

Environmental Task Group

Tuesday 6th February 2018

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:	School/Dept
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law
Aidan McColgan (AMC)	Deputy Director, Estates
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment & Sustainability Officer
Margaret Wyllie (MW)	CHS
Becky Myles (BM)	Procurement
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Aileen Corral	Estates
Alasdair Hood (AH)	Curator of Botanic Garden
Nick Helps	Safety
Karen Brough (KB)	Estates

Apologies:

Jim McGeorge, Mark Stephenson, Stewart Kerr, Sean (President of DUSA)

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matter Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with several points noted – for ease of reference many of the matters raised at this point of the meeting are noted along with the substantive discussion later:

- the University secretary, Jim McGeorge, and Vice-Principal John Rowan had sent apologies and should be given good notice of the next meeting to enable them to attend.
- although mentioned previously, it is not a priority to achieve access to Box for Agenda and Minutes.
- work in Life Sciences is progressing, but slowly and Aileen Corral is waiting on H&S induction and access to Life Sciences in order to proceed with the Green Impact programme.

3. Progress Report

Water Coolers:

There are now 140 plumbed-in machines on campus, a total of 266 when Ninewells is included. In places where plumbed-in machines are not possible/convenient, there are 102 bottle-based machines on campus, 176 including Ninewells.

Recycling/re-use:

The WARPIT contact in Procurement, Louise Aird, has now left the University. TC had organised a training session for all managers.

Plastic/Food Waste:

TC met with the waste manager and external caddies for food waste have been ordered. A total of 250 internal food waste bins are required in total, which will be emptied by cleaners. There will be 6 new external food waste bins on campus. A food waste campaign to be launched once bins arrive.

Action: TC to contact DUSA to run a joint campaign.

Different waste contractors deal with waste streams differently; the compostable cups used by Campus Catering are turned into compost by Dundee City Council but other waste contractors would not do so. Where an anaerobic digester is used, compostable cups cannot go into food waste and depending on the disposal route used there may be no point in buying compostable bags for food waste.

Action: Clarity from Waste manager required.

DUSA does not take responsibility for the amount of plastic waste on campus due to giving out free bottles of water to students and staff. The distribution of water is seen as important in view of their duty of care to students but creates a significant problem, not least with all the blue caps embedded in the grass and soil. The grounds staff deserve real praise for all the clearing up they do. Discussion on ways of addressing this included encouraging an art-work using the discarded bottles and lids, a reward of 1p for every lid returned or using bottles with lids attached. DUSA could be called on to take responsibility for litter beyond the immediate vicinity which they already care for.

Action: TC to contact DUSA.

UoDIT:

The savings in electricity consumption from the IT network migration was expected to be less than 5% and the sub-metering was inconclusive, certainly showing no great savings.

The shut-down of personal computers in Estates at 7pm (after a warning) had worked well; the next step is to contact UoDIT for rollout to other departments.

Action: TC

Energy Projects:

Energy Projects/Salix - Phase 3:

The Old Medical School and Carnelley lighting project is complete. Work in the Matthew Building levels 5 & 6 is partly complete with additional installation to be done in the summer.

Energy Projects/Salix SFC- Phase 4:

Works to be completed by July 2019 are the installation of 85kw of photo-voltaic (PV) generation at the Crawford Building Installation, and LED lighting for Campus and in the Medical Sciences Institute.

AH enquired whether we were receiving Feed-in-Tariff income for the PV Installation at Micro Macro Centre at Botanic Gardens. DM noted that Neil Burford who had dealt with these

arrangements and the position was unclear since he had left the University; no payments were currently being received.

Action: DM to chase.

Electric Vehicles and Chargers:

Funding has been awarded for 3 years for another Nissan EV200 Van.

EV chargers:

The chargers used for electric vehicles had consumed approx. £7500 of electricity over 6.5 years, mostly for internal use, but an eye should be kept on costs [Note: the deals on which funding for chargers is provided usually requires that they be available free for an initial period, but after that it is permissible to charge external users, but collecting any charges entails further costs].

A potentially significant problem is ensuring that vehicles move on once charged, rather than blocking the charging points - the rapid chargers complete the process in one hour, the others in 4 hours - and this will have to be kept under review.

All Scottish universities now have charging points enabling electric vehicles to be used to visit other institutions in Scotland.

The chargers at Park Place are now live and the former Estates yard is now a Green Transport Hub with a new semi-rapid charger. There is no more capacity on distribution boards at the former Estates site for additional chargers; the power supply from the Micro-Centre could be retained to assist.

Dundee will have a low emission zone in the city centre from 2020 and Dundee City Council is to have 3 new EV charging parks.

The Fleet Manager is to give guidance to staff who have never driven an electric car before but wish to use on - a laminated guide had formerly been produced and left in the cars.

Action: Fleet manager to produce and ensure availability of a guide to driving an electric vehicle.

AH can arrange a demonstration of an electric lawn mower; the cost is £25K, with limited maintenance costs, but disappointingly it is noisier than a diesel machine and noise is a major issue. Future developments in this area should be watched.

Cycle projects:

As part of creating the Green Transport Hub, a bike stand and racks are to be installed following demolition of the Micro-Centre.

The bike repair stand by DUSA had been vandalised, but was now repaired. The inner tube vending machine has had new coin mechanism fitted to accept new £1 coins.

The various cycle parking facilities are being heavily used, with additional spaces being rapidly occupied.

TC has prepared new 'Travel to the University' leaflets, to be distributed at all receptions. The leaflet had been approved by External Relations.

Procurement

A Procurement representative will be able to attend only when there is specific relevant business.

The University is using 100% recycled paper and the special requirements at DJCAD for heavier grade paper will be discussed directly with Procurement.

4. Policies

The statutory report under the Climate Change duty on public bodies had been submitted on 30th November. Carbon emissions were down approx. 8% last year, but this was mainly due to a mild winter and decarbonisation of the grid (a higher proportion of renewables in the overall sources of the national electricity supply); future years may not be so good. Within the sector, the University's performance is comparable with Edinburgh and Glasgow. Across the sector as a whole, energy use going up as Universities expand. Full report online:

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/climate-change-reporting/climate-change-reports/>

One area where we are having an increased impact is waste – our “footprint” is now 32 tonnes.

TC reported that the University is still to sign up for the SDG Accord – “The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Sustainable Development Goals”

<http://www.sdgaccord.org/> and it is hoped that this will be raised with the University Executive Group. The SD Goals are the focus of the CECHR symposium in May. The SD Goals are the focus of the CECHR symposium in May.

The group was unsure about the fate of the Carbon Management Board which had last met in May 2015.

Action - CR to write to Jim McGeorge about the Carbon Management Board

5. Botanic Gardens & Grounds

Landscaping at the old Biological Sciences Institute site has started, with planting due over the spring. The DIG Society at DUSA may help as the project develops. **Action - TC/AH to discuss further.**

Riverside Football Park /Botanic Garden:

Some visible tree-felling was about to take place at and near Riverside, by the University and Dundee City Council. The work had been discussed with the council's tree officer and replanting will take place. Good arrangements were in place for the removal and disposal of the logs (firewood and digestion). Information on this work would be distributed since such visible felling of trees can generate public complaint.

The over-use of Campus Green is causing concern. In previous years DUSA has held the Holi festival on Campus Green, resulting in damage to the grass and unknown coloured dyes going into soil. Previously this event had been held in the Crawford car park and it was questioned why that site could not be used again. If the weather is bad any such usage turns the Campus Green to mud, and the grass is also damaged if marquees are used without flooring (as DUSA has done on occasions). Once the lawns are over used, there is neither the time nor resources to restore them before other events. Suggestions to limit the damage has been overruled, but some events will be restricted to the area at the top of Campus Green to keep the damage in one area.

Litter is an ongoing problem. Grounds and Garden staff pick up as and when they can and Estates staff also assist. A litter-pick was arranged for May with Dundee Rep. TC recommended personal ashtrays for the cigarette butts to help deal with cigarette waste at main entrances e.g. Library, Dalhousie, DUSA

All feedback on the state of grounds can be reported to the Estates Help Desk.

6. A.O.B.

Aileen Corral is to take action on the green audit in Life Sciences. Three teams there have already agreed that their freezers can run at -70° rather than -80°, achieving a saving of £200 per freezer per year. Life Sciences now have the same recycling policies as rest of University.

The Fair Trade Programme is to be held 26 February to 11 March.

9. Date of next meeting

A date in May 2018 is to be confirmed.

Action: TC/CR/AMc