



## EAUC Welsh Region Meeting

Held on Tuesday 29th April 2014, 10:30 till 15:30

Location: Coleg Sir Gar

### **Attendees:**

Dr Katrina Henderson. Assistant Director – Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Unit Cardiff University  
Mr Chris Long. Health, Safety and Sustainable Development Manager - Bridgend College  
Mr Mark Durdin. Sustainability Officer (Energy and Waste) - Swansea University  
Mr Ian Rowe, Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Coleg Gwent  
Mr Chris Cowburn, Head of Estates and Sustainability. Hefcw  
Ms Lara Hopkinson, BEST ESDGC Manager – Cardiff University  
Mr Stuart Jones, Sustainability Projects Officer - NHS Wales  
Ms Alyson Jenkins, ESDGC Co-ordinator – Swansea University  
Ms Janet Sanders – Energy Advisor - Aberystwyth University  
Ms Ceris Harries – Director of Estates - Coleg Sir Gar

Helen Nelson, Deputy Chief Executive – Cynnal Cymru

### **Apologies:**

Mr Colin Heffey – Facilities and Estates Manager - Neath Port Talbot College

## 1. Welcome and apologies

A very warm welcome was extended to all members and guests.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes were accepted as true and accurate.

## 3. Presentation – Helen Nelson, Cynnal Cymru<sup>1</sup> – The National Conversation

3.1 Helen gave an excellent overview of the National Conversation on the Wales we Want<sup>2</sup>.

3.2 There followed a very stimulating and interesting debate on the proposed goals and in particular:

a. Are these the right set of goals to secure a long-term sustainable future for Wales?

Questions were raised regarding the development of the ideas – it was explained that the FG Bill Group and Transparency Group held some responsibility for reviewing the goals but it was recognised that the short time period leading up to the development of goals did lead to some challenges.

b. What do these goals mean to you?

A lengthy and healthy discussion on the wording of the goals. The group recognised that there needs to be a lot more ‘meat put on the bones’ and that the goals should be seen as the overarching strategy only. The need for individuals and organisations to take ownership and develop their own vision was seen as important in this process.

c. What are the key measures of progress against these goals?

Another lengthy discussion – and suggestions that goals should be viewed at the macro level e.g. climate change.

d. How can we make these into shared goals and what role do different sectors have to play in achieving these goals?

Different sectors will need to shape their own measures of progress against common goals perhaps.

- 3.3 Members were asked to contribute their thoughts or comments on the proposed long-term goals, and how we can look at the opportunities available to us in addressing these challenges. **Action: KH to circulate a list of the questions and link to the relevant information.**
- 3.4 Members thanked Helen for her valued contribution to the meeting.
- 4. EAUC update**
- 4.1 KH reminded members that the EAUC Conference is to be held on 7-9 May at Nottingham Trent. AGM papers have been sent out. **Action: KH to report back to the group following the conference.**
- 4.2 The Green Gown Awards are now open for entries with 3 additional categories. All are encouraged to enter.
- 4.3 NUS and EAUC are holding webinars regarding the green fund projects.
- 4.4 KH reminded the group that student membership to EAUC is now available; some members are already planning the way forward in their institutions.
- 4.5 The next MAC meeting is in Birmingham on June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.6 The LIFE programme is now free to member institutions – all encouraged to take a look and try it out.
- 4.7 The group took this opportunity to thank both Andrew Walker and Dave Williams for their help and support over the years as they both move to pastures new.
- 5. ESDGC update**
- 5.1 A brief update on ESDGC with respect inclusion in the FG Bill. The legal issues associated with terminology for education was discussed – it may be that ESDGC is included within the Statutory Guidance.
- 6. Update from HEFCW**
- 6.1 HE Bill – CC explained that the Bill would be broadly similar to the FG Bill and that it will have its reading in the summer of this year.
- 6.2 It was noted that there was a possibility within the document to fine individuals for bad behaviour!
- 6.3 The Fee Plan is under discussion with the added dilemma on the decision to approve or disapprove.

- 6.4 There are ongoing debates on the relationship of HE with WG (influence on the sector) – more information to come out in July.
- 6.5 The risk assessment process now includes sustainability and carbon management – all agreed that this was excellent news. CC stated that he is happy to discuss any issues re: carbon management and SD with institutions.
- 6.6 A new impact assessment policy is being developed which will also include the Welsh language – great news. CC is looking for ‘critical friends’ to comment on the policy.
- 6.7 SJ gave an excellent overview of the ‘live greener project’ and encouraged updates of SD team projects. He explained that there is an online tool to help prepare for awards – bronze, silver and gold. Further, a discussion was held regarding the ‘student switch off’ – commenting that the previous efforts gave an average 6% reduction at each university. Other campaigns include ‘blackout’ and ‘snap it off’. Green impact and snap it off to be run in Colleges from September 2014. **Action: SJ to send presentation to KH for distribution to the group via EAUC.**

## 7. Update from Institutions present

- 7.1 There is a huge amount of excellent work going on within institutions. Members gave a summary/shared their successes and plans with everyone.

## 8. AOB

- 8.1 Coleg Gwent offered to hold the AGM meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 8.2 CL asked that members consider membership to the River of Flowers<sup>3</sup> (FREE) as part of their sustainability plans.

## 9. Dates and location of next meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting is at Coleg Cambria on 16<sup>th</sup> July – details to follow.

1. <http://www.cynnalcyrmru.com/>
2. <http://thewaleswewant.co.uk/>
3. <http://www.riverofflowers.org/>