

Environmental Task Group
Tuesday 16th February 2021
Team Meeting

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:	School/Dept.
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment & Sustainability Manager
Nick Helps (NH)	Head of Safety Services
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Moira Dean (MD)	DUSA retail Manager
Kevin Frediani (KF)	Curator Botanic Gardens
Allan Tough (AT)	Procurement Manager
Aidan McColgan (AM)	Deputy Director Estates & Campus Services
SRC Environment	
Stewart Kerr (SK)	Procurement Officer
Prof Mel Woods (MW)	DJCAD
Lauren Geisler (LG)	Student Representative
Mark Stephenson (MS)	UoDIT
Karen Brough (KB)	Estates & Campus Services

Apologies:
None

1. The hard work done by TC was noted and appreciated. CR asked for a quick run-around the table with all attendees giving a brief introduction as it had been a while since last meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matter Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The new Principal has arrived, who is very keen on environment and sustainability issues.

CR asked what should be the message from this group, what do we need to ask him? TC called for the Carbon Board to be reinstated. This had included the Principal and University Secretary along with other senior members who could feed in to the UEG for the benefit of those not aware of the outstanding issues.

There was discussion of who the best senior contact was, with Prof John Rowan being suggested. Earlier structures had included the Carbon Board with representatives from each College to ensure reach across the institution. Future carbon reporting will include all aspects of activity and spending so that more support and engagement across the University is needed. There is also an issue of becoming party to some of the climate and other declarations.

Action: CR to contact senior members of the University, stressing the need to take climate and sustainability issues seriously.

3. Progress Report

Water Coolers:

2 are missing at Ninewells; when staff move they also remove the bottled units, but the University is charged for any missing units. If staff want to relocate a plumbed in or bottle water chiller they must report it to Estates and Waterlogic.

Waste:

TC is currently renewing the contract with NWH and there will soon be a new supplier for confidential shredding. TC is to review site visits for food waste bins, updating the uplift times, but if bins are overflowing TC will chase up the company.

A new and more comprehensive waste policy is needed; it was last reviewed 11 years ago.

Action: TC/NH to draft new waste policy.

Water Bottles

TC looking into getting branded water bottles for delegates to purchase and use as part of conference package (reducing waste). Accurate pricing cannot be obtained since it is dependent on numbers.

Action: TC to investigate further branded water bottles.

UoDIT

MS reported that since December 2019, 2600 machines have been migrated over to MS Windows 10. There are 170 left to do and will be completed over the next 2-3 weeks. That leaves 400 on campus that they may not be able to resolve. They discovered a lot more machines than they had records for, with 5000 Windows 10 devices belonging to staff and students. The new system will provide a more secure and more managed environment putting us in a much better position. Storage of data on old servers is an ongoing process.

Energy Projects:

DM reported that we have ceased to use the loans provided by Salix, on the advice of Finance since these transactions are not good for the University's credit score. Funding for future work is to be through the Scottish Funding Council or Estates' general budget, e.g. to fit LED Lighting. More generally, we need to work towards net zero carbon by 2045. Various large-scale proposals for our energy needs are being considered, e.g. using heat pumps, but substantial reductions in carbon emissions entail substantial capital investment and increased costs compared to the current market.

Electric Vehicles and Chargers

Since December, we have 4 new electric Kangoo vans and we received delivery of 2 new electric Gator utility vehicles today. One BMW i3 will arrive in April. This accounts for 80% of the fleet, but the larger vehicles will be more expensive to acquire.

Installation is planned for 12 new charge points at Balfour Street and 1 at DUSA that were put on hold from last year; they will all be operational by mid April at the latest.

We are now charging outside users for using our charging facilities, but Dundee University Staff get to charge vehicles for free, provided they have emailed AMc to get registered for free charge. Other users get charged 20p/kw plus a £1 connection fee. See: [Electric Charge Points - Estates and Buildings - The University of Dundee](#)

Cycle Projects/EBikes

The Citywide EBike hire scheme is now set up and operational at Riverside and outside the Tower on Perth Road. They access our power supply. Using a staff@dundee.ac.uk login gives us a discount on annual membership, whereby staff are charged the student rates of £18/annum instead of £60/annum; there is then an hourly charge for hiring a bike. UoDIT advises not to use same password details as for your work account. See: [Home - Ride On Dundee](#)

The Cycle to Work scheme limit is now set at £3000 and was busy in January and next re-opens on 1st May. See [Applying for a bike through Cycle Solutions | University of Dundee](#)

Procurement

SK is working with suppliers. SK &TC have regular meetings with Waterlogic who produce a detailed technical report quarterly.

SK recently attended a zero waste conference course and he will utilise the information collected to make progress on sustainability. A key element is driving suppliers to be more sustainable, highlighting the use of sustainable products.

DUSA

Facilities in the main building and at Ninewells have been shut over the past few months. Premier Shops have been awarded a national Sustainability Champions award. DUSA is planning for greater sustainability for the future.

Botanic Garden & Campus Grounds

The Botanic Garden and University grounds can play a major part in well-being as well as offering a carbon sink, with potential for tree planting to offset some of our carbon emissions. Work can be done to catalogue relevant assets to support well-being on campus and to share this knowledge with the City Council and others. The Living Lab has recruited 4 PhD students, each with a specialised subject: Science, Technology, Art & Business.

DJCAD

There is rather a lot of waste at DJCAD ending up in skips, especially around the time of the Degree Show. There are plans to set up a re-use hub, reducing waste streams to allow students to exchange material. The relevant technician is on board and it is hoped to engage students

with this idea. Much practice is based on natural spaces and materials such as pigments and more can be done to enhance this.

Carbon Emissions

Scotland wants to be net zero by 2045, with a 75% reduction by 2030, and all new petrol and diesel vehicles are to be phased out by 2032. There is also, a 2030 target for the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied by renewable sources. We need to develop a carbon strategy and climate risk and adaptation plan.

Air miles and Reporting

Discussion of the need to reduce emissions from air travel led to wider discussion of reporting across the various sources of emissions, especially "Scope 3"* once student and staff travel is included. There are concerns over how our carbon footprint is calculated, with changing advice over issues such as procurement, while the new reporting requirements require the inclusion of more indirect emissions. We will need to account for the travel of our international students, requiring further thought on means of delivering teaching, advice on travel methods and offset provision.

* Scope 1: direct emissions; Scope 2: emissions arising from the production of energy we purchase; Scope 3: indirect emissions generated by our activities, including procurement and staff and student travel.

Fair Trade Fortnight

Fair Trade Fortnight is running from Saturday 24th February, including free bags of coffee, a quiz at the Global Rooms and vegan and Fair Trade offerings.

AUDE Awards

TC has nominated the Estates Team at the Association of University Directors of Estates Awards in relation to PPE, sanitary ware and furniture donated to charities.

Website and Targets

It was noted that the Estates website needs to be completely revamped to be compliant with rest of the University and work on this has begun. TC will be updating the energy & environment pages, working through all the old templates. New targets need to be set on many issues.

AOB

Next meeting to be after Easter, CR to feed back to UEG Meeting.

[In view of extended lockdown, now planned for early December 2021]

Thanks to Trudy Cunningham for all her continuing hard work.