

## Sustainability Forum – Meeting Notes

Held on: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 13:30 – 15:00 - TEAMS

### Attendance & Apologies

**Attendees:** Paulo Cruz – Chair, Kathleen Campbell, Mary Daly, Yvonne McVey, Sara McLean, Gillian Hunter, Karin Helwig, Nicholas Healy, Yvonne Dempsie, Douglas Chalmers

**Apologies:** Jessica Michael- Odobi, James McKenna, Christopher Baird, and Julie Adair, Sonya Campbell-Perry, Therese Fraser, Stuart Martin, Shariq Sheikh, Andrea Nelson, Nicole Cooke, Valentine Morgan, John Mavileth, David Halliday, Richard McAvoy,

**Attending:** Joanna Healy (JH) (Clerk) – Admiration Assistant GCU

### Notes from the previous meeting

Notes from previous meeting – Approved

### Updates – Sustainability Officer

Specialist consultant has completed an audit of **energy saving and carbon cutting opportunities** and the University's Estates, Finance and Procurement Teams are reviewing options for operationalising recommendations.

Further to the announcement at the previous meeting of GCU's successful funding application to Cycling Scotland for a **Campus Cycling Officer (CCO)**, the Sustainability Officer confirmed that the CCO has been appointed and will be in post until April 2023. The CCO will be focusing on promoting active travel to campus and updating the University's cycling plan. She will also help with the 2022 Travel Survey and support the potential development of the bicycle loan scheme reported at the previous meeting.

**GCU SmartTravel Advisors** have been appointed and will begin engaging with students in the week commencing 12/9/2022 for approx. three weeks. It is anticipated that they will also support the **2022 Travel Survey** planned for October.

On the theme of funding, the Sustainability Officer informed the Forum that the University had been successful in its application to Business Stream's (the University's water supplier) **Water Efficiency Fund** for £10,000 support to purchase low flow taps for the SAF Library. The low flow taps will use around 10% of the water of existing tab.

The University and GCU Students' Association achieved a **1 Star award in the Fairtrade Universities and Colleges Award**. This award recognised the University's long-standing commitment to Fairtrade (<2012) and was only possible thanks to input from a multitude of stakeholders. A progress report and plan are available from the fairtrade section of the sustainability pages.

The **Food for Life Served Here** evaluation is still on-going, but BaxterStorey' expectation is to achieve Silver.

SO noted that work continues to **carbon footprint the catering offer** and with a new tool (Klimato) being used to inform conversations about menu development and ingredient substitution. The SO gave a brief demonstration of the tool and its functionality.

Since the last SF meeting, the SO has been focusing on: reviewing PPUL and appealing where appropriate; preparing the annual Green Metric UI submission; preparing the annual greenhouse gas inventory (carbon footprint) to report to EB and Scottish Government.

Working with colleagues to support the **decarbonisation of the University's fleet**, with visits to and meetings with suppliers of vehicles and charge points. The next step will be an infrastructure fund application for charge points and an EB paper for setting out criteria for using charge points.

Our thinking is very much informed by the transport hierarchy and whilst we think that EV are better than ICE, we should still seek to promote more active travel and less car travel (and this aligned with the Glasgow City Council's vision for the city centre).

Working with a number of partners, to launch **GCU's Yoyo Cup Library** during Climate Week 2022. 200 million disposable cups used in Scotland every year, but only 1 in 400 recycled/composted. At GCU ([2018 – Waste Composition Analysis](#)) paper cups account for 4.6% of our general waste, with a [survey by GCU Students' Association](#) revealing that many of the 60% of students that use single-use cups do so because they forget their own re-useable mugs. Yoyo Cups will help address these issues. Yoyo Cups will help reduce this waste by providing an alternative for people that do not want to use single use cups but do not have a re-useable mug. Yoyo Cups save 44g CO2 per use and are carbon neutral after just 8 uses. The ambition is that the pilot at GCU (which will start with 500 cups) will provide a stepping stone for city and national adoption.

Other activity for **Climate Week** will include a pledge drive to encourage staff to fly less to business destinations that can be reached by train in 6 hours (GCU's #myclimatepledge). There will also be a drive to promote the use of electric vehicles for business trips.

## Updates – Other

- **Library Update (Nick Healy)** -- Stationery Station launching in the library this week and will offer surplus stationary to students/staff for free. Another live project a mapping of library activity contrition to SDG. New relax & renew area in operation (set-up with re-used furniture, Glasgow wood recycling for tables and planters, local plant nurseries).
- **GCU Students Association (Sara MacLean)** -- Green Impact Score – Excellent – 4th year in a row. Thanked for support from Group. (**Jessica Michael-Odobi**) World Clean-Up Day project update: Applied for a grant to do a clean-up in (a) Loch Lomond or (b) around GCU. If they don't get a grant they will focus on option (b). (Sara MacLean) Students' Association looking to set up a Community Fridge/Larder. Enquired what happens to food waste from restaurant and whether there was option to giving it out as food vouchers (but would need to determine eligibility criteria). Sustainability Officer (SO) noted that potential to re-distribute food would be determined by food safety/hygiene considerations. SO also noted that caterers were exploring making un-sold items available through the Too Good to Go App.
- **Strategy & Planning (Mary Daly)** – THE Impact Ranking (the only world-wide ranking looking at University Contribution to SDG) submission would begin 9-11/10/2022 and assistance from the members of the Forum might be required.
- **LEAF (Gillian Hunter/Yvonne Dempsie)** – Secured funding from Strategy for Learning for 3 Students to work through LEAF framework. Labs generate a lot of waste and consume a lot of energy. LEAF helps reduce some of these impacts. Going to start a green students group (drawing on the student staff consultative groups) to identify small projects to progress to silver and eventually gold.
- **Yvonne Dempsie (Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences)** noted that they would be looking for honours students will have to write a reflective piece on the sustainability of their project. Also looking at 2 hounours students doing 2 projects.
- **Karin Helwig (Department of Civil Engineering and Environmental Management)** – Noted that she would still be leading on the managed learning project for the Environment Management Programme and that today's discussion generates lots of ideas.

## Planned Activity

Regarding planned activity for the months ahead, the SO noted the following:

- Working with the Procurement Team on the "Supply Chain Climate Action Programme" to develop an understanding of the University's supply chain, it's acknowledgement of the Climate Emergency and how this is considered in the University's procurement process.
- Exploring EV charge points to enable the electrification of the University's fleet (an action in the Sustainable Travel Plan).
- A consultation on the University's Biodiversity Plan will be launched imminently.
- Travel to London to attempt to boost response rates for the 2022 Travel Survey.
- Attending the EAUC Conference in Nov. in Loughborough.
- Updating EMS documentation ahead of the internal audit (anticipated for Nov – Dec 2022).

## AOCB

None.

Date of Next Meeting

TBC.