

Environmental Sustainability Task Group

Monday, 12 June 2023

Estates Boardroom and Teams

Present:

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| Colin Reid (CTR) | Law/Convener |
| David Broadfoot | DUSA Facilities Manager |
| Trudy Cunningham (TC) | Estates |
| Colin Dey | School of Business |
| Claudette Jones (CJ) | Digital & Technology Services |
| Stewart Kerr (SK) | Procurement |
| Iain Lilly (IL) | Project Manager |
| Aidan McColgan | Estates |
| Mel Woods | DJCAD |

Apologies:

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| Neale Laker | Deputy Secretary |
| Mark Stephenson | Digital & Technology Services |

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2023 were approved and no matters arising not already on the agenda were identified.

3. Introduction to Iain Lilly and his role

IL introduced himself and explained that his role was to lead in reducing the Scope 3 emissions across the University. We have been achieving reductions in our carbon emissions for many years, but with the full assessment carried out by Mace on a more comprehensive basis, the number was now much higher. A major element was Goods and Services, but the assessment has not separated capital and revenue elements and this will require further attention. Possible areas of work include looking at recycled and second-hand equipment for IT. IL will be speaking to Schools and Directorates and there is scope for working with the Sustainability Committees established in some Schools.

Scope 3 emissions include students' international travel, which is currently unavoidable and may increase in view of wider University policy, and offsetting options would be explored. It was noted that EAUC is doing useful work in this area.

At present there is no specific target for a reduction in Scope 3 emissions and although the website promises publication of the report from Mace and an updated Carbon Management Plan for early 2023, neither is published yet.

4. Progress Report

Water coolers

Our supplier of water coolers has been taken over by Culligan. Not all of the installations are being serviced as they should be and some new sites for plumbed-in provision are being investigated, as is the potential for provision in the Dental Hospital, requiring liaison with the NHS. Since some equipment appears to have been moved in recent years, a full audit is to be carried out. Scottish Water and Dundee City Council have been working on the provision of water refilling sites and TC will pursue further the potential for having such facilities on campus (not restricted to our own staff and students)

ACTION: TC to follow up

Waste

The Deposit and Return Scheme is not going ahead this autumn, which is a relief in view of the operational difficulties posed.

We are the first HEI in Scotland to work with Recycle Scotland on a furniture recycling project, e.g. after being told by the supplier that couches in the Dalhousie Building could not be recovered but only replaced at a cost of £9,000, it has been possible to arrange for their recovering at about half the cost. The Furniture Reuse Store is enabling savings of about £40k per annum.

The Free Shop is heavily used by international students and very much appreciated by them.

Fair Trade

Personal circumstances have delayed the Fair Trade submission but the Audit was carried out last Friday, 9th June. Our status is at risk in view of changes to the coffee machines in DUSA, although it is hoped that the limited availability of Fair Trade options will be sufficient.

Digital and Technology Services (CJ)

An update of storage technology is under way, enabling more efficient cloud-based storage. As part of this process staff are being asked to reduce the amount of material stored (H: and S: drives) as much of the material there has not been used in years. It is hoped to have a dashboard of the carbon usage of the different sorts of hardware we use and the now overdue replacement of much of the hardware used by staff and students offers opportunities for more efficiency in operation.

Energy

A job description is being assessed for a replacement for the Energy Manager who left last autumn, with a changed emphasis on working with others to improve our monitoring and use of energy. At present the data that could be available are not fully collected or analysed.

Work is progressing on the large-scale plans for the future, involving more than one energy source. When work is being done on the current infrastructure (e.g. pipes) this is including upgrades to cope with potential new systems.

Electric Vehicles

There have been complaints about how the increase in charges was communicated. Our Public charge rates are now higher than those charged by the Council (important since when they were lower there were a lot of taxis making use of our cheaper rates), but with a discount available for staff to bring the cost below the Council rates.

There are problems with chargers breaking down after only a couple of years of use, with repairs or replacements being very expensive.

Work is progressing towards a salary sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles.

Cycling

Staff have been informed of the bike shelters available through the Council and a new shelter will shortly be installed in Park Place.

Plans for various events in Welcome Week are progressing as are discussions about bike pools for the main student residences.

Green Impact Programme

The School of Engineering and the GRE Lab in Life Sciences and are involved in this programme and have recently won Silver and Bronze Awards. Colin Dey from the School of Business expressed an interest in his school being involved.

Procurement (SK)

Full details from the Mace report into Scope 3 emissions are still awaited, to inform future work.

A new ICT Category Manager is starting in the team, Holly Thomson, HThomson001@dundee.ac.uk

5. Botanic Garden and Campus Grounds

An external contractor had been employed recently for a major tidy up of the campus since there are not the regular staff to deal with this.

Staff in Life Sciences organise a monthly litter pick, with equipment and soup provided through TC.

Other groups are welcome to follow this model in their own areas of campus.

ACTION: TC to contact Schools to mention this possibility

6. Future of the Group

This was CTR's last meeting as Convener before his retirement. Despite efforts, no progress had been made in identifying the procedure for appointing or possible identification of a new Convener. Likewise, the roles and activities of the various sub-groups working under the Climate Action Group were still not fully settled, some of which will be looking at areas historically under this Group's review. The ambition remains for this Group to exercise an oversight role, with others having a more operational focus, and to consider pervasive issues such as resource use that may not be fully addressed by other sub-groups. CTR will raise the issue again at a forthcoming Climate Action Group meeting. Generally, progress on the new arrangements for addressing climate and sustainability issues had been disappointingly slow during this academic year.

ACTION: CTR to raise replacement of Convener at Climate Action Group meeting on 19 June.

7. Any other business

CTR was thanked for his long service as Convener and his efforts in keeping environmental and sustainability issues visible in the University.