

**EAUC BOARD PAPER**  
**Title: Wales Branch Report**  
**Paper No: 09.05.11**



**For Information**

**Purpose**

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Wales Branch.

***EAUC-Wales Branch Developments***

Since the last EAUC Board meeting there has been one Regional meeting held. This report details key items from this meeting (1st May 2012).

**Sustainable procurement**

The meeting concentrated on the subject of sustainable procurement. We had two presentations during the day, the first from Brendan Burke representing Value Wales. He provided a very practical presentation detailing simple measures to employ and also talked about the changes to the SPAF coming into affect during 2012. An offer was also made for free training from Value Wales on specific issues relating to involving the community and using SME's.

The second presentation was from Karen Bowman of Edinburgh University via video conference. We had invited Karen to talk on the work of the TSN on Sustainable Procurement. Karen highlighted the benefit of bringing the different bodies together to discuss the procurement issues and also the benefit in having a representative from the Scottish parliament as a member of the network.

Following the presentations it was agreed that it would be beneficial to explore whether we could replicate the work of the Scottish TSN in Wales.

**Sustainable Development Charter**

A report was provided on the network event that had taken place in January: Future network events, possible to focus on different sectors, locations. It was agreed there was value in bringing together business, ngos and academic sectors. Everyone around the table agreed that there was value in being part of the network, and the story behind it of signing up to help WG deliver the vision of a truly sustainable Wales was extremely important. Currently 117 signatories (3 HE, 8 FE).

**HEFCW**

**HEFCW Sustainability Framework**

This is the first time HEFCW has sought to explicitly link SD to our work with the HE sector. This document is intended to run only for the period of the existing corporate strategy ie to the July 2013 when a new strategy will be introduced. Following a recent meeting with Jane Davidson, Dr Enir Young , and Dr Carl Peters we will be working with the ESDGC champions to develop metrics to support the adoption of the framework. This coincides with the planned refresh of the Common Understanding of ESDGC document that was already planned.

HEFCW and the Carbon trust are working to agree the scope of a project which aims to examine the potential for using and reporting on DEC's as a means to support energy and carbon reduction. This builds on a project undertaken within the local authority sector and aims to examine and identify how DEC's can be used constructively as a reporting tool. It will also reflect on the success, work, and resources available both to the sector, and individual HEIs to date particularly by the Energy Best Practice Group. It will also

examine some of the known inconsistencies around DECS to see if these can be made more meaningful. Further details will be announced shortly.

### **EAUC Wales Objectives and Targets**

A report against the Objectives and Targets highlighted that we need to promote the benefit of the Regional group and well as the resources available through the EAUC website if we are to encourage new members. It was also noted from existing members that whilst they had renewed their membership, the rise in fee had been difficult for the FE Colleges.

The next meeting will be: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – National Botanical Gardens – Biodiversity & Software systems

**Katrina Henderson**

*EAUC-Wales Branch Convener*  
2/05/12