ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Delivering energy savings and reduced emissions, improving management and conservation of natural resources, stimulating public awareness and influencing policy, improving business and public service operations, and environmental risk management. Environmental impacts are those in which the key beneficiaries are the natural and built environment with its ecosystem services, together with societies, individuals or groups who benefit as a result.¹⁷ Possible indicators may include, but are not limited to:

Output Indicators

- Improving awareness and understanding of climate change and its consequences
- Environmental policy or planning decisions are evidence-informed
- Improved management or conservation of natural resources to advance climate justice
- Improved management of environmental risks or hazards
- Improved private or public services to meet relevant environmental policies or goals
- Improvement in sustainable use of resources for resilient societies
- Improved understanding of health risks to livestock and disease risks to crops for better health and food security
- Improved built environment infrastructure including transportation systems and land use.
- The environment has been improved through the introduction of new product(s), process(es) or service(s); the improvement of existing product(s), process(es) or services; or the enhancement of strategy, operations or management practices.
- Policy debate on the environment, environmental policy decisions or planning decisions have been stimulated or informed by academia and academic evidence.
- Improved design or implementation of environmental policy or regulation. E.g. the management or conservation of natural resources, including energy, water and food and/or the management of an environmental risk or hazard.
- Changes in environmental or architectural design standards or general practice.
- Influence on professional practice or codes.
- Changes in practices or policies affecting biodiversity.
- The operations of a business or public service have been changed to achieve environmental (green) objectives.
- Direct intervention, based on academic evidence, has led to a reduction in carbon dioxide or other environmentally damaging emissions.
- Increased understanding of the environmental impact of a product or process means that it is not adopted by industry.

Outcome Indicators

- Sales of new products, or improvements in existing products, that bring quantifiable environmental benefits.
- Stimulation of public debate and awareness on the environment
- Provision of information to civil and civic societies
- New/improved technologies or processes to reduce pollution and/or the impact of pollutants
- New product(s), process(es) or service(s); the improvement of existing product(s), process(es) or services; or the enhancement of strategy, operations or management practices aimed at improving the environment.
- New methods, models, monitoring or techniques have been developed that have led to changes or benefits.

¹⁷ Based on Campus Engage Framework (http://www.campusengage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Campus_Engage_Impact_Framework_May_2018_Web.pdf) and Research Excellence Framework (https://www.ref.ac.uk/publications-and-reports/panel-criteria-and-working-methods-201902/)