

Environmental Task Group
Wednesday 13th May 2016 @ 2pm
Dalhousie – 2G12

1. Welcome and apologies

<u>Present:</u>	<u>School/Dept</u>
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law
Aidan McColgan (AMC)	Practice Manager, Estates
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment & Sustainability Officer
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Mark Stephenson (MS)	UoD IT
Pamela Milne (PM)	HR Director
Karen Brough	Estates

<u>Apologies:</u>	
Margaret Wyllie	Campus Catering
Alasdair Hood	Curator of Botanic Garden
Jim McGeorge	University Secretary
Louise Aird	Procurement
Stewart Kerr (SK)	Procurement
Jack Crozier	SRC Sustainability Rep
President	DUSA

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes approved by Aidan McColgan (Chair).

Action: Item 3 SK to check terms and conditions of vending machine contracts in relation to the fitting of timers to switch off machines when buildings are closed.

3. Progress Report

Water Coolers

There are now 118 plumbed in machines on campus, with more still being requested through Estates. The water coolers are all running well, no major issues; TC logs all relevant calls.

- Action: DUSA should be reviewing its own position on this matter.

Food Waste

A problem for Campus Catering in the bin store at Bonar Hall had been resolved. The lack of recycling bins in Dalhousie was noted. In relation to bin provision, TC noted the need to be complaint regarding DDA and Fire regulations.

- Action: TC to meet Head of domestic services and Colin Girdwood to review this matter.

It was suggested that a) for conferences and events signs should be displayed about food waste and b) that the recycling facilities for events, e.g. in Scrymgeour Hall, should be reviewed.

- Action: TC to meet Elizabeth Shearer (who has responsibility for booking Scrymgeour Hall) to discuss.

Travel

The 5 year Travel Plan is in place, with a target of reducing reduce single occupancy car journeys. In recent years this has increased slightly, possibly because of changes in the mix of staff (more fixed-term contracts which do not incentivise moving close to the University) and less strict enforcement of the local residence rule for staff (if it is still included in contracts).

- Action: TC to prepare travel information for new staff.

Botanic Garden etc.

The litter pick on 19 February was not well attended even with a soup and sandwich offer. There is a big litter issue on campus and litter picks should be held at least 2-3 times a year, although it is proving difficult to get more students involved, even with DUSA and SRC involvement.

TC has her own pledge – to pick up 1 piece of litter every day – and this might be more widely promoted.

Building Developments

The demolition of the BSI is on hold, because of problems with planning permission. The demolition of Park Place Primary was booked for w/c 12.5.2016.

Estates are moving to the Ewing Building during May 2016. The former Estates buildings are to be turned into a green transport hub, with electric vehicle points, electric bike points, a bike repair station, benches and wild flowers.

- Action: TC is in discussions with Dundee Council about access to EU funding for this work.

IT

A year long project to improve the network was under way.

The PCs in the Tower Basement are not reliably shutting down or powering on as per the schedule. Further investigation is required to understand why this is not behaving as expected.

IT suites such as the Tower Basement are underused and often empty for large parts of the year. The Library meets many essential needs and is a more pleasant environment.

About 10-20% of staff PCs are being left logged in permanently, some so that they can be remotely accessed from outside. Software could be used to force a shutdown but work could be lost and there is uncertainty over who has authority to require this, although the view was that the key point was that staff are clearly informed.

Forthcoming upgrades should provide much quicker boot-up and login times for Campus Services staff.

Phones too could go on standby, and TC is in talks with Cisco about this.

- Action: TC to get feedback from Cisco and UoDIT

Recycling and Reuse

The schemes appear to be working well, with lots of furniture being reused and the store emptying and filling every month. Procurement should check that this is producing savings.

Salix

DM reported that several projects had been identified for Salix funding (interest free borrowing of 60k) mainly for lighting and controls; checks are being done on which buildings require asbestos removal. Work should be undertaken during 2016. Existing schemes are producing a good energy payback, with the added benefit of users seeing an improvement and investment in their area. Letty Gibson is investigating work for laboratories.

Vehicle Charging Points

Further installation of charger points needs to be investigated as we are seeking more electric vans with potential for a £90K saving. Maintenance of electric vehicles is a lot less than for conventional ones.

Bicycles

The student cycle hub was due to open in May to open this month. The installation of a Toucan crossing in Park Lane did not occur since the contractors did not appear. An award of £12K funding has been awarded to enable a contraflow to be installed on Cross Row, so that students can cycle down to the Library from Campus Green. There is a 5 year cycling strategy to develop a north/ south route through the campus (without cobblestones).

Match funding for projects continues to be obtained from Cycling Scotland match funding 2 of the projects.

During Freshers' Week there will be a bike repair stand and instruction available every day at Freshers' Week, with offers of bike repair kits worth £20 for those attending. Bike hire suppliers will be present so that parents can hire bikes for students.

There have been no accidents with students using hired bikes.

There are now 2 Security/ Traffic Officers using bikes around campus, and they love it.

4. Botanic Garden, campus grounds and student allotment

DUSA has obtained Climate Challenge Funding of £3.5K for tools for the student allotment, although more might have been sought. PR and other work will be needed for Freshers' week.

The possibility of part of the Park Place site being made available as an allotment was raised and would be investigated.

- Action: TC to investigate plans for Park Place.

5. Annual Review of Targets

The carbon reduction targets are realistic at a 4% reduction per year over 5 years and then an annual 2%. These will need to be reviewed by 2020.

The statutory climate change reports provided all public bodies appear on the internet at <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/climate-change-reporting/201415-reports/?cid=15381>

Our own web page will need to be adjusted to align with the statutory reports and link to them.

6. Office/building use changes.

The University is reducing its footprint and withdrawing from energy inefficient buildings. Change affect BSI, the Estates building, the Microcentre and Park Place.

7. Fair Trade

The Fair Trade accreditation is due to be renewed shortly

8. A.O.B.

The makeup of the group should be reviewed. A student representative should be present but although SRC and DUSA are invited, they do not always attend.

- Action: to review membership of group

9. Date of next meeting

Date should be set for meetings in November and May.

The Carbon Reduction Board is due to meet in December and June.

- Action: TC/CR/AMc