

UCCcfs Annual Report 2011

1. *How you have enhanced your learning and teaching through the provision of skills, modules and courses?*

With "Sustainability and the Environment" identified as one of the key themes for the University's development (see below) increasing attention is being paid to this area of our teaching. Internal re-organisation has created a School of the Environment, linking Geography, Town and Regional Planning and Architecture. This will facilitate the linking of existing teaching in these fields and the exploration of new opportunities, e.g. this School is heavily involved in discussions on a new programme in Marine Spatial Planning. Postgraduate programmes in climate change, renewable energy and advanced sustainability of the built environment have become fully established, as well as individual modules across many programmes, e.g. an LLM module in sustainable development. Sustainability literacy is also being actively pursued as an element of the institution-wide Employability initiative.

More specifically, the University has been undertaking a project on Education for Sustainable Development in the Professional Curriculum, supported by the Higher Education Academy. This project has taken advantage of the many undergraduate programmes at Dundee that are accredited by statutory and professional bodies to explore the extent to which education for sustainable development features as part of their accreditation requirements. Further work with each discipline has then investigated how staff are including sustainability issues in their teaching, or feel unable to include them because of the overriding need to work within the constraints of accreditation, and what support might be beneficial to enhance this area of our provision. An internal symposium and network established as part of this project will form the basis of wider efforts to bring together the many staff whose work includes element of sustainability, and a conference on Education for Sustainable Development in the Professional Curriculum is being held in April 2011, with contributions from academic staff at Dundee and other institutions, students and employers. The project has also formed the hub for the establishment of a new Sustainability website with a section for information on courses as well as sections on research and estates issues and with a role as the focus a network of staff and students interested in this area. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/sustainability/>

2. *How you have promoted your research capacity and knowledge exchange activity in sustainability?*

The current Strategic Review of the University has identified "Sustainability and the Environment" as one of the key themes for the University's development in the near future and staff active in this area are being encouraged to work together. One specific initiative is the continuing development of the Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience (CECHR), a joint enterprise with the James Hutton Institute (formerly Scottish Crop Research Institute). This Centre brings together staff across a wide range of disciplines, and has already led to a number of substantial research grant applications. A particularly successful aspect of its work has been support for PhD students, with 10 currently working under its auspices, each with supervisors from two or more Schools within the University and Institute. The presentation of their work was a highlight of the annual symposium in late 2010, whilst CECHR organises the high-profile 'Global Futures' Distinguished Lecturer Programme. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/centres/cechr/>

Researchers in many disciplines play an active part in policy formulation and public engagement, e.g. giving evidence before parliamentary committees on biodiversity issues as new legislation proceeded, engaging in major research projects on the impact of flooding and attracting well-known speakers for public events.

The second Dundee Student Sustainability Showcase and conference (Ds3c) was held at the Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee in November. The event featured inspirational talks on a wide array of subjects, with the guest Speakers emphasizing this was not a Conference of clichés, but delivered a whole new angle of approach to topics within Sustainability. The speakers were:

- Dr. Keith Skene from the Biosphere Research Institute - Biological Sustainability.
- Dr. Rehema White from the University of St. Andrews - Sustainable Development.
- Geoffrey Wood from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law & Policy - Renewable Energy & UK Policy.

- Alex Hill from HM MET Office, Chief Advisor to Government in Scotland and Northern Ireland - Climate Change: People, Planet and Progress.

3. How you have reduced your carbon emissions - cutting energy consumption and substituting energy sources?

The University to date has carried out ad-hoc energy awareness but is now about to formalise the approach with the use of on-line modules for staff/students to complete. These are to be prepared by an external consultant. It is hoped that this will help reduce overall footprint by 3-5%.

A number of small/medium projects have taken place including:

- Time-switch controls fitted to both vending machines and office equipment
- Individual building energy audits

A new programme of targeted improvement works is just starting with more medium to large projects proposed to take place:

- AMR installation to replace existing meters
- A new heat store to offset the dumping of heat at the boilerhouse.
- Voltage optimisation at a University building (trial for replication if successful)
- Swimming Pool cover
- VSD's, to Air handling units at Life Sciences Building
- SavaWatt controls on University labs freezers and fridges (trial for replication if successful)
- Natural / Mechanical cooling for data centre to offset Air Conditioning

The above are due for completion prior to 31st March 2011.

Future large scale projects being considered are:

- A 4th CHP engine (the University current has 3 * 1 MW Jenbacher engines)
- Solar thermal and Solar PV installations.

At this early stage it is impossible to measure the Carbon savings achieved but we hope to have more robust figures to send at the next reporting stage.

4. How you have encouraged waste reduction, recycling and responsible disposal?

Last year we set up a halls recycling project. We invited students to take to designated recycling sites (drop off points) everything usable to recycle, which they would otherwise discard. There was a RAGBAG box for textiles with monies raised being returned to Student Halls Committees and various boxes for specific items---Pots and Pans, Crockery, Cutlery, Kitchen Utensils, Electrical Items, Unopened food packets and Tins. Items were then offered to new students in September free of charge on first come first serve basis. Due to the success of this we are making it an annual event. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/student-services/supportworker/recycle.htm>

We have established a green campus map showing where you can recycle and what can be recycled. Click on 'green campus' button for your nearest recycling point on campus: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/general/campusmap/>

Over the summer we hope to remove all desk bins to be replaced with a central recycling point in all offices. This point will have a bin for plastics, cans, paper & card, and a general waste bin.

We conducted a waste audit this year to compare with an audit conducted in 2009, we are still in the process of analysing the data.

I am working with our procurement office and I.T. department in setting up an internal reuse site for staff, for re-use of office furniture, stationary and some electrical goods.

We set a recycling target of 5%/annum, 3 years ago, and every year we meet or exceed this target. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/energy&environment/recyclingfigures/>. During academic year 2009-10 our recycling rate was 40%.Our range of items that are recycled increases every year. See link: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/recycling/recyclinganddisposalofwaste/>

5. How you have delivered sustainable estate development – through both maintenance and capital programme?

- Pitched Roofs Insulated with Earth Wool (BREEAM 'A' rated) as part of our backlog maintenance programme in 12 buildings.
- Installation of lighting improvement projects as part of both electrical maintenance and refurbishment programmes. Last year we replaced all lighting in our library to T5's and fitted PIR and daylight sensors.
- This year we are targeting our main admin block-Tower Building and Fulton building (engineering) as part of our lighting upgrade programme.
- Replacement of bottles water chillers with P.O.U. (mains fed) water chillers,(saving 50 tonnes/annum)
- Replaced ill-fitting and damaged windows in a number of buildings.
- New life sciences building to achieve a BREEAM rating of 'Excellent'
- Roll out programme of fitting insulation in roof spaces across campus

6. How you have achieved sustainable and active travel through sustainable travel Planning?

We are now on our 2nd Green Travel Plan, 2009- 2014, having met or exceeded targets from our previous 5-year travel plan.

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/media/dundeewebsite/estates/documents/energyenvironment/travelplan.pdf> We actively promote sustainable travel and are members of www.dundeeliftshare.com where we have our own dedicated section for university staff and students. We currently have over 350 members and last year introduced new dedicated car parking spaces exclusively for liftsharers. Liftsharers can also share the cost of a parking permit between cars. Students are not allowed to park on campus and in their welcome packs and student handbooks we actively encourage students not to bring a car as it is not necessary to get about in Dundee, with main campus only a 5 minute walk from the city centre.

Last year in conjunction with Dundee Travel Active (Smarter Choices, Smarter Places government funding) we offered students a >£400 bike and all accessories (lock, helmet, lights) for £75, <http://www.bikeboost.org/dundeearuni>, all they had to do was keep a diary showing their bike miles over a 6 week period. We have increased bike parking and bike usage, for both staff and students by over 300 % in the last 2 years. We also pay a staff business mileage rate to cyclists of 20p/ mile, to encourage staff to cycle on short trips. We have set up a bike pool with 5 bikes to choose from. These bikes have been used for short trips to one of our other campuses (Ninewells), trips to our Botanic gardens and lunchtime cycle runs off campus. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/energy&environment/bikepool/>

During freshers week we run cycle classes for students, where they can use the pool bikes for classes and trips around Dundee. Classes are also run all year as part of our staff development programme. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/ppd/courses/mpd/#d.en.8423> .

A recent initiative that we have recently set up is a 'pool van' whereby staff from any department can borrow a van for as little as 30 minutes. This is strictly for University business use and saves departments booking vans for whole days, or in some cases departments can get rid of their van which was only being used for a couple of hours a week. <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/estates/facilities/vehiclebookingform/#d.en.40653>

7. How you have engaged with suppliers / service providers on responsible procurement of good and services?

The Procurement Office manages central contracting on behalf of the University. It does this through a combination of work streams.

Procurement works in collaboration with Scottish Public Sector via Procurement Scotland and within the Higher and Further Education sector via APUC (Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges). Further, the Procurement Office works in a regional collaboration with Tayside Public Sector and this includes, NHS Tayside, the Councils of Dundee, Angus and Perth & Kinross and University of Abertay. This has been a successful venture that has also brought APUC and Scotland Excel representatives into its meetings and there is far more collaboration regionally than previously.

The University's Procurement Office also works to put in place individual requirements to fit the University's needs where there is no collaborative opportunity.

When tendering for goods and services, whether through collaboration or as an individual institution, Corporate Social Responsibility is important as an award criterion. Documentation is scrutinised to ensure compliance and site visits, audits and spot checks are carried out as necessary. Regular review meetings are held throughout the length of a contract, where this is a University contract it will be dealt with by the Procurement Office, where this is a collaborative contract, the organisation leading the procurement will chair the reviews with input from individual institutions.

In order to engage with suppliers to ensure a competitive supply base, the Procurement Office has held exhibitions and taken part in Meet the Buyer and Meet the Supplier events. This is a strategy that will continue.

In addition, the Procurement Office was engaged (via the Procurement Strategy Group for Universities) in the construction of standardised documentation for public sector use when tendering, to ensure that questions concerning sustainability of supply and responsible procurement were asked in a way that was understandable.

The Procurement Office is also actively engaged in analysing its supplier base and is always seeking to work with the University's most critical suppliers and also those where the majority of spend is. In this way, the Procurement Office is able to target its resources to better manage responsible procurement.

We are currently working with our students association to affiliate with 'Workers Rights Consortium' (WRC). The WRC is an independent organisation set up by students that monitors whether university suppliers are exploiting workers and violating their human rights.