**EAUC and FHEI Activities Relating to COP 26**

**4 February 2020**

**University of Strathclyde, Technology and Innovation Centre, Conference Room 2**

**AGENDA with Notes**

10.15 Arrival and Coffee

10.30 Introductions and Expectations

10.45 UK Government COP26 Plans and wider UK actions

11.00 Massive Online Open Course for COP26

11.05 Small Groups Workshop: How do you see Scotland’s FHEI’s responding to COP26?

11.30 Feedback from groups

12.00 COP26 Social Media Platform Proposal (Cameron Mackay)

12.15 Partnership working and any other points

12.30 Finish followed by informal networking

**Brief Intro to COP26**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the annual meeting of nations signed up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, at which international actions to address climate change are negotiated, e.g. agreement on reduction and monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto protocol. COP25 recently took place in Madrid, and COP26 will take place in Glasgow, in and around the SECC, from 9th to 20th November 2020. It is expected to be a significant event in the series, marking 5 years since the Paris Agreement; key decisions about carbon markets and emissions cuts that were supposed to have been made in Madrid have been postponed until the Glasgow meeting.

Likely to be the event of the decade in Glasgow: during COP26 up to 35,000 people will visit Glasgow to participate, including Heads of State, diplomats, other government officials, NGOs, and a wide range of campaigners and activists.

Glasgow City Council has block booked all available hotel rooms in anticipation; George Square has been earmarked as a site of protest; the Scottish Government will take over the Glasgow Science Centre for the duration.

**Why get involved?**

The attention on COP26 in 2020 provides an opportunity for us to focus on our sector’s potential contribution to tackling the climate and ecological emergency and promoting ethical environmental and social work through student projects, exhibitions, research and public engagement - and an opportunity to bring such work to wider attention in the run-up to and during the event.

**What’s the Expectation?**

This is a once-in-a-generation event for Scotland, and expectations will be high for global solutions. Scotland’s FHEIs have to be prepared for the spotlight falling on them. Important partners such as Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council are likely to be involved and will scrutinise our response and contribution.

**Audience: Who are we doing this for?**

NOT the 35,000 delegates locked up in the secure zone. Our focus is likely to be linked to our curriculum and sectors we work with, focusing on solutions and systems change solutions with students, but working with others on these issues. We are asking: How can FHEIs provide solutions and connect people to these issues? What is meaningful action in the crisis (clue: it’s not recycling more)?

**Where is GSA at?**

On 11 December, Glasgow School of Art agreed at academic council that GSA should coordinate its events and curriculum engagement around COP26 through a time-limited project group.

**What’s GSA planning?**

We anticipate we’ll hold a student association-led series of events; academic work; possible social events; but focusing on the creative response to the climate emergency. We will potentially give over space to others to hold events, but aren’t expecting to sell space at full commercial rate.

\* Stop Climate Chaos Scotland are working with CCA on behalf of a network of 50 activist and campaigning organisations, and are interested in links with GSA student groups and potentially others
\* A group of organisations led by Julie’s Bicycle in London have been discussing a programme of activities, including a round table of creative academics, a design residency and a 2-day conference/symposium. They are keen to partner with GSA, and potentially use the GSA as venue for symposium and residency. Julie’s Bicycle is a charity that works with cultural sector organisations on sustainability and carbon reduction.
\* Professor Jeremy Till – Pro VC at UAL and Head of Central St Martins, has approached GSA to suggest an academic, art school event or programme of activity responding to COP26. He is also his [university’s](https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/press-office/stories/university-of-the-arts-london-responds-to-climate-emergency) ‘Lead on the Climate Emergency’.
\* We are planning an exhibition on sustainable urbanism

\* GSA’s Community Engagement Officer Harriet Simms and John Thorne have been working with Friends of Garnethill Green Spaces on a Garnethill Climate Working Group, including on air quality monitoring. There is an interest in opportunities to promote and showcase this work.
\* A number of potential corporate sponsors and donors have expressed an interest in supporting COP-related initiatives (but no big polluters or those causing the climate emergency would be considered).
\* There’s a strong interest in addressing the climate emergency among GSA Student Association members, many of whom have taken an active role in the climate strikes and Extinction Rebellion protests.