



Topic Support Network: Sustainable Procurement

11th June 2014

University of Edinburgh [Webpage](#)

EAUC-UCCFS-SUSTPROC@JISMAIL.AC.UK

Attendees:

Adam	Carson	AC	Heriot-Watt University
Andrew	Tennant	AT	SRUC
Billy	Hislop	BH	University of Edinburgh
Chris	Litwiniuk	CL	University of Edinburgh
Graeme	Reid	GR	SRUC
Hanna	Plant	HP	EAUC
Karen	Bowman	KB	University of Edinburgh
Karen	Marsh	KM	APUC
Kate	Murray	KM	APUC
Linda	Armstrong	LA	SRUC
Michelle	Brown	MB	University of Edinburgh
Sabrina	Jenquin	SJ	University of Edinburgh
Stephen	Connor	SC	APUC

1.	<p>Welcome from TSN Convenor: current activity and challenges <i>Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>Introductions from Karen- sustainable procurement is now a big legal issue as well as a philosophical one. In future how this is done is to turn from ‘best practice’ to legislation.</p>
2.	<p>SUSTAIN and carbon reporting: Update and Q&A <i>Stephen Connor, APUC</i></p> <p>Presentation on SUSTAIN here.</p> <p>Presentation on Carbon Reporting here.</p> <p>SUSTAIN essentially makes good business sense. Close to a billion pounds worth of spend is going through collaborative contacts so it has a significant place in the market.</p> <p>The SUSTAIN project was something that was in fact demanded by students and was the outcome of their demands, student groups are on the steering board. Collaboration with suppliers and buyers, and NGOs or student groups gives positive scope for change.</p> <p>APUC is aiming to develop specific questions for suppliers from different areas to give more depth whilst trying to get the question-sets down to 10 or 12 ie overarching commodities. We want to work with suppliers so it will be a ‘soft’ launch to ensure they get people on board.</p> <p>There is a degree of self-certification on part of suppliers. If suppliers have made certain statements about their practice/ performance, SUSTAIN will require them to upload evidence</p>

	and potentially undergo social auditing. They will invite others in their supply chain tiers as well.
3.	<p>Electronics Watch: Electronics and the supply chain <i>Jim Cranshaw, People & Planet (VC)</i></p> <p>Presentation available here.</p> <p>Jim works for People & Planet and is also the UK representative of Electronics Watch. People & Planet which is mainly campus based student activists have been campaigning on issues of labour rights for at least 5 years which has helped drive this initiative.</p> <p>One of the reasons Electronics Watch was created was to fill in some missing pieces of the jigsaw when it came to sustainable procurement and human rights issues in supply chain.</p> <p>Human rights and labour rights came to the rise through particular events such the suicides of several Chinese workers who jumped from a Foxconn high-rise building in China in 2010.</p> <p>The Landmark Project Report where EU public sector organisations are using the power of their public procurement to improve the state of supply chains and social responsibility in supply chains to get labour rights standards in their supply chains. This is also hard to monitor and audit.</p> <p>Electronics watch was developed to address some of the key issues in the electronics industry.</p> <p>When Electronics Watch talks about electronics, it's really talking about hardware- big problems include abusive workers, long hours, and lack of respect for human rights in these workshops.</p> <p>There are a few big brands which are all sourcing from the same key factory. The public sector in Europe buys one in five computers and spends over 1.5bn a year on computers.</p> <p>Public bodies have started to adopt policies but these policies don't always have teeth so it's difficult to know about it. ElectronicsWatch is funded by the European Union initially.</p>
4.	<p>Changes in Legislation: Scottish Gov. Reform Bill and EU <i>Karen Bowman, Stephen Connor and Sabrina Jenquin, Solicitor, Procurement & Edinburgh Research & Innovation Limited, The University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>Presentation and resources available on the reform bill here.</p> <p>The three key themes addressed through the directive are social, environmental and economic.</p> <p>Core advice is to make sure any obligations on main contractor is same for sub-contractors.</p> <p>Formal Consultation and Guidance will be published as the directives are introduced.</p> <p>APUC can help and support on this reform -bill moving forward as it applies to below EU Directive thresholds, but with help of Edinburgh is excluding research specific procurement.</p>

5.	<p>Discussion: Labeling- what can and can't be used</p> <p>For guidance and information on labels, please see here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When considering labels, need to be clear on what you want from that label and how far do you need to go to achieve it. Does that mean you need to purchase only that label? • A lot of perspectives around whether these labels are trust worthy. • There is in general mis-trust around labels, even Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance. • Labelling is a way of demonstrating social auditing. • See PDF on ISO accreditations, eco-labels and social labels. • Advice desired from the EAUC or APUC on what labels can be trusted. • Would like to see more open information around labels and what they are. • Even things like BREEAM there are considerable costs to achieving label. • There was a guide which compares all the different labels online. • Question of what characteristics is it reasonable to ask for you i.e. meat prepared in a particular way. • Called for a labels guidance hosted on EAUC and APUC website to endorse.
6.	<p>Discussion: Identify ambitions for medium and long term future</p> <p>The last combined TSN with Waste group worked really well.</p> <p>The procurement reform bill is something that we are all going to have to get to grips with so to do some kind of workshop/ breakout session, to look at what it is, how we should be responding to it and how we can be proactive to responding to it than reactive for sustainable procurement.</p> <p>A sustainable procurement strategy would be helpful- how can we agree and publish a strategy?</p> <p>Purpose of this group is to bring procurement specialists and environmental/ sustainability specialists together. Can we change the language behind how we describe/ use this session?</p> <p>The new Reform Bill Sustainable Duties is going to be a really big issue to move forward.</p> <p>HP reminded the group about the JISCmails and to use the JISCmail address to discuss issues with the rest of the group (EAUC-UCCCFs-SUSTPROC@JISCMail.AC.UK).</p> <p>Idea possibly of focussing on different commodities- i.e. food. Just makes it a bit more concrete.</p>
7.	<p>Thanks and close</p> <p><i>Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>Next TSN to be scheduled for October/November 2014. Date TBC.</p>