

For Information

Purpose

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

EAUC-Wales Branch Developments

Regional Objectives and Targets

The Welsh Region continues to encourage all HE and FE in the region to link with the EAUC Group. We have also had a number of institutions interested in renewing/joining the EAUC.

Main Report

Since the last EAUC Board meeting there has been one Regional meeting held. This report details key items from this meeting – (Cardiff Metropolitan University - 29th January 2014).

We had two very interesting presentations. The first from the Soil association, which recognized that the majority of Welsh HEI's have already achieved the bronze food for life award and how we could move forward to gain Silver. There was considerable talk about the need for increased organic food and discussion over the limited supply networks for this available in Wales.

The second presentation was by Dr John Littlewood, Ecological Built Environment Research and Enterprise (EBERE) Group⁸ John gave a fascinating presentation on the importance of 'in-construction testing' (iCT). The importance of monitoring at the design stage was identified as being critical to the performance of the building. The work of EBERE is to assess performance of low carbon buildings via, for example, acoustic-bridges, thermography or air-permeability.

The aim is to test the design criteria against actual performance. John showed photos to evidence the kind of failures that were found in completed buildings and near-completion buildings and which are previously passed low carbon tests. There was also evidence of abuse of the testing protocol through, for example, taping areas within buildings whilst air-permeability tests were being performed. The impacts of to monitor at the in-construction-phase were seen in the significant reduction in building performance, costs (extremely high in some cases) and fire risk.

Information for occupiers was also raised – i.e. lack of correct information on, for example, heating controls.

Future Generations Bill – National conversation

The aims are to increase awareness of long-term trends, establish strong national ownership of long-term goals and connect policies and programmes of Government to their long-term impact.

For those wishing to support the conversation – to be known as the 'Futures Champion' – materials and templates will be provided; the resource pack.

The launch of the conversation will be on February 18th at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.





The group recognised the strong position that education plays in relation to this conversation and agreed that this is an extremely important opportunity and responsibility for educational institutions.

Update from HEFCW

CC thanked the respondents who took part in the carbon consultation. A few points remain to be clarified but the document will be broadly as set out in the draft; this is to be finalised within the next few months or so.

CC also expressed thanks to those who attended the Salix event; members should contact Salix to discuss opportunities for funding streams.

The issue with HE being in or out of the FG Bill is not yet clear; the uncertainty was felt to be unhelpful but the members were encouraged to get involved whether the institution is in or out of the Bill. CL referenced the list of public bodies document¹¹ as those *likely* to come under the scope of the Bill.

Salix¹² also have a recycling fund which may be of interest to FE. This scheme ensure that funds are 'ring-fenced' but requires match-funding – the benefit is that savings made are recycled into the 'pot'.

ESDGC update

CL gave a summary of the Copernicus event held in January. The event was about leadership in a changing world with a focus on the Rio 20+ document 'The Future we Want'⁹. The excellent event was attended by international speakers and students with a common aim. Please have a look at the link¹⁰ at the end of these minutes where the Conference report, keynote presentations and a variety of official and delegate photographs have been uploaded.

Live Greener Project

Discussion took place regarding the heavy workload associated with the live greener project and the initiatives that form the project. Training on 'Blackout' had taken place the day before the meeting and there was concern about the short timescale involved in getting this in place within the Welsh institutions. There has also been limited resources available to publicise green Impact throughout the institutions. The Welsh Government have suggested that they would like to see all Welsh HEI continue to take part next year and would also like to see FE take part next year.

The next meeting will be 29th April 2014 at Coleg S'Gar, Llanelli.

Katrina Henderson, EAUC-Wales Branch Convener

