

Sustainability Issues & Fairtrade Task Group (SIFTG) – MINUTE of Meeting

Task Group of the Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Group

Twentieth Meeting: Tues 26 May 2009 - 3.00pm in Rm 2.04, 13 Infirmary St

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| Members: | Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement (Convener) | KB |
| | Daniel Abrahams, People & Planet co-Coordinator 2009-10 | DA |
| | Evelyn Bain, Procurement Manager | EB |
| | Non Jones ex Oxvols | NJ |
| | Linda Griffiths, Scottish Fair Trade Forum | LG |
| | Ronnie Kerr, Press and PR Manager (Communication & Marketing) | RK |
| | Angela Lewthwaite, Estates and Buildings Office (Secretary) | AL |
| | Ian Macaulay, Asst. Director of Accommodation Services (Catering) | IM |
| | Ben Miller, People & Planet | BM |
| | Adam Ramsay, EUSA President | AR |
| | Fiona Ranford, People & Planet | FR |
| | David Somervell, Sustainability Advisor | DS |
| | George Thomas, EUSA Vice-President (Services) Depute Laura Baker | GT |
| | www.fairtrade.org.uk | |

Corresponding: VP Professor Mary Bownes, Professor Pete Higgins; Mr Nigel Paul; Prof Jan Webb; Rev Di Williams; Prof Tim Hayward; Dr Stewart Russell

Welcome: EUSA New Sabs : Thomas Graham (TG) (President) and Anna Smythe (AS) deputising for Ronnie Kerr;

Apologies: James Wallace (new Vice-President Services); Non Jones; Daniel Abrahams

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| 1 | The minute of meeting held on 13 January 2009 Minute was agreed as an accurate record. Thomas agreed to give AL names of contacts who would help the SIFTG remit. Agreed secretary would send out letters of thanks to all leaving | Circulated AL |
| 2 | Matters Arising: | |
| 2.1 | Membership & Remit Review Noted – Linda Griffiths would no longer be attending as moving to Oban to start a new job. Agreed to co-opt John Blair-Fish on to the group. John very active with the World Development Movement campaigning on causes of global economic poverty. Served on Edinburgh Fair Trade committee and also an active member of the Scottish Green Party. KB encouraged all Group members to distribute the Group’s remit in order to get interested colleagues to help progress the Group’s objectives. Thomas agreed to send AL further EUSA contacts. | Paper 2.1 AL TG |
| 2.2 | Fairtrade Fortnight 2009 Report - 23 February – 9 March 2009 KB conveyed sincere thanks to all for the excellent Fairtrade Fair events held. These events were reported at the last minute. Special mention went to Ben Miller for his enthusiasm and hard work for the duration of the Fairtrade Fortnight. It was noted (post meeting) Edinburgh Napier University were now a Fairtrade University. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing: SIFTG noted that P&P had lodged a petition with EUSA asking that they stop stocking non-fairtrade goods. NUSSL is currently making a bigger push re clothing. KB advised EUSA to negotiate via NUSSL. <p>EB advised that tendering was in progress for janitorial clothing under APUC and that the specification would request full sustainable cotton but it is a group decision re specifications.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: BM provided a link for catering uniforms:</i> http://www.bishopstontrading.co.uk/shop/article.php?category_id=12&article_id=47</p> <p>It was noted that NUSSL had been successful in attracting SFC funding support for the Carbon Ambassadors Project and that a post was being advertised for a person to work out of NUS Scotland offices to assist student unions and SMEs with energy audits etc.</p> <p>EUSA reps were congratulated on winning the contract to manage the National Library of Scotland Café on George IV Bridge.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Report from EAUC-S (<i>Environmental Association of Universities and College-Scotland</i>)</p> <p>Margaret Lochhead had attended the Poverty-Aware Procurement on Campus workshop on 29 Jan in Carlisle. – Case study worksheets in preparation.</p> <p>It was noted that EAUC-S were running a new training programme including: Promoting Responsible Procurement Framework Training - levels 1&3 with attendance from APUC (Advanced Procurement for Universities & Colleges) – see www.eauc.org.uk/scotland</p> | KB |
| 9 | <p>People & Planet– Update</p> <p>DS advised that – following a blip in last year’s Green League due to incorrectly recorded energy data (UoE fell from 8= to 28) – a submission had been made for 2009.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: The University regained its First Class rating with an 18th placing against stiff competition. In top five of the Russell Group entries.</i></p> <p>BM tabled a draft paper outlining a proposal to assist the Group on what to do in the next 5 years. KB thanked Ben for the document which gave the Group a platform to build on.</p> | |
| 10 | <p>Report from Accommodation Services – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rocket Composter saga continues at PHR: City of Edinburgh Council Planning Department had queried planning approval documentation re the bike shed. Once this matter has been cleared, the Waste Management Licence will go forward to SEPA. • Fairtrade Fruit Juice Machines in John McIntyre Centre are now installed and working • Vending machines – meetings with suppliers – Agreed to prioritise this initiative. • Cardboard compactor now sited at Pollock and reducing waste management costs. • Bottled water no longer served at any meetings held at Pollock Halls. All meetings to have tap water with ice and in public areas (See item 2.3 above re policy) | IM, EB |
| 11 | <p>KB on behalf of the University, thanked Adam, Ben and George for their huge contribution and wished them every success in their future careers.</p> | |
| <p>Dates of next SITFG meetings - Venue Rm 2.04, 13 Infirmary St unless otherwise notified.</p> <p>3.00 pm Tuesday 11th August 2009; 3.00 pm Tuesday 3rd November 2009;</p> <p>2010: Tuesday 19 January – 3.00 pm; Tuesday 25 May – 3.00 pm; Tuesday 10 August – 3.00 pm Tuesday 2 November – 3.00 pm.</p> | | |

Background Note

Fairtrade Foundation guidance on use of its brand name: Any commodities / services **not** accredited with the Fairtrade Foundation should be termed 'fair trade' (two separate words with no capital "F")

Key target for all (staff & students) is to raise awareness and increase understanding of Fairtrade and the need for fairer trade systems. In order to uphold our status as a Fairtrade University, the University has to continually maintain its Fairtrade policy by sending in evidence that Fairtrade is being actively promoted throughout the year. This also links in with our corporate social responsibility agenda.

If all contribute would result in a big change – and in the case of Fair Trade making a huge impact on the lives of third world producers and their families.

----- Extract from CSG Plan 2009-10 -----

Promoting Equality, Diversity and Social Responsibility

Corporate Services Group leads on social responsibility and environmental sustainability as applicable in operational activities.

Activities include: - the Switch and Save Campaign, waste management and recycling, SALIX energy conservation project programme, **expansion of Fairtrade status**, the increasing inclusion of sustainability criteria in procurement tendering, building projects subject to BREEAM standards, and the development of travel plans.

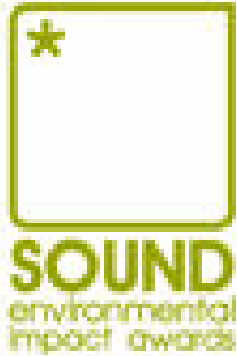
It is intended to pilot a Corporate Social Responsibility Report with a view to it being produced annually to showcase and promote the activities in this area across the University. The focus for equality and diversity in Corporate Services over the next year will be to re-energise the E&D network, and with support from the University's E&D adviser, to provide more direction to activities within CSG.

Work will continue to ensure that disability access and egress to buildings is maintained and appropriate facilities to support disabled students, staff, and visitors are incorporated into estates development plans.

SABS changeover dates week commencing 25 May to 6 June 2009. SIFTG meeting to be arranged around this period with old/new sabs.

Stark Facts compiled by the Secretary:

- **World population is expected to rise from six billion at the start of the century to nine billion by 2050 – an increase of six million people per month, mostly in developing countries.**
- **More than a billion people live on less than 50p a day.**
- **Demand for food is projected to increase by 50% by 2030, according to the United Nations.**
- **World grain reserves are at an all-time low of 14, down from 35% in 1986, and 75% of the major marine fish stocks are either depleted , overexploited or being fished at their biological limit.**



APPENDIX A

EUSA – Gold winner again in NUS Sound Impact Awards '09

Edinburgh University Students' Association has been awarded a Gold Sound Impact Award and the Scotland and North Regional Best Bar None Award and at NUSSL conference in Liverpool. The past five years have seen increasing numbers of Unions meet the exacting standards of the Best Bar None programme both within their local authorities and the Best Bar None awards programme.

Students' Unions have always considered the welfare of their students and the Best Bar None Awards aims to reward, promote and recognise the efforts that Students' Unions place on Corporate Social Responsibility. EUSA would like to thank Chris Beddows and all his staff at Teviot and Potterrow for the work they did on achieving the Best Bar None Award for this year.

The Sound Environmental Impact Awards is an accreditation scheme for environmental best-practice in Students' Unions, aimed at both Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE). The purpose of the Sound* Environmental Impact Awards is to: Encourage, Nurture, Reward ... and Celebrate environmental best-practice in Students' Unions. EUSA would like to particularly like to thank Alan Blackwood, his team and all EUSA staff for their hard work in achieving this award for the second year running.

EUSA News 8 April 2009 www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/voice/news/3125 www.soundimpact.org.uk/ www.bbnuk.com/

NUS Services Ltd Sound* Impact Awards

NUSSL developed the Sound* brand as a focus for our ethical and environmental initiatives. Sound* has developed to promote and reward good practice among our member students' unions and our supplier base. The Sound* Impact Awards is an environmental accreditation scheme with an awards element designed specifically for students' unions. The scheme seeks to encourage, nurture, reward and celebrate good practice in students' unions. In 2006/07 fifty-one students' unions entered the programme.

In 2007/08 a slightly higher benchmark was introduced to encourage continual improvement, and sixty-seven students' unions entered the programme. For 2008/09 a higher benchmark than in 2007/08 has been introduced and there are some major changes this year to build upon progress made in year's one and two. Seventy-nine Students' Unions entered the programme in 2008/09.

Sound* Best Practice Booklet highlights the achievements of students' unions across the UK who signed up to the Sound Environmental Impact Awards and demonstrated their commitment to making a less negative impact on the environment. Over a million students will have seen environmental best-practice in place as a result of 79 Unions entering into these awards. www.nus.org.uk/en/About-NUS/Ethical--Environmental/

Overall the awards were split as follows:

- 5x Gold Award winners [see below / over]
- 35x Silver Standard winners
- 20x Bronze Standard winners
- 19x Unions Working Towards Accreditation
- 3x Special Awards winners

All entrants were awarded one of four qualifications: Working towards accreditation; Bronze Standard; Silver Standard and Gold Award. To gain the Bronze Standard, Unions need to have met all twenty-two criteria marked as Bronze essentials - these are the actions that we think all Students' Unions could and should be doing as a minimum. Projects range from recycling and energy efficient lighting in the Union building, to beach cleans and working with children in the community.

New to this year is the Silver Standard. To gain the Silver Standard, Unions need to have met all the Bronze essentials plus all eleven criteria marked as Silver essentials and gained an overall score of 400 or more. Unions could build their overall score by meeting any of the 159 optional bonus criteria – these are non-compulsory, but the more they got, the higher their score, helping on their way to a Silver Standard.

The five highest scoring Unions received the Gold Award, a prestigious hand-made sculpture made from recycled car window glass. Three more Unions received Special Awards - for Innovation, the Most Improved score and for Environmental Communications on their websites.

Best Bar None

The Best Bar None is an awards scheme for licensed premises, currently running in over 80 locations across the UK. It was developed to deliver a safer night time economy and improve the night time environment.

Sound* Impact 2009 Gold winners - what the auditors had to say:

1. Overall Winner - Loughborough Students' Union

Loughborough Students' Union have gained 225 points since last year and are continually striving to improve upon their already impressive environmental performance.

Examples of projects and initiatives:

- Aiming for ISO14001 standard for their Environmental Management System.
- Environmental awareness-raising signs are placed throughout the Union.
- Recently installed a new waste compactor and, along with their comprehensive recycling and composting facilities, are very close to zero waste!
- Successfully lobbied Loughborough University to sign the People and Planet Green Education Declaration.

Leeds University Union

Leeds has improved their score by 258 points since last year and has retained the Gold that they achieved last year. Examples of projects and initiatives:

- The Peanut Gallery – a student-run social centre where students can meet up and get involved. This space includes a 'free shop' and meeting area and it has been completely fitted out with recycled items – from computers to mugs, rugs and paint.
- Worked with the University of Leeds on their Velocampus initiative. This project aims to have 300 bicycles in circulation over the next 3 years at a minimum rental level. The Unions role has been to communicate the scheme with students and house the registration and demonstration. As a result, all 100 bikes for the first year were signed-for in less than a week.

Newcastle University Union Society

Newcastle has made huge progress over the past year and has increased their overall score by 319 points, increasing from a Bronze to achieve a Gold Award this year. They should be congratulated on such a massive achievement. Examples of projects and initiatives:

- Demonstrated a massive 17% reduction in gas usage for 07/08, compared to 06/07.
- Student Community Action Newcastle (SCAN) - Community Clean Up Programme involves cleaning up local parks, streams, woodland and rivers with local voluntary groups.

Edinburgh University Students' Association

Edinburgh has increased by 227 points and retain the Gold that they achieved last year. Examples of projects and initiatives:

- They have a sophisticated heat exchange system in one bar to make use of waste heat.
- New this year is the collection of food waste for composting from all catering sites with the help of a local social enterprise. This has brought the association ever closer to the goal of zero waste to landfill, with two buildings no longer sending any waste to landfill as a result.

University of Central Lancashire Students' Union

UCLan have increased their score by 244 points and have finally reached a Gold Award after achieving Silver for the past two years. Examples of projects and initiatives:

- They have the UK's second largest solar panel array installed on their nightclub, 53 Degrees. They have a digital notice board near the main entrance to the Union showing real-time data on the performance of the panels, which includes the total amount of carbon dioxide they have saved since being installed.
- A waste audit and survey has been carried out by MSc students this year to look into the feasibility of composting food waste and also to minimise contamination of recyclables