

# Campus Sustainability News Issue 5 May 2008

## Welcome

This CaSPr newsletter marks the end of the first phase of the Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSPr) and initiates the second, which, with Scottish Funding Council support, will be running over the next three years to 2011.

There have been many achievements from the first phase – some of which are summarised below. Phase 2 of CaSPr has the aim of “building capacity in Scotland’s Universities and Colleges, governing bodies, staff and students to enable them to meet sustainability and corporate responsibility obligations”. This broad agenda of corporate responsibility will be the new focus – a piece in this newsletter shows some of the ways we hope to put this into practice.

We are also, with support from the sector and others, developing what we are calling “Scotland’s Principals’ Climate Commitment. We hope this will provide significant support to institutions as they tackle the very important climate change agenda.

It is not too late to sign up for our conference on Tuesday 6 May at Queen Margaret University’s new campus by Musselburgh – this will be a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues and come away inspired to do more!

Finally, if your institution is not a member of EAUC, I would like to encourage you to join and be part of this fast growing network of institutions wanting to learn more about sustainability and put it in to practice. But of more importance, whether you are a member or not I hope we will see you involved with the next phase of CaSPr

*Roddy Yarr, Acting Convenor EAUC-Scotland, and Energy and Environment Officer the University of St Andrews.*

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## Scotland’s Principals’ Climate Commitment (SPCC)

EAUC Scotland has set up a project to gain support for a Scottish university and college commitment to address climate change. The first phase of this project, managed by Alan Speedie – past Chair of the local authorities’ Sustainable Scotland Network – with support from the Scottish Finding Council, will draft the “Scottish Principals’ Climate Change Commitment” and set out proposals for future support for the sector which will help institutions meet the commitments.

The project is overseen by an Advisory Board chaired by Dave Gorman, Head of Environmental Strategy at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), with Principals of the University of Strathclyde and of Oatridge College among the dozen or so members. For further information see [http://www.eauc.org.uk/scottish\\_climate\\_change\\_declaration](http://www.eauc.org.uk/scottish_climate_change_declaration) or contact Alan Speedie at [alan.speedie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alan.speedie@hotmail.co.uk) / 07821 258 201

## Evaluation of CaSPr Phase 1

The CaSPr consultants are completing an evaluation of the first phase of CaSPr which reports on how far the programme has met its objectives and what participants think about it. Some of the key features of the report are given here, based on three data sources – CaSPr mailing lists, information about and from those attending events and an end of programme on-line survey.

### CaSPr mailing list

By the end of the initial phase, information about CaSPr is being mailed to over 300 staff covering all Scottish colleges and universities and to 124 individuals in 65 strategic partners.

### Statistics on events held

Some of the key facts are:

- 25 workshops held, with 499 attendees split 41% HE, 37% FE, 15% Strategic Partners, 7% students
- Six Topic Support Network (TSN) events held with 83 attendees split 61% HE, 11% FE, 28% Strategic Partners
- Three HE institutions and ten FE institutions attended no events but ten HE institutions and five FE institutions have had ten or more attendances.
- 40 Strategic Partners attended either a CaSPr event or a Topic Support Network – involving 69 different individuals and 89 attendances
- 80 individuals from HE attended just one event, and one individual from HE attended 13 events.
- 32 individual students attending events came from only nine institutions

### Summary and highlights of the February 2008 online survey of 39 respondents

Respondents attributed 135 sustainability improvements to their involvement in CaSPr. Over a third of improvements related to waste, 10% to policy and energy with a lower percentage relating to travel, construction, biodiversity and working with the students union.

There was a tendency for there to be more improvements if individuals have had more involvement with CaSPr activities.

A wide range of comments were made by respondents many of which focussed on the networking opportunities provided by CaSPr.

### Feedback on from participants individual events

At the end of every event, participants were asked to give feedback on all aspects – administration, presentations, small groups and overall usefulness. The average “overall usefulness” from 21 events was a very high 4.4 out of a maximum of 5. Full details will be available in the final report.

### Comments made by CaSPr participants

*“Excellent topics and great networking opportunity”*

*“CaSPr has made a major impact in raising awareness of Energy, Environment, Waste and Sustainability issues”*

*The project has created a network with allows effective sharing of knowledge and practices. It has given me a platform from which to significantly raise awareness of sustainability”*

*“CaSPr has provided excellent event and materials making expertise, good practice and support available to all”*

*“I attended the day for students in Edinburgh in November, and it was great purely from the point of getting people together and letting them share what they've been doing”*



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## Review of Sustainability and Environmental Systems/Schemes

Many CaSPr participants said they wanted information about the most suitable environmental management systems, accreditation schemes, awards and toolkits. To meet this need, CaSPr consultants wrote a brief review setting out details of grants, awards and toolkits relating to sustainability and the environment and providing guidance on available certification and benchmarking systems.

A copy of the full report is available on the Strategic Development TSN website  
[http://www.eauc.org.uk/caspr\\_topic\\_support\\_strategic\\_development](http://www.eauc.org.uk/caspr_topic_support_strategic_development)

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## Promoting Responsible Universities and Colleges CaSPr Ph 2:

EAUC has been successful in attracting funding from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to expand the Campus Sustainability Programme for another three years from April 2008.

For this second phase, the aim has been adjusted to embrace the corporate responsibility agenda. The new aim is to “build capacity in Scotland’s Universities and Colleges, governing bodies, staff and students to enable them to meet sustainability and corporate responsibility obligations”.

The most successful elements will be retained and new features incorporated including:

- Embracing those FHE institutions that were least involved and to which CaSPr will add most value. EAUC will explore with them the most effective ways to meet their needs – through changed delivery modes or by targeting content more closely to the key issues which they face.
- Extending the range of staff involved so as to engage senior managers and other professional staff (e.g. finance, procurement, human resources, strategic planning) that have not so far been involved extensively with the programme.
- Providing new ways of delivering development activity: for example getting sustainability on agendas of meetings of other staff groups, holding “train the trainers” events for environmental staff to help them deliver the message more effectively, setting up schemes to enable neighbouring institutions to share experiences.
- Continuing the successful work with strategic partners
- Adding further Topic Support Networks (which bring together strategic partners and professional staff from FHE). Existing TSNs cover Waste, Energy, Travel, Construction, and Strategic Development; and to these will be added networks covering Education for Sustainable Development, Procurement and Biodiversity.
- Maintaining and enhancing the website
- Working to interact with more students in a greater range of FHE institutions
- Continuing the benchmarking work undertaken during CaSPr but focussing on qualitative measures relating to sustainability and CSR.

To become involved in Phase 2 all institutions will be encouraged to become EAUC members

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## CaSPr On-line

Much of the information about CaSPr and the resources it has generated on the EAUC website [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk) Your principal contact point for CaSPr is [caspr@eauc.org.uk](mailto:caspr@eauc.org.uk)

If you wish, you can contact Iain Patton, the EAUC contact for CaSPr on [ipatton@eauc.org.uk](mailto:ipatton@eauc.org.uk).

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## EAUC Scotland Campus Sustainability Conference 6 May

On 6 May 2008 the new Queen Margaret University Campus in Musselburgh hosts the second EAUC Scotland Campus Sustainability Conference. Delegates will hear about the role Scottish institutions play in contributing to a Greener Scotland and how our colleges and universities must start taking action on climate change.

The recently published SFC Sustainable Development Guidance for Estate Management will be launched formally and delegates will hear about

- Scotland’s Principals’ Climate Commitment being developed by EAUC-Scotland Branch.
- The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

- Achieving High Performance Estates – the new guidance, and Embedding sustainability into procurement practices

The event is aimed at a wide range of those working in the sector, including senior managers, practitioners, lecturers, researchers and students. The event will also be of considerable interest to those in public and not-for-profit agencies who are committed to helping the sector become more sustainable.

The EAUC-Scotland Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at the end of the day. Delegates are encouraged to attend so as to shape the programme for the next three years

For booking forms please visit <http://www.eauc.org.uk/eauc-scotland-campus-sustainability-conference>

The venue, the Queen Margaret University's new Musselburgh campus, opened in 2007. The building maximises energy efficiency and the landscape encourages biodiversity.

The project has gained a BREEAM\* rating of "Excellent" and several leading environmental technologies are employed including biomass heating, thin-client computer technology and a sustainable urban drainage system. Delegates will have the opportunity to examine some of the main features of the campus during the event.

For information on Queen Margaret University visit [http://www.qmced.ac.uk/the\\_university\\_college/sustainable\\_university.htm](http://www.qmced.ac.uk/the_university_college/sustainable_university.htm)

## State of the Campus survey 2008

In December 2007, CaSPr consultants undertook the 'State of the Campus Survey' of all Scottish universities and colleges to identify sustainability achievements and opportunities for improvement. The report is available on the EAUC CaSPr website. The survey gathered information about the extent to which institutions had:

ion (FE) and 53% Higher Education (HE). Some of the findings are summarised below:

- Almost 100% of institutions responding either have or are developing policies on Sustainability, Environment and Transport/Travel. But only 50% of institutions with a sustainability policy have it signed by their Principal
- Nearly all institutions responding have policies on social issues such as Access and Health and Safety, whereas 62% or less have policies for environmental/sustainability issues
- Energy is the issue on which the greatest percentage of institutions are committed to developing a policy

Three institutions have gained accreditation to an environmental-related management system and eight are committed to achieving accreditation to an environmental management system

- 36% of respondents did not know if the Carbon Reduction Commitment would apply to their institution
- 43% of respondents had installed alternative energy technology
- Reuse and recycling initiatives and education for sustainable development awareness campaigns were each being undertaken by 60% of the institutions responding.
- Only six of the institutions responded to both the 2006 and 2008 surveys and 38% of sector didn't participate in either survey

Both reports are available at [http://www.eauc.org.uk/state\\_of\\_the\\_campus\\_survey\\_for\\_scotlands\\_colleges](http://www.eauc.org.uk/state_of_the_campus_survey_for_scotlands_colleges)



Biodiversity event Elmwood College

