

**Date:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
**Time:** 9:45–13:00  
**Venue:** University of Edinburgh  
**Resources:** [Available here](#)

**MINUTES:**  
**Waste Management Topic Support Network Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Aaron Fraser	APUC	AF
Al Clark	University of St Andrews	AC
Brian McIlroy	University of Stirling	BM
Brian Strachan	Robert Gordon University	BS
Claire Roxburgh	University of the West of Scotland	CR
Jackie Beresford	Dundee & Angus College	JBe
Jill Burnett	EAUC-Scotland	JBu
Kate Fitzpatrick	University of Edinburgh	KF
Pauline Donaldson	Forth Valley College	PD
Paulo Cruz	Glasgow Caledonian University	PC
Sam Hartley	EAUC-Scotland	SH
Sam Woolhead	University of St Andrews	SWo
Sandy Whigham	University of Edinburgh	SWh
Sarah Ford-Hutchinson	University of Edinburgh	SFH
Spela Raposa	University of Strathclyde	SR
Stewart Miller	University of Glasgow	SM
Tracey Adamson	University of Stirling	TA
Trudy Cunningham	University of Dundee	TC

**Apologies:**

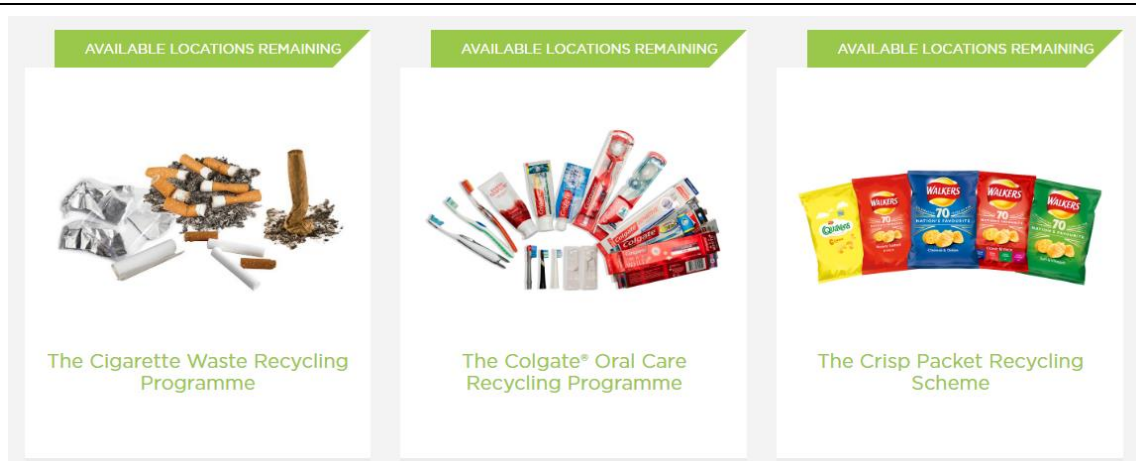
Suzanne Marshall                      College Development Network

	<b>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Introductions</b> <i>Trudy Cunningham, Co-Convener, University of Dundee</i></p> <p>Everyone was welcomed to the event and invited to introduce themselves to the room and share a waste project they are currently working on.</p> <p>SFH: Update recycling communications with students SM: Waste data from William Tracey KF: Re-tendered for general waste contract SW: Getting into buildings being refurbished to promote reuse TA: Student dissertation on recycling behavior BM: Engagement with students in residencies SWo: Student reuse scheme and town wide plastic free PD: Updating waste signage CR: Waste tender and reduce plastics JBe: Communications project on litter with local high school and Tesco PC: 3<sup>rd</sup> waste composition analysis – looking to improve food waste rates SR: Leading new waste contract and looking to improve catering AC: Plastic Free Strategy, recycling, composting &amp; reuse</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Reducing Single-Use Plastics</b> <i>Jackie Beresford Dundee &amp; Angus College</i></p> <p>Dundee &amp; Angus College (6,000 Full Time Students)</p> <p>Emphasis always been on recycling but trying to move away from single use. Bottles, containers all Vegware and compost on site. They are trying to encourage crockery and have put a charge on disposable containers. Blue Planet 2 increased interest so the College put together a short video which was shown to 80% of staff &amp; students. It showed beaches covered in plastic and the effects of that, prompted a lot of discussion in the College and everyone wanted to reduce disposables. First they looked at juice &amp; water bottles and have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased the amount of canned juice over bottled</li> <li>• installed water stations</li> </ul> <p>The college owns the shops however Catering Managers were unsure of the changes. Once Executive Management approved the plans however the college started the engagement activities. This involved holding a 'Prepare Me' event for new &amp; returning students, set up a table to communicate the idea and getting lots of positive feedback from staff &amp; students, giving out free useable cups and bottles. The petition they sent out got nearly 1,000 signatures in support. Admin e-mailed every student to let them know to bring their own bottle or buy one on campus. There were some complaints but none were made formally so not as bad as expected.</p>	<p>JBu to circulate video with minutes</p>

	<p>Since implementation the College have taken 150,000 disposable cups out of the system every year!</p> <p>Biodegradable alternatives to single-use such as vegware are not considered a good option unless you can compost, as 70% of food waste in Scotland goes to anaerobic digestion (AD). They are looking at deposit return trial next month and feel it is important to do the right thing as an education institution.</p> <p>TC: They now ask people to pay extra for cup at University of Dundee, not allowed to ban it as café run by Students Association (SA). Same at University of Stirling. Water is a huge income for Student Unions (SUs).</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Roundtable on Recycling Communications</b></p> <p>TC: Paper separate, plastic and cans mixed, paper towels can go in food waste in some areas, in SA different to University and very confusing (too much text) so lots of problems with packaging contamination. Drunk students cause a problem.</p> <p>SR: New waste contractor who can take more stuff. 59% back from general, first month was 37%. Strathclyde more interested in quality than quantity. They use Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) stickers which are plain and easy to read. Also leaflets for Freshers Week. Did trials with mixed waste and there was lots of contamination. Dry mixed recycling people don't understand but cans, bottles stickers work much better.</p> <p>BM: Viola guarantee 70% recycling rate at Stirling. Engagement with SU and residences to help at Stirling and a PHD student did a project on it</p> <p>SR: Residences are on campus but managed by LA and they only recycle plastic bottles.</p> <p>TC: Dundee Council wouldn't provide recycling bins so University provided them and paid for them with ragbag collections from the halls.</p> <p>CR: Problems with food recycling and coffee cups, lots of packaging in food and cups in paper these are the most contaminated streams.</p> <p>PC: In Waste Audit paper cups are 50% in paper and 50% in general waste</p> <p>KF: Uses a little sticker that said cups in general waste</p> <p>PC: Also do this but still have problems regardless of how well the information is presented</p> <p>SR: Cleaners often mess up the lids</p> <p>PC: Version 2 recycling. New bins are now specified with signboards (so that if bins get moved, relevant information goes with them).</p> <p>BM: Paper in with everything else but staff do collect paper separately. Also space dependent (same at University of Edinburgh) and lots of problems with pizza boxes.</p> <p>KF: From 2015 went for actual pictures. Co-mingled items, paper napkins and cups are most common problems, lots of people think other bin goes to landfill, do an A-Z campaign every few years to educate especially with international students who are used to more separation.</p> <p>TC: Halls of residents with international students at lowest rates and added pictures to communications which increased rates</p>	

	<p>KF: Problem with communications as so many students, increasing moving away from campaigns and more towards partnership with catering etc. as greater gains. University of Edinburgh doesn't collect food waste separately as too many buildings. Staff can get a caddy if they want but it will be their responsibility to empty it. Also not enough waste generated to justify it and the smell issues and lots of buildings not in use over weekend.</p> <p>PC: Driver to introduce food waste collection from staff kitchens as contractor was fining the University for contamination. Did a pilot and found that 3 empties a week was ok and provided spare bags in case of smell issues. Now emptied daily (despite no issues with odours/flyies).</p> <p>BM: Stirling gets fined a lot in the residencies. And can't offer food waste recycling for staff offices as cleaning staff won't empty. They tried to remove all desk bins from offices, but lots of pushback. At University of Edinburgh they have taken away desk bins and said it was to allow cleaners to do recycling and University of Dundee just took the desk bins away too.</p> <p>JBe: Took away desk bins and classroom bins too</p> <p>TC: The cleaners empty and also promote the active benefit of walking to a bin</p> <p>BS: Signs attached to bins and walls, operate the blue flip-top bins for paper going to work on engagement as no staff and low budget and lumped into estates so planning to work with student groups.</p> <p>KF: University of Edinburgh has a team of 80 Waste Co-ordinator volunteers, twice yearly meeting and emails communications.</p> <p>Conversation: Concern about the impact of Brexit. University of Dundee is buying in extra chemicals for Brexit and knock on effect on waste storage. University of St Andrews concerned that landfill costs will increase as all recycling goes to Ireland, University of Stirling all processed in the UK so not concerned.</p> <p>TC: Low level toxic waste has to go to landfill as can't be incinerated</p> <p>KF: Student accommodation separate contract, merged into one contract and need to be very careful with contracts, costs not that different to what they had before, contamination charges weren't noted previously and then the contract was severed as it was so expensive</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Overview of new APUC Waste Framework</b> <i>Aaron Fraser, APUC</i></p> <p>Current Framework Agreement ends 12 Dec and some members are sitting on User Intelligence Group (UIG). Currently 4 streams which seems to work well. Upcoming Framework still in development. Lots of market updates and a big push towards sustainability.</p> <p>APUC would like to know what FHE Sector would like. We have separated out the food waste – will that work? Separate confidential waste, circular economy etc.</p> <p>Next UIG in April</p>	<p>All: Email further comments to AF</p>

	<p>AC: University of St Andrews household waste charter – used a little in the last one, meeting with ZWS to discuss, currently out of contract and potentially looking to tender.</p> <p>KF: University of Edinburgh looking at feedback. Confidential is one that is out of contract and not going through the framework. Reuse definitely needs to be included but it's important to not specify who they use. Currently use Warp-It and the team are not keen on UniGreenScheme. Data is hugely important as we will all want data differently and in a useable format. Students often request data for dissertations.</p> <p>SM: Could we add a theme on repair?</p> <p>BM: What about supply chain with charity and schools? Stirling add reuse to the contract and it reduces the price as the contractor can sell things on</p> <p>KF: University of Edinburgh Partnership with Remade and CCL Ltd have agreed to reuse 30%.</p> <p>PC: Charities have fed back that they don't get access to free computers. At tender stage they could be asked to provide info on who they will work with.</p> <p>AC: Food waste, some contractors only have AD option so needs separated out from compostable.</p> <p>KF: Biffa are willing to collect Vegware separately for them for AD</p> <p>TC: Where can you buy back local recycled paper? Need to follow the chain to check that it's not going to landfill in China. Waste is so small in the carbon footprint they don't care about the wider ecological footprint</p> <p>KF: Actual data is very important – weighing equipment on the bins.</p> <p>SM: How many contractors have that? Usually available in cities but less available in rural areas. Still pay by weight but helps with monitoring.</p> <p>BM: Struggle with duvets &amp; pillows from residencies - University of Edinburgh have a good contact. Need to collect as large load.</p> <p>BM: University of Stirling wary of Warp-It as have tried to launch twice and failed.</p> <p>TC: University of Dundee has stopped using it as too expensive and project managers don't meet deadlines so 99% of stuff put up is going to charity and the charity contacts TC directly so the £2k is too high.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Terracycle</b> <i>Trudy Cunningham, Co-convener, University of Dundee</i></p> <p><u>Terracycle</u> are a brilliant scheme as they recycle lots of hard to recycle single-use items. Members are currently trialing crisp packets, cigarette butts and toothpaste tubes.</p>	<p>All: Would like a catch up on this in 6 months</p>



Option of public or private boxes. Seems to be best for staff to select private as quite small collection containers and you can only get one large public box for each geographic area that has to be publicly available. Terracycle currently don't have the capacity to install any more public bins.

The University of Edinburgh are looking to get an intern to manage collection points.

However, due to their increase in popularity, it is difficult to get hold of them and there is a lack of transparency on how they are being recycled. At the next Waste TSN, if this information has been made available the group would like to revisit.

**6 UniGreenScheme**

*Paulo Cruz, Co-Convener, Glasgow Caledonian University*

UniGreenScheme is an asset value recovery start-up, originally stemming from a entrepreneur student who won a [Green Gown Award in 2017](#). They are now funded by ZWS for expansion in Scotland. They will refurbish and sell your surplus equipment and share the profit – tiered split depending in value. Seen as complimentary to [Warp-It](#).

Just opened a base in Dumfries and they cover all Scotland. They will collect from you and then let you know when sold.

Have sent hospital beds, specialist printers, wheel chairs, lab benches, lasers – can take a long time but they have sold everything. Average sell time is 9 months but we don't have to store or pay to have it taken away.

University of Edinburgh procurement were against it – how does it affect asset registers? Worried people would sell items independently and that things would be sold outside the UK

[Glasgow Caledonian University Case Study](#)  
[University of Strathclyde Case Study](#)

PC: To audit and report back

	PC: To arrange an audit of items sold through them with SR and AC to revisit next meeting. It could also be interesting to visit the storage facility and report back to the group	
<b>7</b>	<b>AOCB</b> None noted	
<b>8</b>	<b>Next meeting:</b> Any ideas for future TSN send to JBu. SR and PC sharing waste data and having lots of discussions – would people be interested in sharing to find out how others are accounting for waste? In 6 months TC and others will have lots to feedback on new contracts – interesting to hear issues on what was promised and what was delivered.	All: Advise on next meeting location and discussion topics
<b>11</b>	<b>Thanks and close</b>	

Minutes prepared by Jill Burnett, EAUC-Scotland Carbon & Estates Project Officer, 28/3/19