

Sustainable Procurement Topic Support Networks

Tuesday 21 February, 2012

University of Edinburgh, 2.30pm - 4.45pm [website](#)

Attendees:

Alain Leger	(AL)	University of St. Andrews
Alexandra Henderson	(AH)	EAUC
Alison MacPherson	(AP)	Green Business Partnership Ltd
Barbara Morton	(BM)	Sustainable Procurement Ltd.
Billy Hislop	(BH)	University of Edinburgh
Colin Elliott	(CE)	University of Stirling
Charlotte Waugh	(CW)	University of Edinburgh
David Somervell	(DS)	University of Edinburgh
Ian Macaulay	(IM)	University of Edinburgh, TUCO
Isla Duncan	(ID)	University of Edinburgh
Karen Bowman	(KB)	University of Edinburgh
Louise Aird	(LA)	University of Dundee
Peter Brown	(PB)	Scottish Government
Richard Kinghorn	(RK)	Heriot-Watt University
Robin Goulay	(RG)	Scottish Government
Rosemary Carson	(RC)	Heriot-Watt University
Stephen Connor	(SC)	APUC Ltd

Apologies:

Barbara Munro	(BM)	APUC Ltd
Kirsty Hughes	(KH)	Heriot-Watt University

1	<p>Welcome and Introductions KB and SC welcome the group.</p>
2	<p>Update from the Scottish Government on Marrakesh Training <i>Peter Brown, Scottish Government</i></p> <p>PB and BM provided the group with some background on Marrakesh training. After the Scottish Government trailed this last year, they will now be rolling out a National programme of sustainable procurement based on this methodology. Two training events have already been delivered, now the Scottish Government are planning the training for the university and college sector. The training will take place over two consecutive days, and will be run twice, offering a total of 48 free places.</p> <p>PB aimed to determine: When would be a good time for the training to be held within the academic calendar? Where would be the best place to hold training (locations)? Which commodity types should they focus the training on? Keen to identify the most relevant topics and agreed that it should be in the context of the sector e.g. refer to APUC risk register, SPRATs etc. or use examples which are of interest to the community in colleges/universities.</p>

	<p>AL asked who would benefit most from attending the training. BM suggested a combination of both the Procurement department and Estates/Sustainability departments.</p> <p>LA and KB highlighted a concern that 48 places would not be enough. PB suggested that additional people can act as silent observers. This means you can view the training however not take part in the workshop sections.</p> <p>Provisional dates were confirmed early May and end of May, provisional locations were discussed, Edinburgh and Stirling.</p> <p>APUC and EAUC will take lead on invitations and promotion of the training events. APUC will liaise with BM to confirm training topics.</p>
3	<p>Scottish Government Sustainable Procurement Bill <i>Peter Brown, Scottish Government</i> URL on agenda refers to: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00386497.pdf</p> <p>The Bill is working in parallel with the EU review of procurement rules. There have been some developments since the last meeting – a Bill team has now been established, Bill Watt is the team leader. They are currently correlating and working on the informal consultation process. A number of working groups have now been established. KB will take any comments from the group back to Policy Forum meeting [14 March].</p>
4.	<p>EU Procurement Law <i>Stephen Connor, APUC</i></p> <p>The European Commission has published its proposal for new procurement directives. Some of the proposals relate directly to sustainability, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Cycle Costing's, • Ability to specify labels certifying sustainability characteristics, • Changes to the % of workforce that are disabled and disadvantaged (lowered to 30%) to qualify as a reserved business, • Innovation partnerships, • Self declaration of suppliers for compliance until the award stage. <p>SC has said he will keep the group updated with the progress.</p>
5.	<p>Workers Rights Consortium <i>Karen Bowman, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>KB explains this is a People and Planet Campaign which focuses on the garment trade. American students have campaigned and a great deal for universities there to sign up, now UK People and Planet are pursuing each institution here. P&P and WRC have gained EU funding to do further research in this area for the electronics industry supply chain workers rights.</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh has had 4 meetings with People and Planet representatives at the university and with assistance from APUC have been researching WRC Moral Code and International Labour Rights compliance in our suppliers on UK HE national agreement. Sheffield and Loughborough University have formally joined WRC after campaigning had taken place on campus and are sharing their findings, two other also joined. However it is questionable how useful it is for the buyer as individual factory details have to be found out, shared with WRC and monitored (separately) at each institution. KB and LA were concerned that the garment trade is very difficult to monitor, it requires site visits and often the factory</p>

	<p>can change over night if they know an inspection is due and there is risk that workers are disadvantaged if contracts are withdrawn. WRC is building this up in Asia but main work had been in South America. Universities and colleges here use the national contract and procurement law is more complex than USA, restricting what individual institutions can achieve. Collaboration is more appropriate to influence the markets for workers rights overall. However as mentioned the new EU law and Sustainable Procurement bill may assist this.</p> <p>University of Edinburgh have asked for their students to write a recommendation to their fair trade steering group and will consider the best way forwards re-garment supply information.</p> <p>KB highlights that millions of pounds is spent on IT equipment at a university annually and supply chains are more tightly controlled by brand products so perhaps new developing standards in this supply chain, working with P&P and WRC is a better focus going forwards.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>AH reminds the groups of the forth coming 16th EAUC Annual Conference 27 – 29 March 2012, University of York.</p> <p>DS highlights the Sustainable Food Cities Conference 22nd March 2012, Edinburgh.</p>
7.	<p>Next meeting – Sustainable Food Event</p> <p>RG explains with the development of an ambitious national food and drink policy our global food supply chains face enormous challenges. An event aim would be to raise awareness of these growing issues and collaborate between both procurement and catering staff.</p> <p>IM will raise this at the next TUCO Regional meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting to be held in September. The group welcomed this topic as of wider interest.</p>

Notes prepared by Alexandra Henderson (EAUC-S Scotland Project Officer)