

17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

*For information.*

**Sustainability Strategy Group Annual Report**

**1. Introduction**

This report summarises the progress made by the Sustainability Team working with staff and students to embed sustainability across the University over the past 18 months. The report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, so that the report is up to date. Data is reported for the 2014/15 academic year, as reported as part of the Estates Management Return (EMR).

Overall, there has been much to celebrate over this period, but progress against the carbon reduction target has been reversed for the first time since 2010 and this result is a real cause of concern.

ULT members are asked to circulate the report to their staff for information.

**2. Energy/ Carbon emissions (2014/15)**

**a. Carbon emissions**

A comparison of BU's carbon emissions from, 2013/14 to 2014/15 shows an increase in the emissions, due to increases in electricity and gas consumption and a significant increase in the UK carbon conversion factor for grid electricity.

BU CO2 Emissions	2014/15	2013/14
Total	7,680 tCO2	6,898 tCO2
Breakdown:		
Buildings	94%	93.51%
Transport	4.77%	5.38%
Water & Waste	1.12%	1.12%

Overall carbon emissions declined by about 7% compared to the 2005/06 baseline and shows BU is off track in meeting the 40% reduction target by 2020/21.

The CMP has been refreshed to provide a framework for working towards the 40% reduction target by 2020/21. A feasibility study identified projected changes to the estate (investment in new builds/divestment from old buildings) together with investment in low carbon projects could deliver 28% saving against the baseline. However, it is recognised there is a high risk this target will not be achieved given BU's growth aspirations and the uncertainties around the future of the UK's electricity grid carbon conversion factors. In addition, following further feasibility studies, it appears there is now no business case for installing an energy centre and district heating system for TC, and which were expected to deliver most of the 40% saving.

The annual Carbon Management Plan progress report together with the refreshed CMP will be presented to the BU Board, via SSG and ULT.

## **b. Renewables**

In 2014/15, onsite renewable energy production was 2.9% of total energy usage; down from 4.25% in 2013/14. This was due to reduced operation of the biomass boiler as a result of works to the Student Centre, although PV output increased by 753% with the SC array coming on line.

## **c. Energy use and utility costs**

Energy usage is down 8% from our baseline year 2005/6.

The total of BU's buildings carbon emissions breakdown per Campus is as follows:

- TC = 60%
- LC = 38%
- Remote sites = 2%

Total Utility Costs for 2014/15 was over £1.75m.

- Electric = £1.26m (72%)
- Gas = £250k (14%)
- Water = £242k (14%)

## **3. EcoCampus**

In December 2015, BU achieved the EcoCampus Platinum Award and ISO14001 certification for its environmental management system (EMS); one of only 15 higher education institutions in the UK to achieve this dual status. This is a tremendous achievement and is the reward for a lot of hard work over the past 7 years by staff and students.

The certifications were awarded following a comprehensive on-site audit by the external auditors NQA, which included site inspections on both campuses, interviews with staff from across a range of functions, and a thorough review of procedures and documentation.

The auditors commended BU on the substantial effort that has been put into the implementation of the management system. They were also impressed with the level at which sustainability has been embedded into the strategic direction of the University and the work that the University has undertaken in proactive environmental initiatives. However, the auditors pointed out this is the start of the journey and BU will need to continue to demonstrate how it effectively manages both its positive and negative impacts on the environment.

The Sustainability Team will now investigate the work required to update the EMS so it meets the requirements of the new ISO14001:2015 standard, which was launched in autumn 2015. BU has just under three years to transfer across to the new standard.

## **4. Education for Sustainable Development**

Professor Chris Shiel and Dr Neil Smith presented at the November ESEC on 'Sustainable Development – the responsibility of our colleagues in Estates, or an educative agenda?'. The key headlines from the discussion were:

- a. the provision of sustainability staff development through the PG Cert module and/or provide lunchtime training sessions in order to introduce the change in staff culture which would be passed on to students;
- b. the Green Task Force providing workshops for staff and students to attend which in turn would have a good impact within the University;
- c. strengthening guidance for programme development;
- d. raising awareness of sustainability and how to promote the legacy messages on the hoardings which currently border the new Fusion Building 1;
- e. consideration of brave and bold statements and initiatives for sustainability e.g. a possible bottle free campus.

The ESEC Chair hoped that the sustainability message could be driven forward effectively across the University community, and members were requested to disseminate this essence of the discussion across the University.

Further work includes:

- a. Launch of Sustainable Development – Faculty Competition to encourage academic colleagues to share their examples of how well are we doing in the curriculum and extra-curricular sphere. The winning faculty will win £75 to donate to a charity of their choice. The runner up will receive £25 for their chosen charity. Applications need to be submitted by 5pm on Tuesday 19 April;
- b. Launch of the NUS Dissertations for Good initiative which partners students with organisations to collaborate on dissertations into economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- c. Sustainability workshop with student Faculty representatives on Wednesday 3rd February 2016;
- d. Professor Chris Shiel introduced the concept of sustainable development as part of the Global Talent programme;
- e. Submission of paper to Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom Manchester, 5th & 6th April 2016 entitled: 'An Integrative approach to Sustainable development within a university: a step-change to extend progress on multiple fronts', by Professor Chris Shiel and Dr Neil Smith, Sustainability Manager.

## 5. Travel Plan

### a. Student Travel survey

A full student travel survey was undertaken in March 2015. 943 students took part in the survey. The proportion of students regularly travelling to university by car alone has decreased to 4% (compared to 7% in 2010); the 2018 target is 5%. The main mode of student travel is the bus (55%), followed by walking (31%) and cycling (6%). The survey revealed a significant growth in the proportion of students travelling by bus. This is a positive reflection on the investment in high frequency bus services and the introduction of the halls inclusive bus pass by the university. The survey has revealed that awareness of student related Travel Plan measures varies between different initiatives. The pre-arrival information that students receive is an important tool for getting students to consider their travel behaviour.

### b. BU for Bus

During 2014/15 the university invested in a number of enhancements to the 'Bus for BU' service, including increased capacity on the U1 and U4; Increased frequency on the U2 service to provide a 30 minute frequency; the introduction of a U3 vacation service to help staff get to work. The number of passenger trips on the 'Bus for BU' service increased by 17% in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.

### **c. Cycling**

In April, the university introduced a cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme for staff. To date 32 staff members have benefited from the scheme. The university has continued to promote a wide range of cycle initiatives and events to make cycling more attractive to students and staff. Free bike servicing and security tagging, provision of subsidised D locks, cycle safety promotions and the participation in the local and national Momentum Cycle challenges have all helped to promote cycling as a sustainable travel mode.

### **d. Walking**

Over 50 staff took part in the Walk to Work week 2015 event. An increase of 67% compared to the previous year. This was the highest workplace participation rate in the conurbation.

### **e. Car use**

In 2015 the Travel Plan implemented a car club corporate membership. This allows staff access to a designated pool vehicle at Talbot Campus for business travel. Lansdowne based staff can access a number of public car club vehicles for business travel through the corporate membership. The use of personal vehicles for off campus business travel was identified as significant barrier to sustainable travel by a number of staff.

The BU private lift share group has increased by 40 members in 2015.

The introduction of an automated annual staff parking permit application process was agreed by the Travel Plan Group to help the management of university car parks and was introduced in January 2016.

## **6. Sustainable procurement and waste management**

The Procurement team is working towards level 4 of the national Flexible Framework, which sets out stages to embed the principles of sustainable procurement when buying goods and services. The team has developed ethical standards for procurement to provide guidance on how BU expects its suppliers to behave towards their staff and the environment. They are also leading to sign BU up to support the Workers' Rights Consortium and Electronics Watch; two organisations who campaign for better working conditions across the world.

The Team also use Defra's risk analysis tool to assess the environmental and ethical risks associated with spend categories and provides a summary of where our efforts are best focused to make the most of our influence and expenditure to reduce our risk profile.

BU has implemented a comprehensive recycling scheme and recycled 67% of waste by the end of July 2015, thus achieving the 65% recycling target. The Sustainability Team has started rolling out food waste recycling and this will help increase recycling rates further.

The 'SCAG' consortium, comprising seven universities – Bournemouth, AUB, Southampton, Winchester, Solent, Portsmouth and Southampton City College – tendered for a new recycling contract and Sita were successful in winning the five year contract. The change over between contractors was extremely smooth, with few operational issues.

The Sustainability Team has produced a Sustainable Procurement and Waste Management Plan to drive better buying decisions to reduce the amount of waste produced and encourage more reuse/recycling of the waste produced.

## **7. Benchmarking**

BU came 7<sup>th</sup> in the 2015 People and Planet (a student-led campaign group) University League. This is a great result for BU and reflects a lot of hard work to compile the information. It also demonstrates BU's strong commitment to embedding sustainability across the institution.

People and Planet has just announced they will run the University League between April and June 2016. This is another opportunity for BU to demonstrate its commitment and maintain its position in the Top 10 Universities in the UK.

In addition, AUDE commissioned the development of an Estate's focused Green Scorecard and this will be launched at their conference in April 2016.

## **8. Ethical investment**

There is growing pressure on the sector to divest from fossil fuel industries. In November 2015, SSG recommended BU divest from Rio Tinto to demonstrate its commitment to do so. The decision to divest will be presented to the Finance and Resource Committee in April for approval and it is hoped ULT will endorse this decision.

## **9. Sustainable food**

In February 2016, Chartwell's achieved the Food for Life silver award, which shows their commitment to providing healthier food on TC and is the company's only outlet to achieve this award level?. They are also aiming to achieve the Bronze award for the LC in the future.

BU successfully applied to the FairTrade Foundation to retain its FairTrade status. This means BU has been a FairTrade University for 10 years. There will be a programme of events to celebrate this achievement.

## **10. Awareness and Engagement**

The Sustainability Team continues to work with a range of stakeholders using a variety of media channels and events to raise awareness and engage with staff and students on sustainability matters. The staff intranet portal has been completely revised to provide a better resource for staff, although further revision is needed to make the content more accessible. Work is also planned to review the student portal and external website.

The Team continue to work closely with SUBU and the Green Taskforce to engage with students and supported Green Week in November 2015, which covered the themes of energy, water, waste, food, and transport.

The Team also continue to support and encourage the Staff Sustainability Ambassadors to deliver local sustainability initiatives.

The Team has linked up with the NUS to run two engagement programmes:

- a. Student switch-off – student's in halls compete in energy saving activities and quizzes to win prizes, such as Ben & Jerry's ice cream.
- b. Green Impact – staff teams implement a range of sustainability activities over a four month period to achieve awards. BU students will be trained to audit their evidence. There will be an award ceremony on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 to celebrate the teams' achievements. This event will be organised by SUBU as they will be awarding certificates to their green champions.

## **11. Biodiversity**

In 2015, BU commissioned Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to review BU's Biodiversity Policy and prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to help drive the maintenance, enhancement and creation of habitats for people and wildlife to enjoy. A Biodiversity Group is revising the Policy and developing the BAP.

## **12. Policies**

The Sustainability Policy was approved by ULT on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The following supporting policies were reviewed and approved by SSG on 9th January 2015:

- Biodiversity Policy
- Sustainable Food Policy

The FairTrade Policy is currently being reviewed by the Fair Trade Steering Group.

The Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable IT Policies were approved by SSG on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, respectively.

All environmental policies are available on the staff intranet (<https://staffintranet.bournemouth.ac.uk/aboutbu/policiesprocedures/>).

## **13. Sustainability Team**

Victoria Schindel joined the team on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 as the Sustainability Support Officer, and the first graduate in the role on a one year placement. The plan is to offer the post each year to a graduate to give them experience of working on sustainability projects and provide the team with new ideas and enthusiasm. Victoria is a BU graduate.