

Environmental Task Group
Wednesday 28th January 2015 @ 2pm
Dalhousie – 2G14

1. Welcome and apologies

<u>Present:</u>	<u>School/Dept</u>
Prof Colin Reid	Prof of Environmental Law
Louise Aird	Procurement Office
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment and Sustainability Officer
Jim McGeorge	University Secretary
Aidan McColgan (AMC)	Practice Manager, Estates
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Alasdair Hood (AH)	Curator of Botanic Garden
Ian MacKinnon	President of DUSA
Kevin Burns	SRC Sustainability Rep
Karen Brough	Estates
Gemma Stonehouse	Procurement Office

<u>Apologies:</u>	
Margaret Wyllie	Campus Catering
Pamela Milne	HR Director
Mark Stephenson	UoDIT
Ian Scragg	Head of Safety Services

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Alasdair Hood commented on item 6 of previous minutes, asking that what is referred to as the student allotment be called the “Botanic Garden Allotment”.

Minutes approved, subject to this amendment

3. Appointment of replacement Joint Convenor from Campus Services.

Since the Group was created there had been two co-convenors in place, one academic and one from Campus Services. With the departure of Gordon Davies, Aidan McColgan is taking up the role of co-convenor. The Group thanked Gordon Davies for his services and wished him well for the future.

4. Progress Report

Water coolers

– There are 103 chillers currently plumbed in across the University. In the normal run of things, the present position and alternatives will be considered as the current contract comes up for renewal. AMC will help to overcome any barriers with installing chillers at Ninewells.

Recycling/new bins

– Recycling rates are now above 65%. Council food waste bins for the West End are to be introduced later this year, creating further opportunities for recycling. There are 13 new Big Belly solar bins installed as recycling banks, with 100% funding of £63,000 received from Zero Waste Scotland.

Fairtrade

– The Fairtrade Fortnight will take place between February 23rd and March 8th 2015, with the Steering group meeting on February 3rd. The full programme will be available on the web. All Fairtrade goods will be available at half price at the Top of Tower Café for the fortnight. Publicity includes a note on payslips, arranged by TC.

UoDIT

– nothing to report.

Electric chargers

– Full funding was received in January for new chargers at the Tower at the bottom of Small's Wynd. The two points at the Botanic Garden had recently been used by a Dundee taxi firm, but by a reciprocal arrangement we can use their chargers in Isla Street as the firm develops the first electric taxi fleet in Dundee and indeed in the UK. The rapid charger in Heathfield Car Park provides an 80% charge in 20 minutes. Campus Services, Estates and Security all use electric vehicles. These were forecast to incur lower maintenance costs than petrol/diesel vehicles and the costs are proving even lower than forecast.

Funding has been received for a new Nissan Leaf and a Nissan EV200 van (delivery in March). These are capable of being driven to Edinburgh, being recharged and returning home safely.

Cycling Scotland Partner

– The University is a Cycling Scotland Campus Friendly trial partner; we have been awarded over £38,000 in funding. A new shelter for student use is to be installed between the Library and DUSA, with secure locks and helmet lockers as well. A repair stand with tools and a stirrup pump is to be fitted at DUSA (under the overhang by the Chaplaincy) to allow bikes to be fixed easily, with a vending machine with different sizes of inner tubes as well. Funding has also been obtained to train students to be cycling trainers (in which capacity they can earn fees), and for further items: helmets, LED lights, tool kits and funding to produce a cycle leaflet for all staff and students (3000 copies).

Other Cycling

- TACTRAN funding of £18,000 is to go towards a new bike shelter at the Discovery Centre, a ramp on the steps between DUSA and Airlie Place, and to resurface various uneven sections of slabs on campus.

There are electric bikes for hire and TC has helmets, LED lights, bells, etc. free for anyone purchasing a second hand bike on 11th February 2015.

TC has accessed a grant to purchase 12 Dutch Gazelle bikes and 1 Raleigh folding bike and a 4 seater cargo bike with full canopy which can take 200 kilos. Security Services are to trial two of the Gazelle bikes in April/May. There will be a formal launch in March and the James Hutton Institute has already requested the hire of 4 bikes.

The University has been awarded two of the bike racks produced for the Commonwealth Games; it is hoped to place these at the Matthew and Peters Buildings.

Car Club, etc.

– TC is seeking approval from the Council to site an additional 19 car club cars in the city. The University is giving up space in the Old Hawkhill car park; cars are also to be sited on Perth Road opposite the Tower and opposite DJCAD and an electric van in South Tay Street. For those who join the Car Club, use of these is free. Flyers are currently being produced in relation to special student deals and will be ready for the official launch April/May. Staff will be able to borrow a car and once further information has been obtained TC will prepare a message to all staff. More generally, for any journey over 50 miles, the existing car hire arrangements are cheaper than paying the staff mileage rate of 45p/mile. Staff are to be encouraged to book electric vehicles for shorter journeys.

Carbon Management

– The Carbon Management Committee has agreed to rework the 5 year carbon plan for next academic year; this will include a new carbon baseline accounting for the Discovery Centre. The University's target remains a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (by 2020 from 2015 levels). DM noted the need to measure the impact of procurement as this may provide an opportunity for significant reductions and help towards the 20% target. The relevant bodies do not recognise "degree days" (calculating energy use with regard to temperature) - energy usage is therefore always higher in cold winters without this being reflected in progress towards targets. LED lighting projects which will produce considerable savings are currently under way in the Crawford, Wellcome Trust, Scrymgeour and Tower Buildings. More SALIX funding is being applied for to provide LED lighting in the Library, Fulton, OMS, UoDIT and Carnelley.

AMC noted that Dundee is aiming to be Scotland's leading university in everything that we do. We may not be able to match the aim of St Andrews to be carbon neutral, but the message is that we will try to be a leader. We have already achieved a 10% reduction in emissions, within the target of 20% set five years ago.

Automated meters for electricity consumption are now in place in most buildings. It was recognised that despite the difficulties of finding time to do it, analysis of the data and looking at working practices based on a "walk around" were important.

A new 1 MW engine was installed last year to our Combined Heat and Power Plant, which is now a 4MW power station.

The largest rise in emissions last years was in air miles, although this could be attributable to more accurate reporting and booking through DP&L.

It was noted that DUSA could work more closely with Procurement and that despite some information being provided goods such as recycled paper were not always used or available in the shop.

Green Gown

– TC and AMC attended the reception on behalf of the University as finalists but we were unsuccessful. TC is to consider entering again this year under a different category, possibly in relation to transport.

Green League

– Since the Green League methodology is deeply flawed, Dundee and many other institutions opted not to provide data. People & Planet received a part return from the University after an FOI request. The University moved up 50 places in the league but the methodology and the fact that People & Planet were working on partial returns from FOI requests were unsatisfactory. The Environmental Association of

Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) are working with People & Planet to address some of the issues.

Procurement

– Under the Warp-it scheme lots of used furniture and office equipment had been recycled negating the need to purchase new items. Significant savings have been achieved – approximately £100,000 in the first year. TC is the contact.

New Sustainability Degree

– New MSc programmes based on sustainability are being launched. Prof. John Rowan is the contact.

Campus Catering

– Nothing to report

5. Botanic Garden, campus grounds and student allotment
AH announced that there would be an Exotic Plant Day at the Botanic Garden on 23rd May 2015.
AH asked TC to pass on new student contact names for the allotment.
There had been complaints about the amount of litter being dropped on Campus including bottles of water. DUSA security hand out water bottles at the end of the evening, but many of these are dropped and the Green Machine is unable to pick up full bottles. More could be done through social media to alert students to the need to avoid litter. It was suggested that regular litter-picks by students could be arranged and TC and DUSA will liaise about this.
6. Review of Policies.
TC may need to review the Fairtrade policies, but all the other policies are up to date.
7. Re-signing/commitment to UCCCCfS
The Principal on 15 December 2014 re-signed the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland, which recognises the impact of climate change.
8. University restructuring.
The restructuring will affect a lot of the ways in which Schools, Colleges and other units work, with positives and negatives for the handling of environmental matters. It was important that members raised particular issues about the environment and sustainability and fed them into the debates.
9. Green Impact
TC informed the Group that the University is to sign up to Green Impact – <http://www.green-impact.org.uk/about/> and everything will be in place for this by the start of new academic year. Any member of staff can sign up (individually or as a team) and input to workbooks the things that they are doing to save energy, reduce waste, etc., and the more people that sign up the better. There is potential to have competitions between groups. Students from Environmental Management, Environmental Science and Town and Regional Planning are keen to be involved.
10. A.O.B.

The EAUC National Conference will take place on 23-25th March at Leeds University. TC noted that EAUC is to run a Student Sustainability Summit on 23rd March at their national conference at Leeds University.

http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference

11. Date of next meeting

23rd May 2015 to be confirmed.

Colin Reid and the Group expressed their intense gratitude to TC for all her work.