



Buckinghamshire New University

Council

Date of meeting: **5 March 2013**

Agenda item:

Document number:

Subject **Sustainability Annual Report 2012//13**

Action required	For decision <input type="checkbox"/>	For information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Council is invited to note:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress on sustainability issues directly related to the University Sustainability Policy		

Date produced 25 February 2013

Author Director of Estates

Stakeholders University Staff, Students and Local Community

Background summary **Sustainability Annual Report 2011-12**

A sustainability Policy for the University was produced in March 2011.

The Sustainability Committee, that has now assembled 5 times, was set up to monitor the working groups that report to this committee. The chair of this committee has now retired and the new PVC for Teaching and Learning has agreed to take up this vacancy.

This paper is produced to summarise progress to date against the key action points set out in the Sustainability Policy

Estates Directorate

Sustainability Report 2012-13

Introduction

Following the introduction of the Bucks Sustainability Policy in March 2011 a Sustainability Committee was formed with members from all parts of the University and Student Union who were well placed, in their current rolls, to take forward the actions set out in the policy.

To date the Sustainability Committee has assembled 5 times since its first meeting in October 2011 under the chairmanship of the PVC Campus and Facilities (who retired in September 2012) The new PVC Teaching and Learning , has agreed to take up this vacancy with the first meeting planned, under her chairmanship in, March 2013.

The Sustainability Policy set out 11 key actions and this summary report uses the same headings.

a. Set up working groups

The policy identified 7 working groups that could directly and positively influence the sustainability agenda within the University namely:

- An Estates Strategy Group
- An Energy and Carbon Reduction Working Group
- A Waste Management Working Group
- A Space Management Working Group
- A Travel Management Working Group
- A Greening the Curriculum Working Group
- A Sustainable Procurement Working Group

To date the following working groups have been set up and are reporting to the sustainability committee

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Energy and Carbon Reduction | (chair I Hunter) |
| Waste Management | (chair I Hunter) |
| Travel management | (chair D Godfrey) |

In addition the Teaching Resources Management Group – TRMG (chair D Godfrey) as part of its remit, does take reports on space audits and room usage.

b. Carbon Reduction

Bucks New University set a target of 50% reduction of scope 1 and 2 CO₂ emissions (gas fuel and electricity) by the year 2020 against a 2005/6 baseline of 6975 tonnes. To date based on data to be submitted to HESA in the EMS returns for 2011/12, Bucks New University has achieved a 42% reduction some 2,850 tonnes, probably one of the highest achievements in the HE sector to date.

Scope 3 CO₂ emissions data (associated with all forms of business travel, commuting, supply chain i.e. paper production, water, sewerage and waste) will be part of a compulsory return to HEFCE through the Estates Management Statistics (EMS) we believe next year. Bucks New University has commenced putting systems in place to gather this data. For instance CO₂ emissions from car business trips undertaken last year equated to 13.5 tonnes CO₂ and for business rail use was estimated at 6.4 tonnes CO₂. Data collection for air travel and student and employee commuting will be a challenge.

The HE sector believes that Scope 3 CO₂ could account for up to 60% of an Institutions total carbon emissions and hence their intention is to measure and monitor this output.

With regards recent measures that Bucks New University has undertaken to further reduce CO₂ Emissions, but are not yet included in the latest EMS return, these are

- Solar panels on top of Timberlake building

For a capital cost of £100,000 the 50kWh array has produced, from installation in August 2011 some 19,000kWh of electricity and saved 10.2 tonnes of carbon emissions. Last year the system produced over 5% above planned output, which if maintained will give a payback of investment within 7 years for a system with a planned life of 25 years.

It is highly recommended that a similar system is considered for installation on the top of South Wing.

- Replacement of two diesel maintenance/post vans with electric vans

Based on the historical mileage data of the vans this change to electric will save £4,200 per year in fuel and save over 2 tonnes a year in carbon emission. The journey cost per mile is now 5p compared to 25p per mile for diesel.

The Carbon Management Implementation Plan has been reviewed by the working group and now requires updating.

c. Waste management

At the last meeting of the waste management working group in December 2011 the statistics showed that the total waste produced for all main sites (Alexandra Rd, Brook St and Uxbridge) has reduced over the past 3 years by 43% and that recycling has increased by 45%

Bucks New University now has dedicated recycling or disposal for:

- Glass
- Cardboard
- Paper (through closed loop)
- Plastic and aluminium
- Electronic equipment (the WEEE regulations)
- Metal
- Oil from cooking
- Batteries and lamps

From September 2012 all general waste that originally went to land fill will now go to incineration to produce electrical energy.

A pilot to remove individual desk waste bins and replace with centralized waste bins has proved successful and will be rolled out throughout the University.

d. Water Consumption Reduction

From 2009/10 there has been a steady increase in water usage at the University. This could not be fully attributed to operational activity on the campus and a full investigation was undertaken to look for any underground water leaks. We believe some of the increase in water usage was due to meter faults causing under reading in preceding years.

Old underground heating pipes between Timberlake and D block were replaced as well as leaking valves in pipe trenches under Timberlake. Leaks were also found to the mains water supply when investigating the South Wing foundations for that buildings development. We have only recently replaced underground leaking pipework identified between Timberlake and the Red Shed.

Water use will be continually monitored and further to the above work we anticipate water usage should now drop significantly.

e. Space management

The quantity of teaching space now under central timetabled control has increased from 35% to 45% with only dedicated workshops and studios managed from within the faculties. The new timetabling system recently commissioned for Bucks New University should improve both the frequency of use and the occupation statistics for these rooms.

It is becoming very apparent, due to the increasing number of recent requests from the faculties, that space, especially at Uxbridge, is getting very tight. For example at Uxbridge requests for:

- New skills lab for mental health and child care
- New office for IT staff
- Space for Chaplaincy
- Additional space for Student Union activity
- Rooms for student study
- Additional teaching rooms
- Capacity of Park Room to be increased
- Student changing rooms (now provided in a portacabin)

This building is getting close to operating at capacity (within its current teaching pattern) and attention is required to either decant some activities permanently to the Queen Alexandra Rd Campus, or balance the current teaching more evenly across the whole week.

With regards the Queen Alexandra Rd Campus:

- Dedicated space for New Policing Unit
- More dedicated space for Dance and Performing Arts
- Dedicated space for a Practical Simulation Suite (S & H)
- Dedicated space for a Ground Operation Suite (airport management)
- Space for research students
- Skills labs for the faculty of Society and Health (South Wing)
- New style Teaching and Learning space (Sian Wareing to brief)
- More space for academic staff
- New Multi Faith Prayer Facility

While the development of South Wing will provide good quality space from September 2014 many of the above are required from September 2013, and therefore the provision of these space needs will require improvements in space use in other areas and therefore this will be a challenge.

f. Travel Management

The travel management group meet regularly and this always provokes lively debate, especially with regards car parking. The permit to hunt system has generally worked well since it was instigated in 2009. However, this is now coming under pressure due to increased staff appointments, and a hold has been put on the issue of new permits. This was recently introduced because existing permit holders were struggling to find parking spaces.

In particular the planning restrictions/ travel plan for Uxbridge site are very strict and next year 9 existing parking days have to be withdrawn to conform to the legal requirements of the Travel Plan. The PVC Society and Health has been tasked to ask for a relaxation of these regulations.

Other modes of travel, bus, pool cars, car sharing etc which are available at both High Wycombe and Uxbridge need to be more clearly advertised and our employees encouraged to use these services as an alternative to single car journeys.

g. Biodiversity

The wild meadow garden established for the first time last summer adjacent to South Wing received very positive feedback from students, employees and the general public. This will be repeated this year and some additional seating has been provided for all to enjoy this spectacle as well as provide a beneficial environment in the centre of Town for insects and small wildlife

h. Construction and Refurbishment

The removal of the Timberlake Plant room and extending the use of the main new boilers in East Wing has proved very successful. This together with extending and upgrading our Building Management System (BMS) has enabled the University to reduce our gas consumption on the Queen Alexandra Rd Campus by 15% with a saving estimated in the first full year of use over £80,000.

The Windsor House student residential development at the Chiltern Centre is planned to achieve a BREEAM standard of “very good” in line with our policy.

i. Community Involvement

Bucks new University continues to host the well attended Community Liaison Group, and representatives from WDC attend the carbon reduction and waste reduction working groups at the University. Unfortunately the shared working group meetings between the local Heath Trust, WDC and Bucks New University no longer take place. The Student Union are very actively involved in joint project work with the local community.

j. Greening the Curriculum

There has been little progress on this item, despite clear national evidence based research, that including specific, targeted environmental and sustainability modules in all courses increases the student’s prospects of gainful employment when they graduate. The PVC Teaching and Learning has agreed to review the University position on this.

k. Sustainable Procurement

Green electricity and use of recycled paper have improved the sustainable credentials of Bucks New University. There is further scope to add to these two items.

Other Items not in the 2011 policy

I. Bucks New University position in the People and Planet green table

Despite all our efforts above, and even increasing our marks annually each year, we still remain in 124th position out of 145 Institutions. This is predominantly because Bucks New University still have no full time dedicated environmental staff and no recognised independent auditing system. To address the latter the university joined the Eco Campus scheme in 2011, operated by Nottingham Trent University, but to date, due to lack of Estate resource time, no accreditation has been awarded.

m. Carbon Trust Accreditation

This was acquired in August 2011 for reducing carbon footprint year on year and lasts for 3 years. Re assessment is due before July 2013.

Currently Bucks New University is one of only 18 UK Universities that can claim accreditation to this nationally recognised scheme.

Ian Hunter

23rd February 2013