Improve sustainable travel	Increase % of cyclist commuters Attempt to facilitate establishment of Lancaster Life Cycle (shop, hire, repairs, sales etc)	Continue sales of recycled / reconditioned bikes Support Facilities in promotion of sustainable transport initiatives; develop Life Cycle Workshop	Increase in cycling, walking etc.	Less strain on parking provision Establishment of cycle workshop
Integration with other projects	Improve staff understanding of sustainability Greater work with other departments	Coordination between ground staff and student concerns. E.g. facilitating tree planting, student involvement in biodiversity plan. Joint projects with LUVU, improved joined up thinking Increase number of environmental placement opportunities available to students within local community Assistance with students interested in / currently running environmental projects Continued running of Green Living Project	Better communications on green issues Greater positive environmental impacts	More projects!