

## Environmental Task Group

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

### Teams Meeting

Present:

Colin Reid	Law/Convener
Moira Dean	DUSA Retail Manager
David Broadfoot	DUSA Facilities Manager
Neale Laker	Deputy Secretary
Mark Stephenson	UoDIT
Mel Woods	DJCAD

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

It was noted that Trudy Cunningham was ill and would not be able to attend. Accordingly several items of business could not be fully discussed

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 9 June 2022 approved.

#### 3. Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

The draft Statement (attached) has been approved by Senate, subject to minor adjustments, and will be proceeding to Court for adoption.

#### 4. University Structures and Progress

With Prof Rowan stepping down, Neale Laker is currently taking responsibility for this area and work is progressing within the various working groups, e.g. in developing a pre-arrival module on sustainability for all students. There remains a challenge in finding ways of working that capture the enthusiasm and initiative across the institution without creating fragmentation or duplication whilst enabling full engagement with Schools and Directorates. One feature of the new structures is likely to be School Champions, serving both to communicate policy downwards and ideas, activities and initiatives upwards; a similar role for Directorates should also emerge. In some areas individuals are already being appointed to or serving in such roles.

There are lots of external initiatives as well, e.g. UKRI is developing a Concordat on climate issues and individual funders are also asking for reports. There is a risk of effort having to be devoted to multiple different reporting exercises, distracting from actually working to make things better. It was noted that the Nature Positive Pledge is being worked on by Kevin Frediani to ascertain whether it is appropriate for us and something we can deliver, with potential opportunities for student involvement.

#### 5. Role of the Environmental Sustainability Task Group

In view of the continuing development of activity in this area, the precise role and membership of this group remains unsettled. There is an important role to be played in continuing oversight across a wide front to ensure that more focussed initiatives do not miss opportunities or have unintended consequences that are undesirable and to ensure that the University is making progress across all aspects of environmental sustainability. For the time being continuing much as a present seems appropriate but this will be kept under review.

#### 6. Climate Action

The University has submitted a plan under the Race to Net Zero, but at this stage (as with other institutions) this is a "plan for a plan" with more detailed proposals to be worked out.

The work by the external consultants MACE on our carbon emissions should be completed around the turn of the year to inform future planning.

No suitable candidate has yet been found for the role of Carbon Data Manager.

The Public Bodies Climate Change Report has been submitted and after auditing it will be available here: [Reports \(sustainablesotlandnetwork.org\)](https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org)

Papers for the THE Impact Rankings have been submitted.

#### 7. Progress Report

In the absence of Trudy Cunningham, there was limited information on most items, an indication of a significant single point of failure in how activity is organised.

a) Water coolers

b) Waste: It was noted that there were further delays in introducing the deposit/return scheme for plastic bottles.

c) IT: Mark Stephenson reported that work is being done with Procurement in relation to both Scottish Government procurement guides and JISC in relation to improve IT services from an environmental perspective. At present the focus is on identifying clear tasks and gathering baseline data.

d) Website

e) Energy

f) Electric Vehicles: It was noted that visitors using the charging points on site had faced difficulties. The app was not working and when using the alternative of phoning the operator to start and finish a session it had taken 30-45 minutes to get through.

g) Procurement

h) Welcome Week

i) Premier Shops

#### 9. Botanic Garden, University Grounds and Campus as a Living Laboratory

Kevin Frediani had hoped to be able to join the meeting to report but had not been able to.

#### 10. Next meeting

Especially in view of the limited business that could be covered, a meeting would be arranged for fairly early in the New Year.