

The Five Most Significant Sustainability Impacts

For a coastal hospitality business such as Luccombe Hotels in Shanklin, the main negative sustainability impacts typically relate to energy, travel, waste, water, and land use. The five most significant are:

1. Guest Travel Emissions

The largest carbon impact for most hotels comes from **how guests travel to and from the destination.**

- Ferry crossings to the Isle of Wight
- Car travel on and around the island
- Long-distance domestic or international travel

Even with on-site sustainability measures, travel emissions often outweigh operational emissions.

2. Energy Consumption

Hotels are energy-intensive buildings due to:

- Heating and cooling guest rooms
- Hot water for bathrooms and kitchens
- Laundry operations
- Lighting and leisure facilities (e.g., pools, spas, outdoor lighting)

Although net-zero tariffs reduce reported carbon impact, overall energy demand remains high compared to many other business types.

3. Water Use

Hospitality businesses consume significant volumes of water through:

- Guest showers and baths
- Laundry (linen and towels)
- Kitchens and cleaning
- Garden irrigation

In a coastal environment, water stress and treatment impacts remain key sustainability considerations.

4. Waste Generation

Hotels generate diverse waste streams, including:

- Food waste
- Packaging from suppliers
- Single-use guest amenities
- General operational waste

Even with strong recycling systems, high guest turnover increases material throughput and environmental impact.

5. Biodiversity and Land Use Pressure

While the hotels support biodiversity initiatives, operating in a sensitive coastal setting can still create pressures such as:

- Habitat disturbance from landscaping and footfall
- Light pollution affecting bats and nocturnal species
- Noise impacts
- Increased visitor pressure on surrounding cliffs, beaches, and natural areas

Tourism-related intensity can place strain on fragile ecosystems if not carefully managed.

Summary

For Luccombe Hotels, the most significant negative sustainability impacts are primarily linked to **travel emissions, high operational energy use, water consumption, waste generation, and tourism pressure on local ecosystems.**

Understanding these impacts allows the business to prioritise reduction strategies and communicate transparently about where the greatest challenges lie.