Global Environment and Society Academy (GESA)

Director - Peter Higgins
Moray House School of Education
Global Environment and Society Academy (GESA)

Running order for this evening

• GESA Director, Peter Higgins, Welcome
• Dave Reay, GESA achievements
• Al Powell, Student Representative of EUSA
• Dave Gorman, Department for Sustainability and Social Responsibility
• GESA Deputy Director Elizabeth Bomberg, GESA activities
• Peter Higgins - Closing remarks
Global Environment and Society Academy (GESA)

We aim to provide integrated responses to the pressing global challenges posed by humanity’s evolving interaction with the environment.
“We bring together expertise from across schools within the university to provide integrated perspectives on the human dimensions of environmental change”
Global Environment and Society Academy (GESA)

Edinburgh University
Students’ Association
Here for students

- Help students get the best out of their studies
- Help students make friends and have fun
- Support students if they need advice
- Help students develop skills for their career
Representation
Sabbatical Officers 2017/18

Bobi Archer, Patrick Kilduff, Oliver Glick, Esther Dominy and Kai O'Doherty

Elected to represent students

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation
Ollie Glick, VP Community
2017/18

Student outreach in the community
- Giving students the power to develop campaign, research and activist skills
- Working with student groups and societies to shape sustainability campaigns and policies

Fair Housing
- Lobbying for increased access to affordable rooms
- Pushing for regulation on private purpose built student accommodation
- Develop opportunities for student accommodation co-ops

Sustainability
- Developing a shared vision with SRS
- Reducing commercial outlet food waste
Collective Representation - Student Council

- UNIVERSITY
- ASSOCIATION
- SOCIETY
Current Ethics & Environment Policy

- Commitment to a Conflict-Free Campus
- Supporting People and Planet's 'Divest the Rest' campaign
- Say No to Arms
- Financial Services - Opposing Pay Day Lenders
Historic Ethics & Environment Policy

- Energy Efficient Rented Homes (2009)
- Ethical Investment (2002)
- Renewable Source Electricity (2001)
- Students’ Association Sustainable Development (1999)
- Boycott Nestle (1982)
Shaping Direction & Campaigns

• Submitting ideas for discussion

• Submitting motions to Student Council

• [www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/your_ideas/](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/your_ideas/)

• Email or meet up with Ollie

• [VPcommunity@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:VPcommunity@eusa.ed.ac.uk)
Thanks for listening!

Do you have any questions?

al.powell@eusa.ed.ac.uk
Social Responsibility & Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh

An Introduction
Delivering impact for society
SRS areas for the University

- Climate change
- Sustainable estates
- Sustainable procurement, fair trade and supply chains
- Responsible investment
- SRS in learning and teaching
- Fair employer and equality and diversity issues
- Widening participation
- Community engagement
- Public engagement
Effective use of space & energy
Investments in, or purchase of, renewables
Policy and behaviour change
Changes to our investments
Learning & research into Challenges / Solutions
Whole institution approach to climate change
Practical programmes, grants, volunteering…
The University as a Living Lab
Questions?

Dave.Gorman@ed.ac.uk
GESA Activities

• MASTERS READING GROUPS
  • 15 Nov, 5-6pm, fracking

• INFO HUB
  • Website and mailing lists provide link to wide array of events

• NETWORK FACILITATOR

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Global Environment & Society Academy
Blog site
2018 Environment & Society Practitioner/Research Mixer

• Opportunity for students and practitioners to share ideas and to network
  • Students pitch their research interests and ideas; practitioners discuss their role, sector news and potential research ideas

• Some sectors covered in past years
  • Climate Management
  • Energy
  • Ecosystem Services & sustainable landscapes
  • Environmental Policy & Politics
  • Social Responsibility & Sustainability
  • Food Security
  • Environmental & International Development

Mixer will take place early next semester; date will be announced on web page: http://www.ed.ac.uk/global-environment-society
GESA – what our past students say

- I’ve met tons more students than I otherwise would have done….we’re all studying environmental stuff but in lots of different ways

- As an interdisciplinary researcher, it was great to meet with other students working through the Global Academies networks

- There was always something relevant, interesting, or important going on at GESA

- GESA’s help with our CGI [Clinton Global Initiative] was much appreciated!

- The [Research-Practitioner] mixer was the best – I met all kinds of real life contacts