

Question 1 – What is a Topic Support Network (TSN)?

A topic support network is a group of people working together on a specific sustainability subject that is relevant to Scottish Colleges and Universities. Members of the network will be staff in further and higher education institutions or in public or not for profit organisations.

Question 2 – What is the purpose of a TSN?

The purpose of a TSN is to:

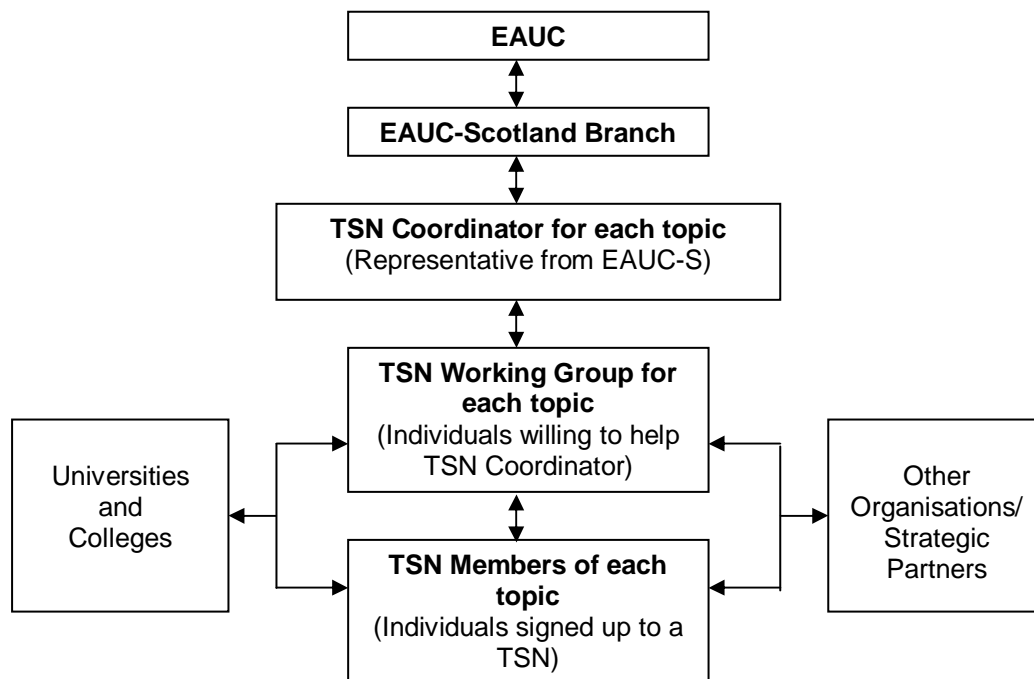
- Share information on best practice and support (e.g. between institutions and strategic partners)
- Identify problems, threats and opportunities for new initiatives; and
- Deliver practical outcomes that will help others in the sector (e.g. case study/templates/guidance/workshop).

Question 3 – How many TSNs are there and what topics do they cover?

Initially there are five TSNs: for Waste, Energy, Travel, Construction and Strategic Development.

Question 4 - What is the structure of a TSN?

Each TSN is made up of a TSN Coordinator, a Working Group and TSN Members – refer to Figure 1.



Question 5 – How do I become a member of a TSN

Individuals in colleges, universities and in public and not-for-profit organisations can become members of one or more TSNs by emailing info@eauc.org.uk.

Question 6 – How much does it cost to become a member of a TSN?

It is free to join a TSN but institutions are encouraged to become a member of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC). You can download membership forms from www.eauc.org.uk.

Question 7 – What are the benefits of becoming a member of a TSN?

The benefits of being a member of a TSN include:

- Being able to share experiences with other people in similar situations;
- Being part of a group that can develop solutions to solve the problems you are experiencing;
- Being part of a group that can influence change in the sector; and
- Raising the profile of your institution by taking a proactive approach to sustainable development

Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges- Scotland (EAUC-S)
CaSPr - Topic Support Networks
Questions and answers

Question 8 – What is a TSN Working Group and how do I become a member of it?

Each TSN will have its own Working Group. The purpose of each Working Group is to help each TSN Coordinator deliver the outputs the TSN has committed to delivering. Any member of a TSN (within or outwith FHE) can be on the Working Group for that topic.

Question 9 – Who are the TSN Coordinators and what do they do?

TSN coordinators will:

- Provide the main link between the TSN and the EAUC-Scotland Branch;
- Chair TSN meetings;
- Provide advice and guidance to CaSPr consultants on the organisation of meetings, and on the composition and membership of their network
- Report on progress to EAUC

Each TSN coordinator will have the support of a Working Group for that topic.

The TSN Coordinators for 2007/2008 are listed in Table 1. Positions will be reviewed at the EAUC-S AGM.

Table 1 TSN Coordinators

Topic Support Network (TSN)	Proposed EAUC-S Representative
Waste Management	Ann Galbraith, University of Glasgow
Energy Management	Bertie Young, University of Glasgow
Travel	Fiona Simon, University of Edinburgh + Viola Retzlaff, U of Glasgow
Strategic development	Roddy Yarr, University of St Andrews
Construction	David Somervell, University of Edinburgh

Question 10 – How will my e-mail details be used?

If you become a member of a TSN you will need to make your e-mail address available to EAUC nationally for inclusion on the CaSPr JISCMail. The CaSPr JISCMail is an email network that is used to share information between its members and communicate information about EAUC's Campus Sustainability Programme.

You will also need to make your e-mail address available to the co-ordinator of the TSN for inclusion on an e-mail distribution list for that TSN. Normally you will be contacted by your TSN Coordinator if he or she is

- Wanting feedback on work being taken forward by your network or on other related issues; or
- Trying to arrange a meeting.

You can email info@eauc.org.uk to get more information on the CASPR JISCMail and to check if you are on the email list.

Question 11 – What if I want to start a new TSN?

Anyone interested in a topic where no TSN exists (e.g. procurement or curriculum) should approach David Somervell, Secretary of the EAUC-Scotland Branch and Sustainability and Energy Manager at the University of Edinburgh. He can be contacted on 0131 650 2073 or by emailing davidso@miscorp.ed.ac.uk

The TSNs are being developed through the Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSPr) which is funded by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Funding Council. For more information on the Campus Sustainability Programme email caspr@eauc.org.uk