

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

8 December 2022 via Zoom

Attending: Jaime Toney (Chair) (JT), Fabrice Renaud (FR), Ian Campbell (IC), Peter Craig (PC), Hilda De Groot (HDG), Euan Smith (ES), Ross Barker (RB), Kelum Gamage (KG), Barry Morton (BM), Gordon McLeod (GMcL), Chrissy Sanachan (CS), Erika Makipere (SRC Environmental Officer)

GUEST Co-ordinators - Molly Davison (MD), Laila Elaasar (LE)

Apologies: David Duncan, Stewart Miller, Gioia Falcone, Robert Garnish, Alasdair Thomson, Minty Donald, Josephine Gallagher, Rinna Vare (SRC President), Hailie Pentleton (VP Student Welfare), Katie Fish (VP Activities), Fan Henry (GUEST)

Attending: Rhona Little (Clerk)

The group welcomed two new members to their first meeting – Chrissy Sanachan and Gordon McLeod

1 **Minute**

The Minute of the meeting of 5 October 2022 was approved

2. **Matters Arising**

Business Travel Emissions Reporting

Viola Retzlaff (VR) is nearing completion of work on the Business Travel Reporting Tool which is being updated to include data sets for the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. It has taken a bit more time to clean the data and ensure it is accurate as a few clarifications were required on how travel bookings have been recorded for the past year. Stantec has provided the first update of the Tool which is being reviewed and VR will go back to ask Stantec to clarify a few technical questions and request clarification on the data that has been presented. A few issues have been raised before the Tool can be released but the intention is to release the data for years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-2022 and that will be made available to the Schools and Colleges and Professional Services Units. VR is working with Stantec to overcome the issues raised and will confirm timescales of when the data will be finalised. Additional data fields have been added to the Tool so they can now include things such as reason for travel and compare those across the years. This will be helpful to demonstrate when carbon targets are not being met

There is still a question on how this will get delivered to the schools and at last meeting some members were tasked to speak to colleagues about this. More needs to be done to publicise the guidance as it seems to be purely voluntary to provide this information. The data does not seem to be particularly granular, and we need it below School and Institute level and have it broken down by seniority of staff. There is a belief that junior staff will be disadvantaged by the data, but it is more likely to be senior staff whose behaviour needs to change. The tool is meant to constrain the travel of the biggest emitters but without the data its difficult to enforce the guidance. The data is being collected at the GUID level so it can be broken down, but the question would be who has access to that level of data. This will have to be discussed further as there will be GDPR issues around that.

Psychology and Neurosciences are undertaking a research study into their internal travel behaviours with a view to creating an evidence-based intervention that can be applied to staff and rolled out using local expertise and behaviour change techniques and psychology to

encourage the best practice and to educate people about the impact. CS would be happy to share this with the SWG group and will contact Stewart Miller when the information is available.

Action: to accelerate the agreed statement from David Duncan which will include the Business Travel Report (2018-19), an updated CMP and the Guidance for Sustainable Business Travel.

Action: JT to have a discussion with Jennifer Russell and Viola Retzlaff about how data is recorded and at what level. Both should be invited to the February meeting to demonstrate and give an overview of the updated tool.

Action: IC to ensure School of Health & Wellbeing are included in the travel reporting tool.

At the start it was decided to implement this as guidance but to make it policy it would need to go through a specific process through Court and this would be raised with David Duncan.

The tool is extremely sophisticated and can be configured to provide any level of information but has at this stage has been configured to provide information at School level and when the communication goes out it will say it is at the discretion of the School on how they achieve their target. If schools want individual further information, they can email IC or VR. It is important to emphasise the accountability to achieve the target is with the School/Directorate.

There has been a lot of discussion around the CMP which went to SMG and Court and at both levels was discussed and agreed that the CMP should be updated annually. One of the things specifically discussed at SMG was whether to make some of the elements about business travel mandatory and a decision was taken not in the first year to see how Schools adhere. If the Tool shows that Schools are reverting to pre-pandemic methodologies this will be taken back to SMG to take a firmer line.

Reporting by grades could be problematic for smaller Schools as this could easily identify a small group of people so we would have to be extremely careful in terms of GDPR. Secondly, devolving to heads of schools, they would be worried that they would have to be in charge of policing without having firm guidance as to what is needed, and it could be too complicated for hods to enforce something that is just guidance.

If there is any pushback about GDPR then perhaps a clear explanation as to why it is being presented that way would be useful and to know why we are being cautious. If there are concerns, we might need consent from staff to say they do not mind if they are identified by travel data and perhaps it could even be added to their staff profile to indicate they are committed to a low carbon research career.

Disclosure control is not a problem and can easily be dealt with a very straightforward set of rules so we should really use this opportunity. It might be good to introduce a minimum "do not fly if only travelling 2hrs" as a basic default position and maybe an argument for travelling within the UK is that the train should be used.

3. **Tree Planting Update – Garscube and Cochno Farm**

JT gave a quick summary of a paper prepared by Gioia Falcone. Three MEng students undertook individual projects to assess the ecosystem and service opportunities at Cochno Farm. The students had been invited to present their findings at the SWG meeting in May 2022 but unfortunately that clashed with the exam period.

There was a short discussion about the feasibility of the projects and the group agreed that Stewart and Gioia should discuss this further and take a report to the February meeting.

Action: SM and GF

4. **GUEST update**

In terms of Community, work is starting on the Glasgow Goes Green Festival 2023, the first since covid and GUEST is representing the main leader at the festival in mid-March. The Staff/Student Promotor is taking the lead and collaborating with the University of Strathclyde and the Arts College and is receiving applications for anyone who is interested in participating. At the last SWG there was talk about lack of student-led engagement so GUEST have put in place two projects – the first a Climate Cafe on Diversity and Species Engagement and, although the cafes happen monthly, next semester this will be on a much larger scale with talks from people who work on sustainability on campus and the idea is to have student-to-staff conversations about what the campus is doing, create an agenda and bring this to next SWG meeting to provide feedback. The second engagement project is a Student Open Call for GUEST projects where students can apply for something they want to do on campus. This could be a small pop-up shop or whole week of talks and the idea is to give students a more engaged voice on campus.

Other projects are ongoing such as the Freedom Waste Branch, a student-to-student essentials project where students can pick up things for free that might normally go to landfill. A few clothing campaigns have been set up, and an official swap shop has been started where students donate clothes and get tokens to use in return. In collaboration with GUF, the Fashion Revolution Society based on campus led by student. A private Facebook platform has been created called Green Gowns and Sustainable Suits where you can rent black tie clothing for ceilidh's and balls to save having to buy cheaper clothes and this will be open to staff as well.

Finally, GUEST are working with the SRC Environmental Officer to try and get some recycling points on campus for odd items including small electronic items, bulbs and batteries etc that have to be disposed at recycling centres but without a car makes this quite difficult. One suggestion was the use of e-bikes and cargo bikes that are available on campus, and it is possible to cycle to Dawsholm Recycling Centre on cycle paths the full way.

Internal Communications are happy to help put word out of all activities and GUEST should contact Nicola Smock, the CfSS Centre Coordinator to spotlight these activities as well as Ria Dunkley who has expertise in running mini festivals.

The issue of charging for coffee cups was raised and Laila Elaasar (EA) is looking into this with different coffee vendors on campus. If you have your own cup, you can use hot water and only pay for tea/coffee so you do not pay price premium for reusable cup but EA is not sure if there is added discount to the price of coffee/tea so will continue to look into this and have update for next meeting.

EA informed the group there are architectural reasons why some facilities do not have reusable cups such as noise transfer but with new outlets opening more of this will happen.

Action: Euan Smith to discuss with Scott Masterton and Robert Garnish to provide update at next meeting.

5. **Centre for Sustainable Solutions update**

The CfSS had an Away Day looking at opportunities for building capacity around active use and activities we could have more ambition around. The outcomes are being collated by Elaine Heslop, who works for Lucidity Services an external consultant, and these will be followed up with SMG and via the Strategic Review Planning process in RIS to hopefully bring in more capacity for the Centre.

The Centre is organising another set of green recovery dialogues with GCC to take place in the new year on food systems, the food plan, food security and creating urban farms within the city. The Centre is working with FutureLearn and have released four of six sustainability modules

aimed at upskilling agenda and are exploring the possibility of developing all six modules to launch by February 2023 into an online Sustainability Degree Programme. In the new year the centre will be looking at finding new more ways of networking and bringing more people into the sustainability agenda across campus and is looking at providing some forms where people can very informally come together to chat about sustainability and form internal networks.

6. **AOB**

There was no other business.