

Wales Branch Meeting

24th January

Active Classroom, Bay Campus, Swansea University, SA1 8EN

Attendees:

Claire Mitchell	Member Community Officer	EAUC
Tom Yearley	Head of Sustainable Delivery	UTWSD
Mark Durdin	Maintenance Officer	Cardiff University
Alice Milanese	Sustainability Officer	University of South Wales
Jennifer Lloyd	Green Engagement Officer	UWTSD
John Llewellyn	Energy and Carbon Manager	Swansea University
Ceris Harries	Director of Estates and Operational Services	Coleg Sirgar
Heidi Smith	Sustainability Manager	Swansea University
Victoria Lewis	Environmental Officer	Swansea University
Hayley Beharrell	Environmental Officer	Swansea University
Rhia Cullen	Environment and Sustainability Assistant	Swansea University
Jayne Cornelius	Sustainable Travel Officer	Swansea University
Ben Sampson	Biodiversity Officer	Swansea University
Dewi Day	Environment and Sustainability Advisor	Aberystwyth University



Apologies:

Niki Shuttleworth	Coleg Cambria
Rick Benson	Coleg Cambria
Katrina Henderson	Cardiff University
Chris Long	Bridgend College
Rachel Roberts	Cardiff Met University
Teifion Maddocks	Swansea University

Introduction to Swansea University, Heidi Smith, Head of Sustainability and Staff Wellbeing

Integrating sustainability and staff wellbeing. Embed EMS further. Looking at Modern Slavery and ethical procurement.

Car sharing focus now as from April Liftshare platform will not support Welsh translations online so a new provider will be required.

Optimise new buildings which tend to be energy intensive through CHP and DHN.

Part of sustainability team remit to take care of Crymlyn Burrows SSSI and a Biodiversity Officer is employed. Enhancing wildlife on campus and encourage the University to make the most of what is already there.

Presentation: Inspiring the future generation - INSPIRE student internships, (Green Gown Award Finalists 2017), Jennifer Lloyd, UWTSD

First internships in 2013, initially informal reward scheme with Students Union to encourage students in the sustainability agenda but realised more formal internship needed.

ESD, Graduate attributes and Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (20% of all employees in Wales, work in public sector).

Project examples include waste audits, upcycling workshops, Fairtrade, ethical banking and NUS Blackouts.

48 students completed internships, paid bursary via student services. While payment important for recruitment, not necessarily once they start. Increased awareness of sustainability, increased transferable skills and mentoring. Monthly meetings and paired with member of sustainability team. 10 -15 hours per month, case studies and blogs, interview all applicants. Lacking data so research underway end of year reports (sustainability and employability skills development), questionnaires, monthly transferrable skills tracker (interns rate themselves on how they feel they have performed. Examples include waste audits, upcycling workshops, Fairtrade, ethical banking and NUS Blackouts.

Research to be made available in the future. Presented at ESD conference at University of Plymouth.



EAUC Update

Virtual Meetings and Webinars

Promoting Sustainable Behaviours Sharing Series: Healthy Working Lives, 7th Feb, 11.00am
SDG Accord Webinar 2 – Mapping and Reporting on Institutional Progress, 8th Feb, 3.00pm
http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_event_list.php

New report: Sustainability in Education 2017

Third annual 'Sustainability in Education' report from the National Union of Students (NUS), Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), University and College Union (UCU), Association of Colleges (AoC) and the College Development Network (CDN).

The Further and Higher Education sector is making a collective call to Vice Chancellors and Principals to put their money where their mouth is when it comes to sustainability and social responsibility.

The research shows 1 in 3 respondents reported sustainability as a strategic priority for the institution they work at, up 7% from 2016, yet only 1% of respondents felt their institution was doing all it could to progress environmental and social responsibility. These findings are reflective of the broader societal shift in understanding of the importance of sustainable development and the role everybody has in delivering this. However, they also show sustainability in Higher and Further Education is prevented from meeting its full potential by the lack of resources dedicated to the effort in many institutions.

The average budget dedicated to sustainability has reduced, with 71% of respondents expecting the 2017/18 budget to stay the same or decrease further. There is a clear disconnect between strategic and financial priorities in Further and Higher Education.

The research is based on a sample of 500 staff members from universities, colleges and students' unions in the UK, with 63 respondents identifying as lead staff members on environmental sustainability and social responsibility in a formal or informal basis.

http://www.eauc.org.uk/new_research_shows_university_and_college_leade

EAUC Annual Conference, Keele University, 19th – 21st June 2018

Wellbeing Future Generations Act possible workshop session

<http://www.eazybook.com/abstracts/eauc-abstract-submission/>

Future Business Council

Four areas of interest include Graduate attributes, Governance and board membership, statutory and accreditation and seeking a means by which sectors work together for sustainability solutions

http://www.eauc.org.uk/ground-breaking_new_future_business_council_sta

UK Government Environment Strategy 25 year plan

Back to basics, protection for wildlife, conservation etc. Buzzword is plastics.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Working Groups

The Group discussed task and deliver groups to focus on particular subject and report back at the next meeting.

Adaptation

HS and TY had previously discussed Climate Change Adaptation with NRW as a key focus for HE in Wales. HS has been progressing this in the mean time and has volunteering to champion the subject within the group.

Action: HS to coordinate HE/FE Climate Change Adaptation sub group to report at next EAUC meeting.

Transport

The group identified the need for a coordinated approach to travel and transport in Wales. All Wales Car Share Scheme – little knowledge of it in wider circles, limited support / funding from Welsh Gov. Fabian Way P&R in Swansea to be discontinued. City Deal transport neglected. Central focus needed on how to connect integrated transport system. JC is highly experienced in travel management and has some good ideas to bring the agenda forward. She has volunteered to lead a sub group on the matter, with particular focus on car sharing.

Action: JC to lead sub group on travel and transport in Wales to report at the next EAUC Group.

Data collection

The group discussed the quality of data in the HE/FE sector in Wales. It was decided that it would be beneficial for the members of the group to share summary data relating to their organisations. CH suggested a useful template that could be used for this purpose that she is currently reporting on the Carmarthen PSB.

Action: CH to provide State of the Estate report template to the Group.

Roundtable Discussion

UWTSD: TY was interested in the Groups experience regarding the impact of the impending Environment Act on waste segregation at source. This appears to be a requirement of the legislation, but is yet to be passed on to those who will be required to comply. Lack of guidance and support from Welsh Gov. Bins – how many? There was concern about the cost of the new bins and any potential contamination issues.

UWTSD are currently completing a Salix application. The aim is to replace boilers, payback is not in short term. TY asked the group regarding their opinion on ESCOs. Response was that they are costly to set up and can leave with legacy. TY was also curious about potential match funding scheme with Welsh Gov. This may be related to the introduction of a Revolving Green Fund, funding to invest in energy saving opportunities and ringfence savings. Government underwrite client contribution. Additional finance for carbon reduction projects. Focus on EMS, Green Dragon Level 5 certificate, Go Green Week and Fairtrade Fortnight.

Swansea University: New campus, aware of new legislation so able to prepare infrastructure accordingly. DMR contamination already. Coffee cups bins and Natural UK (recycle sanitary towels

and nappies). Local company. Continually expanding campus. Furniture reuse / disposal – used staff portal. Used Warp-It but not particularly successful. Procedure as part of the EMS as to what people are to do with furniture. Some success but ongoing problem. Use refurbished furniture providers, storage space issues. Policy to give away to staff / other organisations.

Action: HS to circulate policy on giving old equipment to members of staff or other local organisations.

Action: Group to respond with what they do regarding furniture redistribution / disposal, CM to collate.

Cardiff University: Small sustainability team, only 2 and work in different departments. Current focus is £14m refurb, tender to framework, all external funding.

Aberystwyth: New in post, looking at previous plans and strategies which require updating with tangible performance indicators and with funding applications resources are needed even feasibility studies.

Sigar Coleg: 7 campuses due to mergers and now part of UWTSU, small team with huge remit

University of South Wales: energy saving main project currently

Action: CH to share Carmarthen PSB workstreams - State of the Estate

Active Classroom Tour, Jo Clarke, Architect

SPECIFIC – industrial and academic collaboration (Tata Steel, NSG, AxleNobel partnership) Innovation centre, buildings into ‘power stations’ and addressing the functionality of buildings. PV roof (steel framed panels that interlock together), underfloor heating (conductive coating), new and existing technology.

Active Office – two storey, complete by May 2018. Roof sheets, PV and aesthetically pleasing. Social housing project with Pobl group. Working with main contractor and Welsh Government Innovative Housing Fund.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 17th April, 10.00am – Virtual meeting

WFGA agenda item – interpretation and planning of the Act