

Environment Task Group
Wednesday 15th March 2012 @ 2 p. m.
Dalhousie - 2F03

1. **Welcome and apologies**

<u>Present:</u>	<u>School/Dept</u>
Gordon Davies,	Director of Estates/co-chair of group
Prof Colin Reid,	Prof. of Environmental Law/co-chair of group
Louise Aird,	Procurement officer
Trudy Cunningham,	Environment & Sustainability officer
Derek Mitchell,	Energy manager
Pamela Milne,	Director of HR
Arthur Wright,	Student Sustainability Rep
Ian Scragg	Head of Safety Services
<u>Apologies:</u>	
Jean Keighren,	Director of ICS
Jim McGeorge,	University Secretary
Alasdair Hood,	Curator of Botanic Gardens
Iain Kennedy	Student association President

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

CR found the College Teaching Committees were not helpful regarding electronic submission in an attempt to reduce printing with PHD submissions. Ideas put forward were 1 hard copy and 1 electronic copy. PM raised issues regarding e-safety protocol.

PM reported that cleaning of teaching spaces had become less regular, due to reduction in cleaning staff. Strong views are held by staff regarding cleanliness of rooms around campus.

3. **Review of Environmental Policy**

Policy was reviewed and declared OK
It was decided with full agreement to rename the Environmental Task Group: The Environment and Sustainability Task Group and to rename policy Environmental and Sustainability Policy

4. **Electric vehicles**

2 electric vans were trialled by Estates Security teams and were found to be inadequate for use on public roads. 2 new electric vans which meet the requirements of both departments have been purchased through match

funding. A further 4 recharge points will be available for re-charging the vans and will be situated in Heathfield and the Estates & Buildings yard. A public charge point in front of Tower building is a future possibility.

5 **Water coolers**

The University has implemented over 70 plumbed in water cooler systems to reduce bottled water. Due to renovation works throughout campus, the water cooler implementation has been delayed in some areas. LA is working with George Gorman and TC to find appropriate solutions. Over half of University water coolers are now plumbed through main water supply.

Recycling Points

All desk bins were removed from offices in the Tower, Estates, Library and Harris buildings. Mini recycling points were placed within these departments instead. These measures will prevent recyclable rubbish going into the general waste stream. TC informed the group of an intern who is monitoring the rubbish/recycling situation and a report will be produced on the new recycling scheme and will include staff feedback. TC to pursue Scrymgeour desk bin removal, noting the need to communicate with staff again before any changes are made.

UniCycle

The University recycling website Uni-Cycle is going live in March 2012 allowing departments to advertise University owned surplus stock for donation or selling internally. This includes stationery, ink cartridges, furniture and equipment. The university is hoping this will reduce surplus goods going into the general waste stream. The recycling rate on campus is now over 50%.

I.C.S.

30 IT suites across campus are not managed by ICS, resulting in equipment not being switched off and faults not being reported on old equipment. Tom Mortimer and Marianne Kenley, Space manager, are investigating these areas and identify spaces not required. TC has offered to install power down software on these suites on request.

Liftsharing

The University is No 1 in Tayside for lift sharing with 464 registered users. AW has concerns about student car sharing with no student parking on campus. A new Car Club situated in Bell St offers students to hire a car for £3.75 per hour and 21p a mile; this runs in conjunction with the Edinburgh Car Club. A £25 joining fee is required. TC promoting this in March.

Bicycles

Bike Boost is a new scheme offering staff the use of a bike for 1 month before deciding to purchase a new one at a reduced rate. The bike package worth £470 will be offered at a reduced rate of £199. Further funding to be investigated by TC. The University has the status as the first Cycle Friendly employer in Tayside. <http://www.bikeboost.org/uod/>

6. Energy Awareness Campaign

An Energy Awareness campaign, including training sessions on 20, 21, 22 March, is to encourage the switching off of all unnecessary electrical equipment throughout campus. TC to email department heads. One hour presentations are available to all staff, students and security. The labelling of IT equipment is not clear in Dalhousie. GD to talk with Tom Mortimer regarding 'switch off' procedures. Automated lights to be implemented around campus.

7. Botanical Gardens and campus grounds

Bloom group. The university Nursery children are to adopt a listed tree, near Park Place from council. TC to investigate the removal of the temporary bins which have been there for a long time. The 'allotment lot' student gardening group won gold in a competition. The group is to be advertised on the web to recruit new members. AW to liaise with DUSA and Botanical gardens regarding surplus vegetables from allotments.

8. A. O. B

PM wants an environment & sustainability paragraph in the HR recruitment webpage and part of all job descriptions to show how the University stands in relation to environment and sustainability issues. CR has completed a project funded by the Higher Education Academy on Education for Sustainable Development and the Professional Curriculum, involving presentations at HEA events, the main finding being the need for accreditation bodies to take sustainability issues seriously if the curriculum is to develop.

Fairtrade events on campus for Fairtrade Fortnight 27th Feb to 11th March.

Transition on tour funded by climate challenge fund (CCF) comes to Dundee Uni. Some of our students are putting in a bid for CCF funding to become a

Transition University, will result in 4-5 full time members of staff being employed. GD to liaise with St Andrews regarding implications for employment rights etc...

9. Date of next meeting

TBC