

**DURHAM UNIVERSITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 15:00-17:00**

**Attendees:** David Harper (DH) (Chair), David Loudon (DL), Yvonne Flynn (YF), Simon Park (SP), Jane Robson (JR), Jon Gluyas (JG), Michael Corner (MC), Robert Song (RS), Richard Thompson (RT), Steve Willis (SW), Jennie Brownlow (JB), Michael Harkness (MH), Anna Marshall (AM), Linda Joyce (LJ), Vicky Fawcett (VF), Philip Atkinson (PA), Glenn McGregor (GMG), Peter Chrichard (PC), Nathan Hall (NH), Charley Murdoch (notes)

**Apologies:** Abir Van-Hunen (AVH), Nicky Tonner (NT), Amanda Wright (AW), Mark Learmonth (ML), Jayne Dixon (JD), Joe Elliott (JE), Ninette Harris (NH)

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1.0	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
	This is DH's last meeting as chair of the ESSPG. DL thanked DH for all his good work and dedication to the planning group.	
	Introductions were made by each member of the group.	
2.0	<b>CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS</b>	
	DH gave a final statement as chair of the group, noting how much the group had progressed over the years. DH noted that the group must be well aligned with students and continue to achieve great success.	
3.0	<b>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Document 1)</b>	
	The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed by the planning group.	
4.0	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Document 2)</b>	
	The action log was updated and approved by the planning group.	
5.0	<b>DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN (Document 3)</b>	
	It was noted at the end of the <i>UEC Blue Skies</i> meeting by the Vice Chancellor, after a successful student presentation, that a Sustainability Action Plan would be very beneficial to the university.	

	The group have been forwarded a copy of the action plan and asked to look over the document to make any amendments they feel necessary. All feedback needs to be forwarded to SP by <b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b> . This will allow any amendments to be made and ensure the action plan can be taken to UEC Yearly Report.	<b>ALL</b>
	The Sustainability Action Plan was acknowledged as a primary piece of work and the university need to ensure this is done correctly, the importance of people's feedback was noted.	
	DH has been invited to present on behalf of ESSPG at the Russell Group. During the COVID-19 period, Durham University has taken a lead role in sustainability, with a focus on moving towards "Net 0". There is also a move towards working with the Russell Group to collaborate on tackling climate change both on campus and through research.	
	The Sustainability Action Plan has been created as a response to feedback collected through engagement meetings earlier in the year. The previous action plan had 110 points, SP has worked to separate these points into actions and indicators, cross referencing the Sustainability Goals and the UEC climate action toolkit.	
	The updated sustainability plan will be a 3-pronged plan and will include 92 action points.	
	The Sustainability Indicator document is a parallel to the action plan – this gives clear targets on how action points can be achieved.	
	The need for a separate Teaching and Research Indicators sub-group was discussed by the group. This is currently in draft, but as there could be more actions to come having this separate would avoid confusion. SP confirmed that some action points and indicators have already been separated but no individual sub-groups have yet been created.	

<b>6.</b>	<b>CLIMATE ACTION PROGRESS</b>	
	The Durham University carbon footprint has been reduced by 40% since 2005.	
	A "carbon budget" has been ring-fenced with scope 1 and 2 just about finished, and scope 3 just about to begin.	
	A model has been produced to ensure climate action targets are hit, these are science based targets that have been set in line with the Paris Agreement. During the Student Climate Strike of 2019 it was identified that the planet was experiencing half a degree warming, and it is important to understand what this means for the university.	

	Carbon targets are currently uncertain and decisions need to be made on these. Durham County Council have a 100% renewable energy tariff.	
	The SBTi Model currently has 10 targets to meet. It is planned that by 2030, 66% of heat will come from pumps. If clusters were connected with heat pumps, there would be a reduction in carbon emissions, however this should be compared with electrical heating as the cost would be £30m. Ideally, an investment grade energy audit would be completed, however these are expensive and can take 12 months to complete.	
	<p><u>Location vs Market</u> SP explained the two potential methods for the climate action plan:</p> <p>Location based = based on the average conversion factor of the national grid. This has an estimated cost of £32m and it does not guarantee that targets would be hit. Newcastle University use a location based method for their climate action plan.</p> <p>Market based – based on the average conversion factor of the local supplier. Using this approach means that clear targets can be set for the university to achieve. SP stated that the market approach should be tried</p>	
	The question was asked whether UEC would invest in the climate action plan to help the set targets be achieved. The Chief Financial Officer has suggested there may be appetite for investment, but the numbers have not been seen by UEC yet. The whole of UEC would need to lobby the investment to help build momentum for the climate action plan.	
	It was noted that the Carbon Management team needs to be re-established to report in UEC and make group decisions on climate action.	
	Issues surrounding sustainable construction and how to tackle issues with older buildings on site were discussed by the group.	
	<p><u>Electric Vehicles</u> A meeting is to take place between the university and Northern Power Grid to discuss infrastructure, it is estimated that 1 million electric vehicles will be on the road by 2030 and plans to facilitate this increase are needed by the university.</p>	
	<p><u>Climate Emergency Declaration</u> It was noted that the university should consider making a climate emergency declaration, COVID-19 may assist the university in making this statement. The university is now in a good shape to declare a climate emergency.</p> <p>This statement can only ideally be made if the university can prove that actions can be achieved, there is no point in the declaration if we cannot do anything about it. Financial support from UEC and meeting targets set in the plan would support the declaration.</p>	
	The Chemistry department only saved 10% on energy during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown. A movement should be made to shut off more equipment in the department to help improve the figure.	

7.	<b>SHORT VERBAL UPDATES</b>	
7a)	<b>Environmental management system, EcoCampus</b>	
	EcoCampus Platinum was awarded to the university in December 2020. An external audit is due to take place by December 2021, external audit programme will be looked at between June-November 2021.	
7b)	<b>Greenspace Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1-3:30pm – Tent on Racecourse</b>	
	Internal and external stakeholders have been invited to attend the festival. Some of the stallholders include Marlesh/Bunzl/Wear River/Scoop/Eco Durham and many more. The festival will be drop-in for staff, students and the wider community.	
7c)	<b>My Greenspace App/Jump</b>	
	<p>Jump – A sustainability behaviours app where users gain points for completing goals set. A trail ran during Easter Term where 1000 actions were completed, averaging 200 per week, so momentum for the app is building nicely. If the trial is a success, the app will be rolled out to everybody in 2022.</p> <p>There have been 82 registrations (28 staff + 50 students)</p> <p>NH asked how this app had been publicised, SP confirmed via social media, newsletters and college environmental representatives.</p>	
7d)	<b>Catering update – draft Sustainable Food policy</b>	
	This is still a work in progress and needs to be updated.	
7e)	<b>Biodiversity group</b>	
	<p>Stuart Brooker is working on the Biodiversity Action Plan for the group, this may need further work before it can go to UEC.</p> <p>YF presented Biodiversity work to the EAUC which was very well received, the group were keen to see what work the group have been conducting.</p> <p>Wildflower meadows project – many colleges are planning to start this project from Autumn 2021, and some colleges have already begun work on the project. So far the group have discovered a new orchid species but have also found that another bee orchid has now disappeared. This highlights the need for a clear and specific Biodiversity action plan.</p> <p>MCo is going to contact Stuart Brooker to discuss the sighting of a roe deer in the Mountjoy woodland.</p>	<b>MCo</b>
7f)	<b>Procurement</b>	

	<p>Single use plastics agenda is being introduced across the county to encourage suppliers such as Beamish Museum/Northumbria Water etc. to sign up to a pledge.</p> <p>The university is to have a contact to send out promotional items to students to encourage the use of recyclable plastic/alternative sustainable items.</p>	
7g)	<b>Energy and Water</b>	
	<p>20kv supply covers the bulk of the Science Site, this amount did fall in 2020 due to COVID-19. The new MCS building is to use this supply.</p> <p>Work is planned to improve the supply in Chemistry, the day and night fluctuation is to be addressed.</p> <p>The Palatine Centre is the second highest, however there is more fluctuation and more equipment is used during the day. There is scope to improve this.</p> <p>Exception alerts have been set up to flag when a site goes over the expected electric load.</p> <p>JG to email MC to discuss the possibility for summer internships for students to monitor the electricity use in buildings.</p> <p>There is scope to have the same heat recovery systems installed at Arthur Holmes Building as Biosciences, the energy consumption is at the data centre. GMG will discuss electricity supply issues with Biosciences and the possibility of student involvement in the work.</p>	<p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>GMG</b></p>
7h)	<b>Waste and recycling</b>	
	<p>Green Move Out – leaflets and purple bags are on order, work is being carried out with student volunteers to drop bags at different sites.</p> <p>Waste tender – responses are currently under review.</p> <p>Hazardous waste site visit – awaiting final report from Site Mark, those involved were thanked.</p>	
7i)	<b>People and planet</b>	
	<p>Durham University ranked 190<sup>th</sup> in the People and Planet university league table. Gap analysis is ongoing to help move the university up the league table.</p> <p>The first audit will take place from 5<sup>th</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> July.</p> <p>The second audit will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p>The third audit will take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> August.</p>	
8.0	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	

	Nothing to report.	
9.0	<b>FUTURE MEETING</b>	
	A meeting will be arranged for the Michaelmas term.	