



North West EAUC Regional Group

**Wednesday 8th July 2015
Pilkington Suite; Egerton Court, Liverpool John Moores University**

<u>1. In Attendance</u>		<u>Init.</u>
Bayliss, Laura	University of Salford	LB
Brandwood, Pamela	Edge Hill University	PB
Challen, Clare	University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)	CC
Christie, Martin	Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)	MC
Daly, Nicola	Edge Hill University	ND
Grant, Helena	Lakes College - West Cumbria	HG
Hanmer-Dwight, Rachael	Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) - <i>NW EAUC Secretary</i>	RHD
Hartley, Suzanne	Liverpool Hope University	SH
Kirby, Seth	EAUC - <i>NW EAUC Co-ordinator</i>	SK
Reynolds, Pam	Blackpool & The Fylde College - <i>NW EAUC Convenor</i>	PR
Thomas, Sarah	University of Manchester	ST
Wheatley, David	Liverpool Guild of Students (LGoS)	DWh
Wright, David	University of Salford	DW
 <u>Guest Speakers</u>		
Anderson, Joel	United Utilities	JA
Humphray, Bill	United Utilities	BH

2. Welcome and Introductions

- 2.1 PR **introduced** SK as the new EAUC Community Co-ordinator for the NW EAUC group.
- 2.2 The Group **noted** Alice Elliot (University of Chester) as Chair of the group and RHD as Secretary.
- 2.3 The Group **agreed** to use Survey Monkey to determine meetings going forward. It was proposed that the next meeting would take place in October 2015.

3. Guest Presentation: United Utilities and The Open Water Market

- 3.1 The Group was **introduced** to JA and BH from United Utilities (UU). JA's remit covers public sector (including universities and the NHS), whilst BH looked after Local Authorities.
- 3.2 UU **noted** that from 2017 the retail aspect of water would be far more competitive. In response, UU was exploring improved client services.
- 3.3 UU **noted** that it was exploring added value initiatives. For example, bespoke client dashboards presented on a quarterly basis, to incorporate a range of management information to pull out key statistics. Costs could be reduced through this monitoring. UU was promoting more granular data for larger portfolio accounts, which could improve responsive maintenance performance. UU **anticipated** improved bill validation as well.
- 3.4 UU **noted** that surface water bands were being reviewed. This could lead to further cost reductions, e.g. by installing a soakaway.
- 3.5 UU **anticipated** that from 1st April 2016 it would move main clients over to monthly billing and with more accurate meter reading.
- 3.6 SH **noted** that some universities were classified as too small to benefit from this wider range of client services. JA **agreed** to look into flexibility on this across the NW EAUC members.
- 3.7 MC **enquired** if UU would explore any consortium approaches; UU **confirmed** that the water industry did not operate in the same way as the energy industry.

JA

- 3.8 UU **confirmed** that legislatively the lower rates applicable for consumption greater than 50,000m³ applied per site, not aggregate sites. UU **confirmed** that the independent regulator had set tariffs for 2015-2020 and wholesale costs are fixed.
- 3.9 UU **confirmed** that site surveys were based on Ordnance Survey Maps; occasionally these were not up to date which could raise new results when re-surveying drainage arrangements and permeable/non-permeable surfaces.
- 3.10 UU **noted** that they hope to host a number of workshops in due course.
- 3.11 PR **agreed** to send BH a list of NW EAUC contacts. PR
- 3.12 BH **agreed** to circulate a list of the current chargeable bands. BH

4. Group Objectives and Topics

Group Topic 1: Online Teaching Resource

- 4.1 The Group **agreed** it could be useful to have a shared resource bank of materials which could support its members. I.e. YouTube videos, case studies, useful apps, presentations, etc.
- 4.2 The Group **discussed** Green Impact. It was **noted** that after a number of consecutive years its effectiveness reduced. The Group **noted** it might be useful to provide case study of the most useful elements of Green Impact.
- 4.3 MC **noted** the student sustainability survey being run at LJMU, in addition to the sustainability curriculum enhancement project being developed.
- 4.4 PR **requested** that Group members send PR/SK an initial 'resource', to start compiling the resource bank. DEADLINE: to send to PR/SK by 31st July 2015. All

Group Topic 2: Sustainable Procurement

- 4.5 The Group it **agreed** it would be helpful and time-effective to share certain information on procurement costs for a range of energy and environmental services. The cost of DEC's and waste contracts were given as an example. All
- 4.6. The Group **requested** further information on the costs of Fair Trade products, or how some members had offset additional costs incurred when introducing higher ethical standards to catering provision. The same would apply beyond catering as well; some discussion on the use of Intervention Funds to address this. All
- 4.7 The Group **noted** the opportunity for a group accreditation which could be shared as good practice from a regional EAUC body. Sustainable Fish Cities was provided as a starter example. LJMU and University of Liverpool are already accredited; RHD **agreed** to circulate information on this. RHD
- 4.8 The Group **agreed** that further liaison with the Sustainable Food Cities coordinators in the NW might be helpful. Opportunity for guest speakers? PR / PB / RHD
- 4.9 The Group **noted** that the Centre for Sustainable Procurement at Nottingham University could be a good source of guidance.

Group Topic 3: Sustainable Food & Grow Project

- 4.10 The Group **discussed** the challenges of growing projects on campus, including issues such as food standards, engaging students, and securing the necessary maintenance and after-care.
- 4.11 DW **noted** that the growing project at University of Salford had been relatively successful before its decommissioning.

- 4.12 The Group was **challenged** to identify a growing project in the local community which could be promoted to staff and students (if not possible to secure a project on campus). The work of Groundwork and Prince's Trust were noted. **All**

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 SK **confirmed** that finalists for the EAUC Green Gown Awards had been announced. The Awards would be held in Bristol at Brunel's old station. It was noted that Bristol was currently European Green Capital.
- 5.2 SK **confirmed** that the Annual EAUC Conference 2016 would be held 25th – 27th May at the University of West England (UWE).
- 5.3 The Group **noted** the Governance Guides that had been produced by the EAUC: 'Ten reasons to build resilience into the future of your university; a business guide for governors'.
- 5.4 SK **confirmed** that progress was continuing on the Green Scorecard; discussions ongoing between EAUC, AUDE, Arup and People & Planet.
- 5.5 SK **requested** any feedback from members using the LiFE tool.

Actions

3.6	To look into flexibility on this across the NW EAUC members.	JA
3.11	To send BH a list of NW EAUC contacts.	PR
3.12	To circulate a list of the current chargeable bands.	BH
4.4	To send PR/SK an initial 'resource' to start compiling the resource bank. DEADLINE 31 st July.	All
4.5	To share some procurement cost information.	All
4.6	To provide information on offsetting higher costs of some sustainable goods.	All
4.7	To circulate information about Sustainable Fish Cities to members.	RHD
4.8	To liaise Sustainable Food Cities coordinators in the NW.	PR / PB / RHD
4.12	To identify a growing project which could be promoted to staff and students.	All