

Date: 30th May 2024
Time: 10:30am – 3:30pm
Venue: Forth Valley College, Falkirk Campus



MINUTES
Smaller Institutions Sustainability Meeting: Spotlight on Climate Risk

Attendees:

- Lara Fahey (EAUC)
- Matt Woodthorpe (EAUC)
- Rory Hill (EAUC and CSSCP)
- Martin Webb (Edinburgh College)
- Robert Hewitt (Borders College)
- John Clark (Glasgow Clyde College)
- Kathleen Harper (Ayrshire College)
- Lisa Keegans (Ayrshire College)
- Paula White (West Lothian College)
- Pauline Donaldson (Forth Valley College)
- Jackie Beresford (Dundee and Angus College)
- Claire McCulloch (SRUC)
- Arlene Barclay (SRUC)
- Victoria Tierney (West Lothian College)
- Sarah Shea (Glasgow Kelvin College)
- Haley Williamson (Fife College)
- Naomi Wadsworth (Fife College)

Apologies:

- Aoife Keenan (Scottish Funding Council)
- Marcelle McLaughlin (West College Scotland)
- John Walker (Queen Margaret University)

[Session resources and video recording of Jonny Casey's presentation](#) can be found on the Sustainability Exchange.

Item	Summary of Discussions	Actions
1	Welcome <i>Lara Fahey, EAUC Scotland</i> Introductions Everyone was invited to introduce themselves and share what currently interests them about transport and/or what brought them to the meeting.	

	<p>Context setting:</p> <p>Matt gave a talk about the legislative context for institutional adaptation action and an overview of SSN PBCCD analysis reporting. Generally, institutions are behind other public sector bodies in their responses to the adaptation section. A significant number were also reporting mitigation measures in the adaptation section, suggesting a lack of understanding and/or action in the sector.</p>	
2	<p>Workshop 1 Fife College presentation on the Dunfermline Learning Campus (DLC). <i>Naomi Wadsworth, Sustainability Coordinator, Fife College.</i></p> <p>Naomi explained that their newbuild DLC was designated a pathfinder project for the adaptation section of the Net Zero Public Sector Building Standard. Naomi, as the Inclusive Net Zero Champion, then led the work liaising between the relevant parties to make it happen.</p> <p>DLC was the first project Balfour Beattie (Construction Company) had worked on to explicitly ask for adaptation measures to be built in. This meant that Naomi had quite a lot of communication work to do as some of the people she was liaising with initially thought she was 'crazy'. Naomi however was resilient to these perceptions and called in external expertise from Sniffer to back up her claims and rigorously researched projected climate scenarios to evidence what she was calling for. Fife has already experienced two 1-in-700-year rainfall events in the last three years, so it is only going to get worse.</p> <p>Some benefits included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They now know what the softening point of the tarmac is. - Initiatives overlap with health and wellbeing, biodiversity and natural teaching goals. - Scottish Futures Trust are more clued into adaptation now. <p>Some challenges have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting planning permission for non-native plants was difficult. - Current building standards aren't enough – need to go further. They lag approximately 12 – 20 years behind the science. - Having to communicate complex science to a wide range of audiences. <p>Update: You can now listen to a Fife College podcast on adaptation via Spotify. The podcast features Jonny Casey from Sniffer.</p> <p>Q+A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was your biggest challenge? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Financial challenges e.g. having to go for a smaller rainwater attenuation tank due to cost. o Onboarding process – getting folks to understand what they wanted – very helpful to have Jonny and Cat from Sniffer back up the arguments. - What mitigation measures did you implement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Treated windows – limited heat getting through south 	<p>See Naomi's presentation on the Sustainability Exchange for more detailed insights.</p> <p>Or contact Naomi via email if you have any questions: naomiwadsworth@fife.ac.uk</p>

	<p>facing windows. No heat generators (e.g. computer labs) in south facing rooms, or exam halls (students could face heat exhaustion affecting results).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What measures are you implementing for existing campuses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Drainage surveys have been arranged. In Kirkaldy this is a particular issue with pipes from the surrounding area backing up. Might need to install valves on sewage pipes. Rainfall backing up is okay(ish), sewage is not. Serious health issue when that happens, harder to clean up. - Comment: Flooding at Edinburgh College – all the nice decorative bark mulch floated down the drain and blocked it up during high rainfall event. 	
3	<p>Workshop 1 General discussion</p> <p>In this section we covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences of climate risk so far • Troubleshooting issues • Pre-event survey questions • What should EAUC cover next? <p>Topics folks wanted to discuss from the sign in sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do we maintain momentum on adaptation in the longer term? - How do we engage others with adaptation? - How do we form an adaptation plan after the risk register? - How to implement diverse risk register for a large/complex estate? - SNR engagements from high level to detail <p>Notes from the conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More practical tools are needed now. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o One tool that would be useful is a tool for gutters e.g. use the roof size area and different rainfall scenarios and plan accordingly. Note: this could be a potential EAUC action, however this could be too technical for us. We're not engineers. o Risk Register is done, now need to figure out technical elements. - Guide on quick wins e.g. painting south facing walls white. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grasping what it *means* - communicating from a layperson's to a colleague's perspective. - The timing was opportune for Sarah to pitch to GKC because the campus had to close due to high winds. This helped buy in. - Carbon Literacy Training and adaptation is helpful. - Heatwave in June when students doing exams causing results to suffer. This could cause reputational damage if it keeps 	

happening. Communicating what matters to people (i.e. reputation).

- DLC – construction industry thinking they're 'crazy'. Have to be steadfast as the client and call in external support e.g. Sniffer.
- Some institutions, when there is extreme weather, just send out messages via Teams to let people what is going on.

Leadership

- Most adaptation action happens from the ground up, not the other way around. Senior management not grasping the urgency.
- Finding apathy amongst senior managers. They only do something in a reactive fashion i.e. when disaster strikes. Most maintenance is reactive at some institutions, even when there are regular flooding events.
- Finding that existing buildings are down the priority list for managers/budgets, but could potentially implement proactive action with a new building.
- Potential EAUC resource – the business case for adaptation. Include indicative costs for adaptation measures vs the cost of the cleanup.
- Carbon Literacy Training for board members – Fife College.
- Rory created a resource for senior management about bad things that could happen to students with increasing extreme weather. Hopes this will increase motivation to change. He will share this.

Governance

- How to expand and write our CRR adaptation action plan into project management architecture e.g. Gantt charts etc.
- Procedure – mitigation with sandbags. What do we do out of hours?
- Risk committee meetings – how to get invited?
- Business continuity – Servers down – IT – due to flooding of substation. At Dunfermline Learning Campus (DLC), they are putting the servers on the roof and have painted it white.

Partnership working:

- Share learning with Local Authorities and NGOs.
- SharePoint – Matt will set up to upload and share resources e.g. risk registers.
- Many adaptation issues are the remit of external organisations e.g. trunk road network closing/flooded, public transport delayed. Hard to get people home.
- Need to work with Transport Scotland and Local Authorities.

Miscellaneous points:

- DLC – ground slopes away from building, passes on risk to surrounding houses if not mitigated against.
- Edinburgh College had a 30 second power cut and it wreaked havoc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Question: what were the mitigation measures for high wind speeds? – Model scenarios. The future isn't fixed. Have to be comfortable with uncertainty. – SEPA Flood Maps. 6C Business as Usual (5C warming in Fife predicted). 8.5C Worst case scenario. 	
4	Lunch and Campus Tour Led by Gordon from Forth Valley College	
5	<p>Workshop 2 Jonny Casey, Head of Climate Ready Leadership, Sniffer</p> <p>*This session was recorded, please see the video for detailed insights*</p> <p>Jonny updated the group on the latest projections from the Met Office. He also said how important it is to act in a more precautionary manner. A new flood scheme in Wirral was breached by flood water only a few weeks after it was built.</p> <p>He also updated us on some of the new resources coming up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adaptation Capability Framework to be revised in November. - Starter pack will be updated soon too – November. - How to best communicate with senior leaders – will be published later this year. - PSCAN network is looking to expand. - Start of 2025 – new community resources will be made available. - New small business resources (good for sharing with any local suppliers your institution works with). - There will also be a big learning and action event later in the year. Look out for more information on this when it is released. <p>Key resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Glasgow City Region Climate Vulnerability Map 2022. Intersectional effects of climate vulnerability. Blue = flooding, Red = heating, Green = green space. Borders around socially deprived areas. Can see where the overlaps are. – Climate Ready Clyde and Taipei – urban greening for heat resilient neighbourhoods. – Tayside – Design HOPES – Dundee and Strathclyde. – Climate FORTH – Skills for climate resilience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/about/climate-ready-forth - https://www.sniffer.org.uk/news/land-based-adaptation-skills-research-for-inner-forth-futures – Land Use and Climate Change Adaptation in Scotland – Insights 2023 (PDF). – Climate Ready School Grounds resources. Practical actions. Architecture and Design Scotland. 	<p>Contact Jonny Casey if you have further questions: Jonny@sniffer.org.uk</p>
6	Roundtable updates:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glasgow Clyde College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sub-brand 'Think every day action' o Energy efficiency scheme closed – hopefully back in October o CDN road map – coming to the end of this, want to create a new plan - Edinburgh College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2024 marks the end of the current strategy. o For the updated strategy, want to create more of an action plan, less of a strategy. o Heat pump is currently being built. - Glasgow Kelvin College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Risk register o Where does the adaptation plan go in the rest of the climate strategy? In the appendix? Where does the biodiversity strategy go too? o Student engagement and funding bids o Momentum o Hedgehog week very successful and made everyone stop for a moment and admire the hedgehogs - Fife College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Route to Net Zero project o Final report phase o Unsuccessful GPSEDs application – they didn't allow a hybrid heating system even for a heritage building o Podcast o Working with Greener Kirkaldy on plant-based menus o Climate Hub Climate Literacy Training (CLT) competition o CLT online - Forth Valley College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GPSEDs closing, so looking at other funding avenues o Step Count Challenge was very successful o Stirling campus held a clothing event – very successful. Lots of clothes still had labels. o Active travel team – led walks, route planning and risk assessments o Nordic walking classes very successful o Bike maintenance was successful, especially after they changed the time to run after classes ended at around 4pm/4:30pm. More popular. o CDN Active Travel awards - Borders College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hydraulic modelling for SHARC system - West Lothian College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cladding works o Building 4 work - CSSCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Applied for funding - SRUC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o New management, so a lot going on o Climate Action Plan runs out soon 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Hedgehog monitoring programme ○ Second Cycling Friendly Campus Award ○ Final stages of sustainable travel framework and biodiversity work ○ 5 campuses and 300 assets, only 2 staff to cover it all. - Ayrshire College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste, water, quick wins ○ Focus on buildings ○ Eco sensors being put in to monitor energy to look for where improvements could be made. They'll be in for a year. ○ Rainwater system ○ In December they had a huge water bill. Now the sensors will help pick up issues before they get out of hand. ○ Biomass system – more efficient, less pellets needed ○ Active Travel Hub Ayr is now the 'Green Health Hub'. In car park next to the river. - Lara (EAUC Scotland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wrapping up resources from Travel and Transport TSN and Waste Management TSN (and SISM) ○ Wrapping up aviation emissions reduction series with last blog to be published next week ○ Commuting survey, tool and guide to be published by end of July ○ Then I'll be working on Funding Register and Biodiversity Guides. ○ UK and Scotland conference session work too. - Matt (EAUC Scotland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Starting development of a PBCCD reporting guidance and resource pack (to be launched in Sept 2024) ○ Organising the EAUC Scotland conference (13th November, Edinburgh) - tickets to go on sale mid-July ○ Beginning process for next programme funding bid. 	
5	<p>AOB, Summary and EAUC update</p> <p><i>Lara Fahey, EAUC Scotland, Scotland Sustainability Project Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EAUC Scotland Conference will be held on 13th November this year at the University of Edinburgh, followed by the Green Gown Awards ceremony at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. Please do mark the date in your diaries. Further communications about this will be released soon. <p>Topics for future SISM events:</p> <p>If you have any topic or speaker suggestions, please do email the team at scotland@eauc.org.uk</p>	<p>Contact scotland@eauc.org.uk with ideas for future SISM discussion points.</p>
6	<p>Thanks and Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks to our speakers. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanks for the discussion and taking the time to share knowledge.- Resources will be shared in the summary email.- Please complete the feedback survey in your inboxes.	
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Minutes prepared by Lara Fahey, EAUC Scotland, June 2024