

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

2 February 2022 via Zoom

Attending: David Duncan (DD) (Chair), Jaime Toney (JT), Stewart Miller (SM), Robert Garnish (RG), Peter Craig (PC), Kelum Gamage (KG), Thalia Groncott (GUEST), Meli Vasiloude Bayada (GUEST), Molly Walker (GUEST), Eva Simmons (SRC VP Student Support), David Gabra (SRC Environment Officer), Ian Campbell, Gioia Falcone, Josephine Gallagher, Sam Malis, (SRC VP Activities), Minty Donald (MD)

Apologies: Fabrice Renaud, Ella McCabe (SRC President), Barry Morton, Susan Ashworth,

Attending: Ralston MacKenzie (Stantec), Gordon Scott (Stantec), Jennifer Russell, Viola Retzclaff, Hossein Zare-Behtash, Andrea Cammarano, Rhona Little (Clerk)

1 Minute

The Minute of the meeting of December 2021 was approved.

2. Matters Arising

Noted that the action for Kit England, Green Economy Manager, GCC to be invited to talk to SWG – to be taken forward by Jaime Toney (JT) [Complete. Kit has agreed to join April 13th]

3. Stantec presentation

Gordon Scott and Ralston MacKenzie attended from Stantec to give a presentation on reducing carbon emissions from travel.

The University's Strategic Transport and Travel Plan 2016 - 2025 (STTP) sets the context for considering travel matters across the University. The STTP includes a set of transport targets with an accompanying Action Plan comprising themed interventions and initiatives aimed at achieving modal shift towards sustainable forms of travel resulting in carbon reduction savings related to university travel activities.

In 2021 the University commissioned Stantec to undertake a review of the STTP targets and its associated Action Plan to bring the STTP in line with the climate emergency declaration and the Glasgow Green Climate strategy.

To inform this work Stantec carried out extensive research and analysis to build supporting evidence and a clear rationale for the setting of new targets. The supporting research and analysis work is split into various technical notes:

Carbon Policy Review – a desktop review of university policy and current initiatives relating to travel. Includes scenario testing to determine a refined set of actions and targets which support carbon reduction.

Carbon Emissions from Business Travel – Assessment of the impact of the Guidance for Sustainable Business Travel, scenario testing and identification of actions which, if implemented, will help reduce carbon impacts associated with Business Travel.

Future Travel Trends & Carbon Emissions – Assessment of how Covid-19 will continue to impact on travel and transport and how changes to work/study patterns may affect travel in the medium to long term. Also covers wider transport interventions which are in the pipeline at national and local levels and how these may impact on the university campuses.

It was noted that the University is in partnership with GCC to look at barriers to active travelling and what can be done to promote active travel.

The SWG agreed that this was a particularly useful presentation which raised several questions. In summary it was agreed this tool was ready to be rolled out to Schools and Directorates, but it would be useful if Stantec could provide each school with its own dashboard. We should reflect on what has been presented and think about how, through the travel teams, we encourage active travel. We should also roll out the visual to schools.

It was suggested that an informal workshop might be useful to talk in more detail about some of the issues raised.

4. Presentation of work on the RELIANT project – Covid-19 transmission and ventilation

Dr Hossein Zare-Behtash and Dr Andrea Cammarano, from the James Watt School of Engineering, joined the SWG to talk about their research project which aims to make indoor spaces safer during Covid-19. The researchers, in collaboration with others from the Universities of Cambridge and Strathclyde, Imperial College London and Queen Mary University of London, have developed a user-friendly online tool capable of predicting the spread of airborne droplets of fluid across spaces. The Risk Evaluation fAst iNtelligent Tool or RELIANT is set to run on mobile devices and computers to allow users to custom-build detailed models of any indoor space and visualise how changes in seating arrangements, number of occupants and amount of ventilation affect the transport of droplets around the area. RELIANT will also be able to model the impact of facemasks on the spread of droplets.

They hope that the tool will help users make more informed decisions about health and safety, supported by advice tailored to their unique spaces. The researchers will work to unify existing computer and mathematical models of how droplets are carried on the air across indoor spaces of all sizes. They will also conduct their own research at wind tunnel testing facilities in Glasgow and Cambridge to create new fluid-dynamic models in a wide range of conditions.

The next stages of this project are being put together and the ultimate goal will be to produce a reasonably cheap board that could be fitted in each room to tell us what to do and how to operate the room to be safe.

The group thanked the researchers for their interesting presentation.

5 GUEST Branch Updates

MVB updated the group on the transport branch which is currently doing weekly bike hubs that are going well and are fully booked. There would be a potential to run more if promoters had more hours and a budget to support this as well as more promotion to raise awareness of events. Bikeability sessions have also been going well for staff and students.

The promotor of the Community Engagement Branch has been meeting with Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland visiting schools around Glasgow to try and engage with children around issues of sustainability and is collaborating with other promoters to run sessions on biodiversity, gardening, and good sustainability.

This year GUEST will be running the Glasgow Goes Green Festival, a project that has been going since 2015 alongside other Universities. The festival will take place from 23-25 February on campus and around Glasgow and will have various events such as eco poetry, sculpture workshops and an environment film screening.

The Sustainable Labs are working closely with Rory to get as many labs involved in LEAF with an induction planned to help with running seminars and to make them more appealing and more recognisable within UoG.

The biodiversity branch is running gardening sessions and in line with the Biodiversity Strategy will be restarting the species identification survey on the I-naturalist app. Also restarting is the Species Stories Project which tells stories of the animals and plant life that exist on our campuses.

The food branch is running an event at Glasgow Goes Green to encourage students to think about their ideal meal and will be running a recipes series using seasonal products as well as a podcast on sustainable emergency provision.

Since the presentation on Ecohub, GUEST have been consulting with UoG societies about the proposal and these findings will be reported to the next SWG.

6 Dear Green Bothy Report

MD gave an overview of the report that was circulated at the previous meeting. Marking Glasgow's hosting of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, the Dear Green Bothy was a programme of free public events and activities demonstrating the vital role played by the arts and humanities in understanding and addressing climate emergency. Events ran from the end of June to the end of COP with lots of partnerships with external organisations, with an international flavour to it. Most events were online but some took place in person. The College of Arts is now evaluating the programme and reflecting on the legacy of this work and how it continues to make activities engaging but also useful for our research and teaching. MD urged the SWG members to look at the website and provide feedback.

7 Centre for Sustainable Solutions

CfSS has been facilitating discussions with Green New Deal students and staff about their 60 demands. Glasgow as a Living Lab Accelerating Novel Transformation (GALLANT) launches in February and will use Glasgow as a living lab to trial new sustainable solutions throughout the city, taking a whole-systems approach.

CfSS has been involved in conversations with two global programmes, 'Cities with Nature' and 'Urban by Nature', which were originally set up through a Connecting Nature Horizons 2020 European grant. The funding is coming to end in May but the 'Urban by Nature' programme is continuing and is essentially a number of global regional hubs bringing nature-based solutions into cities.

The Centre is leading a co-creation of a City Portrait, in collaboration with Glasgow City Council, C40 Cities and the Doughnut Economics Action Lab, bringing together a number of communities and stakeholders in workshops to set viable targets and indicators on how we move forward. This was launched at COP26 as a partnership initiative that the city is taking forward, and JT will join a panel in February to highlight specifically how the university and city partnerships can come together to achieve practical goals.

The upskilling courses now have over 500 learners and CfSS is developing a new course 'Bridging the Commitment Gap to Net Zero'. This has been picked up by Future Learn who have asked CfSS to develop 7 online courses specially to meet needs of global marketing and to help with mainstreaming climate education, specifically feeding into upskilling course and masters courses across the UoG.

8 Any other Business

A question was asked if there were plans to consult on the Carbon Plan or other plans and how the wider university community would be involved. The Strategy was published in December 2020 and elements from the carbon plan will be revised and taken to Court. In the meantime, in-depth conversations with students through the Green New Deal coalition will need to feed in as well as work done on the carbon management plan. Overall, a wider engagement on the strategy, where we are so far, and how we might move forward could take place later this semester.

9 SWG meeting dates 2022:

13 April

8 June

3 August

5 October

7 December