

## EAUC Welsh Region Meeting

Held on Wednesday 29th January 2014, 11:00 till 15:00

Location: Cardiff Metropolitan University



### **Attendees:**

Dr Katrina Henderson. Assistant Director – Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Unit Cardiff University  
Mr Chris Long. Health, Safety and Sustainable Development Manager - Bridgend College  
Mr Mark Durdin. Sustainability Officer (Energy and Waste) - Swansea University  
Mr Colin Heffey – Facilities and Estates Manager - Neath Port Talbot College  
Mr Ian Rowe, Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Coleg Gwent  
Mr Chris Cowburn – Head of Estates and Sustainability. Hefcw  
Ms Rebecca Hubbal – Environmental Management System Officer – Aberystwyth University  
Ms Janet Sanders – Energy Advisor, Aberystwyth University  
Mr Andrew Walker. Health, Safety and Environment Advisor – Aberystwyth University  
Mr Andrew West-Facilities Manager, Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Mr Richard James-Energy and Environmental Engineer, Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Mr Rhodri Thomas – Cynnal Cymru  
Miss Emma-Louise Aston – Member Events and Communities Officer, EAUC  
Ms Ceris Harries – Director of Estates - Coleg Sir Gar

Ms Suzi Gammon, Catering Mark Relationship Manager, Soil Association (presentation)  
Dr John Littlewood, EBERE Group (presentation)

### **Apologies:**

Ms Helen Williams – HSE Advisor, Aberystwyth University

## 1. Welcome and apologies

A very warm welcome was extended to all members and guests.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes were accepted as true and accurate. **Action: previous power-points are to be made available to the group via the EAUC website.**

## 3. Presentation – Susie Gammon, Soil Association<sup>1</sup> – Food for Life Awards

3.1 Susie presented an interesting and informative session focussing on the Food for Life Awards<sup>2</sup> suggesting that members may wish to see the recorded webinar regarding Nottingham Trent University's successful application for the Silver Award<sup>3</sup>.

3.2 The Soil Association looks not just at food but is actively involved in other campaigns e.g. lobbying against Neonicotinoids and GM food and fighting for animal welfare.

3.3 Clear links were made between health and wellbeing and sustainability.

3.4 Awards are based on a number of different criteria where caterers may achieve bronze, silver or gold levels<sup>4</sup>. Silver and gold levels focus on the 'organic quota'.

3.5 The role of education was identified as a key driver for positive change. It was suggested that many people are completely separated from food production systems - an image of a Belgian Blue cow was given as an example of the battle between welfare and yield.

3.6 The Red Tractor scheme was one example quoted which may support an application, but other 'marks' are also recognised such as Fair-trade.

3.7 A note of caution – local suppliers may not always procure their products locally.

3.8 A 'points calculator' is available to support the application process<sup>5</sup>.

3.9 Where an award is made, this is collected by the contractor. The contractor may accept the award on behalf of the institution; and institution may collect its' own award where catering is delivered separately to the contractor.

- 3.10 The current annual fee is £995 for any level of the award. The audit is usually one day but depends upon the number of sites and geographical location.
- 3.11 RT suggested that the NUS and institutions could look at this as a collaborative challenge – all agreed that this could be a good opportunity for collaboration between FE/HE. To be discussed further.
- 3.12 IR stated that £5 million funding was available (at UK level) for student-led projects. Stewart Lloyd from WG is to attend the meeting in Llanelli to discuss further.
- 3.13 The presentation is to be made available to members via the EAUC website.

#### **4. Presentation – Rhodri Thomas, Cynnal Cymru**

- 4.1 Rhodri attended this meeting to discuss the ‘National Conversation’ - a joint discussion was being held in Cardiff Bay.
- 4.2 Hand-outs were provided for members and which Rhodri talked through.
- 4.3 This is a pilot conversation and not a consultation.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 For those wishing to support the conversation – to be known as the ‘Futures Champion’ – materials and templates will be provided; the resource pack.
- 4.6 The launch of the conversation will be on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.
- 4.7 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.

#### **5. Regional Objectives and Targets**

- 5.1 KH provided an overview of the Welsh region objectives and targets via PC projector.
- 5.2 A note was raised regarding the need to provide video conferencing for those unable to travel to the meetings.

**6. EAUC update on student membership**

- 61 Emma-Louise Aston provided the group with an overview of student membership to the EAUC and the links with student engagement.
- 6.2 Access was made available in November of last year and is supported with a student membership pack. Students must have an institution email address – the membership will end at the end of each academic year and will be reinstated upon re-application.
- 6.3 The group were encouraged to join the webinar on 5<sup>th</sup> February – ‘rootability’, but reminded everyone that webinars are always available on the EAUC website.
- 6.4 A Welsh region JISC mail has been set up – MD is to forward the Welsh region distribution list to Emma.
- 6.5 The EAUC conference is 7-9<sup>th</sup> May<sup>6</sup>.
- 6.6 The Green Gown Awards information is to be updated shortly and the opening for 2014 entries will be in May<sup>7</sup>.
- 6.7. Emma reminded the group that group-specific training is available.

**7. Presentation – Dr John Littlewood, Ecological Built Environment Research and Enterprise (EBERE) Group<sup>8</sup>**

- 7.1 John gave a fascinating presentation on the importance of ‘in-construction testing’ (iCT).
- 7.2 The importance of monitoring at the design stage was identified as being critical to the performance of the building.
- 7.3 The work of EBERE is to assess performance of low carbon buildings via, for example, acoustic-bridges, thermography or air-permeability.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.4 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.

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

7.6 The presentation is to be made available to members via EAUC website.

## 8. Update on ESDGC

8.1 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'<sup>9</sup>. The excellent event was attended by international speakers and students with a common aim. Please have a look at the link<sup>10</sup> at the end of these minutes where the Conference report, keynote presentations and a variety of official and delegate photographs have been uploaded.

## 9. Update from HEFCW

9.1 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.

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

9.3 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 document<sup>11</sup> as those *likely* to come under the scope of the Bill.

9.4 Salix<sup>12</sup> also have a recycling fund which may be of interest to FE. This scheme ensures that funds are 'ring-fenced' but requires match-funding – the benefit is that savings made are recycled into the 'pot'.

## 10. Update from Institutions present

10.1 The group recognises the significant amount of work being carried out and the importance of sharing that information.

**11. AOB**

- 11.1 KH gave an overview of the Green Impact Initiative, 'live greener project' and the 'blackout' project. A lively discussion ensued regarding participation and operational issues/resources issues/funding and time allocation. It was suggested that perhaps FE could be involved in future event too – well worth considering.
- 11.2 The organisation WRAP<sup>12</sup> have a funding scheme allowing institutions to apply for up to 50K for projects. A discussion ensued regarding the finer details of the scheme – members are directed to the website for further information.

**12. Dates and location of next meeting**

- 12.1 Llanelli, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 – joining instructions to follow.

1. <http://www.soilassociation.org/>
2. <http://www.soilassociation.org/eatingout/cateringmark>
3. [http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms\\_single\\_event.php?event\\_id=3380](http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=3380)
4. <http://www.sacert.org/catering/standards>
5. <http://www.sacert.org/catering/standards/silverandgold/pointscalculator>
6. [http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual\\_conference](http://www.eauc.org.uk/annual_conference)
7. [http://www.eauc.org.uk/green\\_gown\\_awards](http://www.eauc.org.uk/green_gown_awards)
8. <http://cardiff-school-of-art-and-design.org/research/ebere/>
9. <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>
10. <http://copernicus.betawerk.eu/elgg/pg/pages/view/499/>
11. <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dpsp/publications/psgd/140120-public-bodies-table.pdf>

12. <http://salixfinance.co.uk/>
13. <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>