

EAUC BOARD PAPER
Title: Scotland Branch Report
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For Information

Purpose

This is a summary paper regarding current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Scotland Branch.

Main Report

EAUC-Scotland Branch Meeting: 2 August 2012

A branch meeting was held by video-conference on Thursday, 2 May 2012. The following points may be of interest to the Board:

UCCCfS Governance: the Branch noted that it was proving difficult to identify a viable model to include sector partners in a structure to monitor the UCCCfS. It was noted, however, that there was sector interest in a body to discuss reporting requirements in the context of Scottish Public Sector Duties (see below). As this is the most pressing issue facing the sector, it was felt that this should be the immediate focus for the EAUC-S staff team.

UCCCfS Reporting: members noted that there was ongoing confusion regarding exactly what reporting would be required of institutions in light of the Scottish Government's demands for Public Sector Sustainability Reporting in relation to climate change and carbon reduction. Public sector briefings have taken place at which all public bodies have fed into this discussion; an NHS reporting template is emerging as a possible 'core' reporting framework for issues such as utilities, waste and carbon.

The Branch noted that the EAUC staff team is being invited to lead on 'how' reporting is framed without an explicit mandate (from government or the sector) to enable it to oblige institutions to provide this data. The Branch agreed that a sub-group consisting of EAUC, Branch members, institutional reps, the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Government was needed to draw this matter to a rapid conclusion. There remains a clear need for a 'minimum reporting template' to be identified and agreed, with separate guidance on what, how and whether additional reporting is required, for example on transport, ESD, procurement etc.

Branch Succession Planning: the Branch agreed that, in advance of the next Branch AGM, a sub-group would meet to discuss possible models for sharing the responsibilities of the role of Branch Convener. The Branch noted that in order to do justice to what is a time consuming the role, a burden sharing model might be more appropriate – with aspects of the role shared between two or more colleagues. Further discussion has been arranged for late August.

Sustainability Exchange: the Branch noted that advanced beta-testing of the exchange was now taking place. The Convener had been invited to participate in the testing on behalf of the Branch. Details of the testing phase would be circulated to the Branch committee to allow others to participate in this important development phase.

Board Strategic Developments: during a briefing on Board issues, the Branch noted that the Board had made progress on a five-year strategic framework for the EAUC at a recent two day residential. Colleagues asked that details of the outcomes of this discussion be circulated at the earliest opportunity.

Fraser Lovie

EAUC-Scotland Branch Convener
7 August 2012