

Environmental Task Group: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 2pm (Dalhousie – 2G12)

1. *Welcome and apologies*

<u>Present:</u>	<u>School/Dept</u>
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law (co-convenor)
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment and Sustainability Officer
Tim Hustler (TH)	President of DUSA
Stewart Kerr (SK)	Procurement Office
Mark Stephenson (MS)	UoD IT
Rhona M McDonald	Estates
Margaret Wylie (MW)	Campus Catering

Apologies:

Pamela Milne	HR Director
Jim McGeorge	University Secretary
Louise Aird	Procurement
Aidan McColgan (AMC)	Practice Manager, Estates (co-convenor)
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Alasdair Hood (AH)	Curator of Botanic Garden
Ian Scragg (IS)	Head of Safety Services
Jack Crozier	SRC Sustainability Rep

2. *Minutes of last meeting.*  
Minutes approved by CR

3. *Progress Report.*

*Vending machines.* The timers attached to some of the vending machines operated by DUSA had been stolen. TC wants the machines hardwired to operate only during building opening hours whereas Coca-Cola want any timers on their machines removed and the machines to be on 24hrs.

*Action:* SK is to check the terms and conditions of vending contracts.

*Restructuring.* It was noted that as part of the University restructuring 60-70 recently installed desks were taken out only for approx. £10,000 to be spent on new ones. There seems to be a problem with those taking procurement decisions in that the Warp-it scheme is not always being checked before orders are being placed:

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/energy&environment/storagere-use/>

This both incurs avoidable costs and has a knock-on effect for environmental projects.

*Water Chillers.* 114 chillers have been changed to a new provider in June over a two week period. The position in Kirkcaldy was queried, and in discussion it was noted that DUSA are refurbishing the canteen there.

*Food waste.* Campus Catering has food waste bins, kept in the cage in Park Place. MW complained that the bins at the recycling point near Bonar Hall are not emptied and returned immediately.

*Action:* TC is to enquire whether the problem lies with Binn Waste or Estates. MW is to investigate whether paper cups can be included in food waste bins.

*Park Place Primary.* This site is now owned by University and an application to demolish the former school has been made [subsequently granted]. The University had acquired the site from the Council in exchange for the Hunter Street car park and the car park off Perth Road (by Miller's Wynd). The rental of the store in Henderson's Wynd has ceased saving >£100,000 per annum.

*Re-Use.* The use of Warp-it has saved over £75,000 by re-using furniture which would otherwise have gone to landfill. This also represented savings of 36 tonnes of CO2 compared with buying new goods.

*IT Suites.* The Tower and Dalhousie suites power down automatically. Computers wake up 30 mins to 1 hour before opening times and one hour after log off, resulting in energy cost savings. The Library and Ninewells are currently on 24 hour access and there is communication about revised new opening times. The restructuring of the network in January will include new energy efficient routers replacing 10 year old equipment.

*Energy Project.* Salix has approved funding for more LED controls. Life Sciences has new energy monitoring systems. DM has engaged energy audit consultants who will visit buildings, listing all appliances with a view to identifying which can go off at the close of business and whether an automatic shutdown is required. This will help establish energy baseloads for buildings and a substantial switch-off could save 10% in energy costs.

*Electric Vehicle Chargers.* There is a need for a charging point at the Library for security team vehicles. The two charging points at Heathfield are public access. MW asked if catering could get its own point at the Tower. TC has applied for more funding for further points. Rapid charge points are desirable but require improved connection to a substation and cost >£25k. The website <http://chargeyourcar.org.uk/> shows which points are available for charging.

*Bike shelters.* The new shelter at Life Sciences was to have a formal opening in January; its façade matches the Discovery Centre's design. A new contraflow system and crossing point was to be created from Campus Green - leading down Crossrow, saving students time cycling around the block; initial costings were £8- 10k. A new cycle strategy would show clearer routes. TC had been successful in receiving funding for all the current cycling infrastructure projects. The new dedicated student cycle shelter between the Library and East side of DUSA is near completion with a programmable lock. Previous queries about data protection arising from the locking system had been resolved.

*Bike hire.* A new company has taken over the shop unit in Heathfield for selling/hiring bikes on campus; see <http://electricbikesscotland.co.uk/ebs-cycle-centre/> It offers repairs, classes, accessories etc. TC is negotiating prices, providing for a staff hire discount. Estates has six electric bikes in the bike pool, as well as two hybrid and one folding bike.

*Travel Plan.* A new 5 year Travel Plan is being written. The travel survey results show more staff in single occupancy cars. There is no clear explanation but might be a connection with shorter employment contracts or shorter working hours.

*Action:* TC will investigate further.

*RHS – Britain in Bloom.* The Royal Horticultural Society named Dundee as best city in the UK (beating Oxford and Norwich). TC on behalf of the University received the RHS Environmental award. Social media had been used to advertise the success. It was also in local and National Press.

*Green Gown Awards.* The award ceremony in Bristol was attended by the University as finalists in the facilities and services category for sustainable transport at University.

[http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green\\_gown\\_awards\\_2015\\_facilities\\_and\\_services](http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green_gown_awards_2015_facilities_and_services)  
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#### 4. *Botanic Garden and Campus Grounds.*

No dates had been decided for a Litter Pick Up event on campus, and there had been no response to a previous Pick Up event.

*Action:* TC to plan/co-ordinate a new event for around the end of January.

The distribution of water bottles by DUSA was continuing, with DUSA publicising they have given out 50,000 bottles. TC suggested a change to the wording on the website which advertises distribution of water bottles, to be changed to refer to the distribution of bottled water.

*Biological Sciences Institute.* A request was made for news on the schedule for the building's demolition.

*Action:* TC to enquire on progress on BSI application for demolition.

#### 5. *Climate Change and Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).*

The SSN scheme provides a spreadsheet for all carbon data and goes public in January. All large public bodies must submit this every year to comply with legal reporting duties and a pilot is currently being run. <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/climate-change-reporting/>

The University has no climate change adaptation strategy/policy and perhaps this could be incorporated into the Risk Management Policy. It was noted that new software was needed to monitor carbon in the supply chain.

A new baseline has been set for the University's Energy Footprint, which cannot be directly compared with previous years since a Ninewells element is now included. (The University pays 18% of energy bill at Ninewells (but has no control over usage); this figure is double counted since TC has checked and NHS Tayside have submitted their full energy usage, including this 18%.)

The new Discovery Centre building has increased total campus energy use by 5%, but none of the budgets for support services has increased (e.g. for water, energy, security, cleaning, maintenance etc....) The current conditions of external grants do not allow for these costs to be included.

6. *AOB.*

TC suggested that if the University could establish carbon-neutral doctorates this might be a unique selling point.

TC would like to do more internal auditing and plans to take an IEMA auditing course at same time as environment manager at St Andrews. This would allow us to externally audit each other. This will also help in our SSN submission as SSN says external auditing is important.