

EAUC BOARD PAPER
Title: Northern Ireland Report
Paper No: 09.03.08



For Information

Purpose

To provide the Board with a brief summary of recent activity in Northern Ireland and proposed activity during 2011.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to note this paper for information.

Background and Discussion

As part of our ongoing commitment to widening access and improving services for the sectors, we identified engagement with Northern Irish institutions as a key priority for 2010/11. Following a successful week-long "tour" of Northern Ireland we are delighted to inform the Board of the development of a formal EAUC Northern Ireland Network to be launched at an event in Belfast on Friday 15th April. Colleagues at the two universities and six regional colleges expressed unanimous support for the development of an EAUC network that supports cross-sector collaboration and the sharing of best practice amongst Northern Irish institutions and facilitates cross-border engagement between Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as with England and Wales.

Sarah Lee and I met with the following organisations/institutions:

1. Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland);
2. Department of Environment (Northern Ireland);
3. Queen's University, Belfast;
4. University of Ulster;
5. Belfast Metropolitan College;
6. Northern Regional College;
7. North West Regional College;
8. South West Regional College;
9. Southern Regional College; and
10. South Eastern Regional College.

The agreed outputs for taking forward for development in 2011/12 are:

- Establish and facilitate an EAUC Northern Ireland Network:
 - Launch event 15th April in Belfast;
 - Quarterly meetings; and
 - Online discussion network;
- Access to Scotland TSNs for NI colleagues;
- Deliver regular CPD events in NI:
 - College Carbon Management Training;
 - Communicating Sustainability;
 - Sustainability Leaders Programme;
 - Train-the-trainer; and
 - Scope 3 Emissions (post-HEFCE project, Autumn 2011);
- Inclusion of the Republic of Ireland in EAUC International Strategy;
- Potential roll-out of Behaviour Change Management Programme, including Green Impact;
- Dissemination of PPAPC outputs;
- Creation of a NI Resource Map; and

- Dissemination of Climate Change Guidance Series [EAUC *Insight Guides*].

The sectors in Northern Ireland already collaborate through their *carbon zero NI* project (www.carbonzeroni.com). This is a strong brand and will provide a valuable platform for the EAUC to promote its products and services in Northern Ireland. We are conscious not to undermine the excellent work already underway in Northern Ireland and we therefore met with the *carbon zero NI* delivery team and agreed that we will develop a partnership agreement whereby the EAUC promotes its activities in support of the *carbon zero NI* programme.

The breadth and depth of our activities in Northern Ireland are of course funding dependant and we will therefore factor additional costs into our budget proposals when approaching trusts and foundations and corporate partners for potential funding support. In the short-term however at very least we are committed to developing and facilitating the EAUC NI Network, delivering access to the Scotland TSNs and rolling out several annual CPD events. This activity will be coordinated by the Scotland office but in close collaboration with the Cheltenham-based Member Services Team.

Andrew Chamberlain
Head of Programmes and Scotland Manager
11 February 2011