Aspects Impacts and Materiality Workshop

Katy Boom
Director of sustainability

University of Worcester
www.worcester.ac.uk

Session outline

- Consider the rationale for setting Aspects and Impacts
- Review the content and of current Aspects, Impacts and Materiality register
- Consider if any changes are required
- Review the Life Cycle Analysis
- If you have any recommendations for new areas that the University should review, note these down.

Aspects and Impacts

- An Aspects and Impacts Register is an integral part of the University's ISO14001 Environmental Management System.
- Identify and give significance to sustainability and environmental Impacts created as a result of our activities.
- Two things - Mitigating it's negative impacts and positive societal impacts of activities.
- Higher Education has a unique role to play in this and it is one 'area of distinction' for UW.
- Sustainability education prepares people to cope with, manage and shape social, economic and ecological conditions characterised by change, uncertainty, risk and complexity. Teaching our students about this has the greatest societal impact.

Definitions

- Environmental Aspects: activities, services and operations that have interactions with the environment such as electricity usage, food waste.

- Environmental Impacts: the changes to the environment whether positive or negative that resulted from the University's activities, services and operations. For examples, energy depletion due to electricity usage and water contamination.

- Materiality: Materiality is a concept or convention within auditing relating to the importance/significance of an amount or transaction, normally within financial statements. In this context it assists in identifying the material respects of this University, i.e. what from our operations has the greatest societal impacts.

Environmental Aspects and Impacts explained

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qyqHtc4cOM

Life Cycle Analysis

- Why include life cycle perspective?

- A systematic approach to environmental management can provide top management with information to build success over the long term and create options for contributing to sustainable development by controlling or influencing the way the organization's products and services are designed, manufactured, distributed, consumed and disposed by using a life cycle perspective that can prevent environmental impacts from being unintentionally shifted elsewhere within the life cycle.

What is a life cycle?

- Consecutive and interlinked stages of a product (or service) system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal.
- Life cycle stages include acquisition of raw materials, design, production, transportation/delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal.’

Why consider life cycle perspective?

- The reason according to ISO 14001 is that ‘Some of the organization’s significant environmental impacts can occur during the transport, delivery, use, end-of-life treatment or final disposal of its product or service. By providing information, an organization can potentially prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts during these life cycle stages. The organization considers the extent of control or influence that it can exert over activities, products and services considering a life cycle perspective.

Life Cycle Analysis

A life-cycle perspective does not require a detailed life cycle assessment; a simple consideration of the life cycle stages which can be controlled or influenced is sufficient.

Tasks

- In small teams take a couple of life cycle analysis ‘topics’
- Refer back to the Aspect and Impacts register to note the assessment made about the ‘topic’
- Review the aspect and Impact scoring and make any suggestions
- Review the Life Cycle analysis for the ‘topic’ and make any comments directly on the sheet.
- If you have any comments on areas we have not taken into account in the Aspects and Impacts and Materiality register.