

Minute of the meeting of the Sustainability Working Group (SWG)

3 February 2021 via Zoom

Attending: David Duncan (DD), Stewart Miller (SM), Josephine Gallagher (JG), Blair Anderson (GUEST), Álvaro Pérez Guardiola (SRC), Dounia Diatsentos (GUEST), Lauren Scott (GUEST), Amy McKenzie Smith (SRC), Jaime Toney (JT), Minty Donald (MD), Gioia Falcone (GF), Barry Morton (BM), Liam Brady (SRC), Rhona Little (Clerk)

Apologies: Robert Garnish, Fabrice Renaud, Billy Ferguson, Dan Haydon, Nick Wade (NW).

1 Welcome

Two new members were welcomed to the group – Mr Ian Campbell, Executive Director of Estates and Professor Peter Craig, Professor of Public Health Evaluation.

2 Minute of the previous meeting

The minute of the meeting 3 December 2020 was approved.

3 Matters Arising

Public Sector Climate Change Reporting

SM hopes to provide an up-to-date infographic within the next couple of weeks.

4 Draft short-term sustainability action plan

A draft short-term sustainability action plan was circulated for review. SM gave a brief overview of the paper which will be publicised when approved to help inform staff about targets dates and to raise awareness of the main lines of activity.

Action: to check in with Robert Garnish re: single-use plastic

Action: action plan to be refined/added/deleted

5. Plans for consulting with staff/students on subsequent updates to various UoG environment strategies

APG updated group on plans to start assemblies during week 6. Payment would be in the form of virtual vouchers. The Green New Deal will be part of the assembly and this should help with awareness raising.

6 College of Arts Sustainability Working Group

Minty Donald provided an overview on the work of the CoA SWG that was initiated at the end of February 2020

- Membership from all schools in CoA, R & T and MPA staff, 3 student reps (including involved in Green New Deal)
- **2 overlapping focusses**
 - First, to implement and encourage sustainable practices across CoA in alignment with meeting the university's carbon reduction target
 - Second, perhaps more important, aim is to highlight what the arts and humanities can do, in relation to practices and concepts of sustainability
- The stated aims of ASWG are:
 - To demonstrate the role of the arts and humanities in engaging with the complexities of sustainability

- To champion the role and value of the arts and humanities in locating sustainability discourses and practices within historical and cultural contexts
- To advocate for analytical, critical, affective, poetic and sensory engagement with practices and discourses of sustainability.
- **COP26 Dear Green Bothy**
- At the moment most of the energies are being put into a programme of activities leading up to and during COP26
- Proposal for a project called the Dear Green Bothy, which has met with approval and support from CoA. It has also received provisional support from the University's COP26 WG
- The 'bothy' is envisaged as a space for debate and discussion with plan to host talks and workshops. It will be a space for showcasing arts and humanities (and interdisciplinary) research and creative practice in the form of film, exhibition, music, performance working in partnership with the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery. It is also envisaged as a space of hospitality. The proposal is to work in partnership with other organisations and artists across Glasgow (e.g. Creative Scotland, CCA, Creative Carbon, After the Pandemic) as well as international organisations and individuals. CoA colleagues are particularly keen to include perspectives from the Global South.
- It is likely to be, to a large extent, a virtual bothy, but aiming for some physical presence (e.g. Hunterian) – obviously, COVID allowing
- There are lots of proposals for content already but there is a plan to issue a call for expressions of interest from across the University in the next few weeks. The interest is in interdisciplinary projects/initiatives.

7 Centre for Sustainability Solutions

JT updated the group on the activities of the CfSS:

- NERC outline bid was successful, and the Centre has now been invited to submit a full proposal for £10M.
- Green New Deal course is fully underway with 48 students enrolled across all year groups and covering all disciplines in the University.
- Upskilling course is being developed to be launched April 2021 – there could be up to 200 people on the course.
- Community of practice – completing set up stage and will launch initiative for wider community
- Interacting with students across SRC, GUEST, Green New Deal to set up informal evening chats monthly.
- Partnership with GCC bringing in Policy Scotland and other partners and communities across the city to promote a green recovery. A big event is taking place next week with senior leaders across city to come to agreement in lead up to COP26.

8 GUEST update

The GUEST co-ordinators provided an update on the work of the various branches.

Over 70 attended the S-lab launch. Promoted secondment opportunity for UoG – no applicants in the first round, will be re-advertised. Food branch cook-a-longs up and running and launching food survey. Waste branch interviewed Deirdre Shaw. Go-Green week event week beginning February 22.

The Biodiversity branch was going well. The Biodiversity working group will launch a species mapping webpage to engage students. Collaborating with the International Green Academy to start a mindfulness space in the Wildlife Gardens on campus. Planting season is starting in community gardens.

Transport branch doing well. Working on a Policy-making workshop for Go Green Week. The Bike Hub is still going very well at halls of residence.

9 Tree planting/carbon offsetting scoping study at Cochno Farm

SM met with Douglas Worrall of Green Action Trust to discuss the possibilities of tree planting at Cochno Farm. In general, the amount of carbon these schemes would absorb is extremely small and we need to think a lot bigger.

Action: SM to take points back to Douglas Worrall

Action: JT/FR/GC to meet – FR has a post-doc who might be able to investigate this

IC – might need to do some research into off-setting as tree planting only offers 0.5% of off-setting target.

MD – would be interested to find out more about practices at Cochno Farm.

10 SRC endorsement of the UoG Green New Deal

The SRC has endorsed this document and 90% of the student body are supportive of this initiative. This will be an ongoing discussion over the years.

11 Sustainable Glasgow Partnership

The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership is an innovative partnership of senior representatives from government, academia, and business across the city.

There are two main things the SWG might like to keep an eye on:

- How the partnership develops and see how effective it is in terms of delivery and see if UoG want to do something similar.
- The UoG's representation on 3 of the 4 hubs. Updates from hubs are limited and we need to encourage broader membership.

There is a real opportunity here to help shape the wider agenda and there is a great deal the University can contribute.

12 Any other business

There was no other business.