

EAUC NORTH EAST Agenda

Friday 23rd March, 13.00 – 15.00

Room 3.032, Urban Science Building, Science Site, Newcastle University

Talk from Interface –

Louise Walker from Interface delivered a presentation on how interface support sustainability, in particular the waste hierarchy.

Louise will circulate her presentation to the group.

The group thanked Louise for such an informative and positive presentation.

Talk from Newcastle University – The Urban Sciences Building

Matt Dunlop talked to the group about the design and build process involved in the Urban Science Building. In particular, he noted the development of their own framework around sustainability instead of reliance on BREEAM. All were very impressed by the building and really interested in the presentation. The group thanked Matt for his time and thanks to Newcastle Uni for hosting the meeting.

EAUC North East Meeting:

In attendance:

| Name | Role | Organisation |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Matthew Ward | Energy & Sustainability Officer | Newcastle College |
| Stewart Fullarton | Head of Safety, Health and Environment | Newcastle College |
| Kerry Laing | HS&E Advisor | University of Sunderland |
| Alison Murray | HSE Co-ordinator | University of Sunderland |
| Richard Cuthbert | Environmental & Travel Policy Facilitator | Teesside University |
| Mark Clough | Environmental Manager | University of York |
| Katie Ridley (Chair) | Sustainability Advisor | Northumbria University |
| Keith Slater | Carbon Manager | Northumbria University |
| Hannah Owens | Sustainability Manager | Newcastle University |
| Paul Riddlesden | Interim Energy & Sustainability Manager | University of Durham |
| Yvonne Flynn | Travel Plan Coordinator | University of Durham |

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Claire Mitchell.

2. EAUC Update

KR delivered the EAUC update to the group on behalf of CM. The Update will be circulated with the minutes.

Action: KR to circulate update.

3. Problem sharing & solving

KR noted that this section had been added to the agenda following previous discussions about how the group could best serve its members. All are encouraged to consider problems that are causing a 'headache' such that the group can help propose solutions to resolve this. (It is anticipated that different problems will be addressed at each meeting rather than revisiting ongoing issues).

| Problem | Proposed solutions | Actions arising |
|---|---|--|
| Senior support for sustainability e.g. the need for finance, resource, embedding sustainability across the University/Colleges. | Could EAUC present to groups which such senior roles will be a part of e.g. AUDE are already on-board but is there a group for Finance Directors/ Chief Operating Officers, VCs etc.? The update could include what sustainability means for your business, the SDGs, legal obligations etc. Such a talk could reference financial benefits but should also go beyond this as not all sustainability as an obvious payback. | Action: CM to update on which groups EAUC already engage with and whether other groups could be 'targeted'. |
| Pressures on time. | Resource sharing – group members were reminded to share resources such as templates, posters etc. They can do this via the EAUC resource bank. (Some reported not being aware of the resource bank or found it a little difficult to use). | Action: CM to consider improvements to publicity and usability of the Resource Bank. |
| The SDG Accord – want to sign up but unsure what it requires. | Need update on reporting requirements of those who sign up. | Action: CM to provide an update on reporting requirements of the SDG accord. |

Action: All to consider problems to share at future meetings.

4. Standards for sustainable buildings

Many members of the group had identified flaws to relying on BREEAM as a measure of sustainability when undertaking building projects.

PR reported that he has been looking at what targets to use for new builds and has considered KPIs such as kWh targets, emissions targets, running costs etc.

The group noted interest in the Urban Sciences Building at Newcastle University being an electricity led design.

Many members are starting to look at creating their own frameworks instead e.g. Newcastle University in completing its Urban Sciences Building.

Action: HO to share what she can regarding the framework used for developing the USB.

Action: CM to update the group on whether the EAUC doing any work on this i.e. developing a framework or a list of things to consider/monitor when undertaking build projects. This should consider build, design and building use. (The group felt this would be really helpful rather than each institution trying to attempt this).

5. Sustainable Travel – reducing single car use

HO reported that Newcastle Uni have seen a significant reduction in single occupancy car travel (from around 40% to around 15%). They attributed this mainly to the closure of car parks (for new buildings), a senior staff member championing a reduction in car use, and 10 years of persistent work on promoting sustainable travel options.

Newcastle Uni and Durham Uni reported that they are looking into discounts for walkers i.e. to support cost of shoes used for walking.

6. Waste reduction - paper cups and plastic bottles

The group noted that this is very much a 'Hot Topic' at the moment but felt that solutions are hard to propose in isolation i.e. in requires a nationwide response. They also felt there is a need for research to inform what the most suitable responses are e.g. use of paper cups compared to materials used in reusable cups and the washing of these. It would be really helpful to have some comprehensive research findings on this.

The group agreed that Waste would be a topic of a future EAUC NE meeting to enable broader discussion. E.g. what targets and KPIs to use, anticipating the issue of waste building up, the role of procurement etc.

Action: KR to plan a future meeting around the topic of Waste.

7. Joint project

KR noted that previous discussions regarding the purpose of the group had resulted in the suggestion that the group should undertake joint project. The group noted the time pressures already experienced by group members so felt that an additional project would not be easy to accommodate, even if it led to mutual benefit i.e. it would not be of the same priority to everyone. Instead, the group felt it could share resources and expertise. KR encouraged anyone undertaking a project that could easily be expand to other organisations to remember to suggest this to the group.

Action: All to notify the group if it is undertaking projects which might expand/be supported by the EAUC NE group.

8. AOB

Water:

The group discussed the challenge of water reduction – leaks can be detected and resolved but then more seem to come up. A number of companies who support with water metering and leak detection were discussed. Northumbria Uni and Newcastle Uni have seen good savings made by working with Demeter. PR asked if anyone had seen a good payback/ savings by using this company.

Action: HO and KS to share information on cost savings made by using Demeter.

Future speakers:

KR noted that it can be a challenge to find speakers for the meetings so asked all to contact her with any suggestions i.e. from their organisation, external groups etc.

Action: All to contact KR with details of suggested speakers for future meetings.

9. Date of next meeting:

TBC – possibly June to be hosted by Durham University.

Action: KR to send Doodle poll.

Suggested topics for future meetings:

- Carbon Management post 2020.
- Waste management
- Living Labs
- Water

Please send any additional ideas/ requests to Katie.