ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS & IMPACTS

As part of our Environmental Management System, and in line with the ISO14001 standard, the University has considered and determined its environmental aspects (how it interacts or can interact with the environment) and associated environmental impacts (change to the environment whether adverse/negative or beneficial/positive) of its activities, products and services that we can both control and influence.

When determining environmental aspects we consider a life cycle perspective, change and operating conditions (abnormal, normal, emergency).

Once environmental aspects are identified these are then risk scored considering the environmental impact, interested parties, whether the impact is positive or negative, likelihood of occurrence and level of controls in place. Scores can range from 2 to 54. Significant impacts are those which have a risk score equal or greater than 30.

Where the Aspect Descriptions contains (+) this indicates a positive impact, whereby (-) indicates a negative impact.

The University has over 60 aspects within our Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register, 14 of which are scored as significant (11 positive and 3 negative) and are listed below.

SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE Aspects/Impacts	
Environmental Aspect Description	**Environmental Impact**
Use of sustainable construction principals / practices in construction / refurbishment / maintenance (+)	Reduction in CO_2 emissions, efficient use of resources, reduced waste arisings, reduced emission, biodiversity enhancement and reduced incident of nuisance.
Procurement of Green Energy Contracts (+)	Reduction in CO_2 emissions.
Sustainable Food Sourcing (+) Local sourcing of food, lean meat and vegetarian options	Reduction in scope three CO_2 emissions, support local economy and enhance wellbeing of staff and students.
Provision of recycling facilities and information (+)	Reduced raw material consumption, reduced energy consumption, diversion from landfill and energy recovery. Reduction in scope three CO_2 emissions.
Delivery of Sustainable Travel initiatives (+) including policy, plans, engagement and infrastructure	Reduction in scope three CO_2 emissions, reduction in congestion and improvements in local air quality.
Reduction in Electricity Consumption (+) through technology / infrastructure, changes in operation and behaviour change initiatives	Energy efficiency projects leading to conservation of energy resources and reduced contribution to climate change.
Reduction in Gas Consumption (+) Implementation of technology / infrastructure, changes to operation and awareness initiatives to reduce gas consumption.	Conservation of finite resources.

Electricity consumption electric fleet (+) Use of electricity fleet vehicles (transferring to cleaner energy)	Depletion of electrical energy resources, however, transferring from diesel/petrol therefore having a positive contribution to climate change and cease use of finite fuels.
Habitat/Biodiversity Enhancement (+) Proactive habitat management of the external estate which is owned and operated by the University of Exeter	Increased bio-diversity. Improvement to visual amenity.
On site renewable generation (+)	Reduction in CO_2 emissions
Procurement of energy efficient / water efficient products (+)	Increased resource efficiency, reduction in scope 3 CO_2 emissions

SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE Aspects/Impacts	
Aspect Description	**Environmental Impact**
Gas Consumption (-) Use of gas by building services.	Depletion of energy resources. Contribution to climate change.
Generation, storage and disposal of controlled waste (-)	Pollution of Land (soil contamination due to use as landfill), air (odour) and water (leachate or spills). Increase in scope 3 emissions
Generation and disposal of single use plastics (-)	Use of resources and generation of non recyclable solid waste to incineration. Increase in scope three CO2 emissions