**Date:** 19th May 20233

**Time:** 11am - 12.30pm

**Venue:** Virtual

**Resources**

**MINUTES**

**Community Engagement Topic Support Network: Building communities for Climate Action within FHE institutions**

**Attendees:**

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| Alice Smith | AS | EAUC Scotland |
| Severine Monvoisin | SM | Edinburgh College |
| Jean-Matthieu Gaunand | JG | Scottish Communities Climate Action Network |
| Molly Davison | MD | Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team |
| Alice Hickin | AH | Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team |
| Claire Lorimer | CL | SRUC (Scotland’s Rural College) |
| Hannah Morgans | HM | University of Bristol |
| Jessica Gordon-Calvert | JGC | University College of Estate Management (UCEM) |
| Julia Dyman | JD | York St John University |
| Katherine Smith | KS | Newcastle University |
| Matt Woodthorpe | MW | EAUC Scotland |
| Sarah Shea | SS | Glasgow Kelvin College |
| Rose Lyne | RL | University of Aberdeen |
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**Apologies:**

Gemma Gourlay University of Edinburgh

John Thorne Glasgow School of Art

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| **11.00** | **Welcome and Introductions** *Alice Smith, Networks and Communications Officer, EAUC Scotland*AS welcomed all to the meeting and asked attendees to share the signs of summer that they have been appreciating over the past few weeks.  |
| **11.15** | **Supporting community climate action through network building** *Jean-Matthieu Gaunand, Membership and Training Coordinator, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network* **See Sustainability Exchange for full recording.**IntroductionJG introduced SCCAN from its early roots in the Climate Challenge Fund. JG explained some of the core science around emissions, as well as exploring physics-politics gap, raising the question, “how do we need to get to where we need to be?” VisionSCCAN’s vision acknowledges that historically resources have been extracted with emphasis on economic growth at all costs, resulting in a centralisation of resources and wealth in the global north. They envision a future in which wealth and resources are dispersed and diffuse, with economies operating in a decentralised and circular fashion, ultimately empowering communities. Key pillars of this include:* Empowered Democratic Communities
* Effective Local Energy
* Practical Training and Education
* Living Locally
* Waste Not
* Vibrant Local Food Culture
* Happy Healthiness

SCCAN is also informed by the concept of the wellbeing economy – an economy not driven solely by economic growth. JG shared the doughnut economics model which shows the relationship between the economic ceiling and the social foundation. JG also shared a model representing the transition from the dominant system to the emergent system. The NetworkThere are 460 group members around Scotland working on food, energy, waste and more. Groups organise projects ranging from community fridges to group cycle rides to tool libraries. Their partners include CEMVO, Scottish Community Alliance, Stop Climate Chaos, ECOLISE, Creative Carbon Scotland and more. SCCAN offers its members:* Networking
* Events
* Training
* Support
* Projects
* Links

SCCAN uses a system known as sociocracy whereby decisions are made by consent. Regional HubsThe Scottish Government is supporting the development of a networkof regional community climate action hubs, the need for which was identified in reporting on the impact of the Climate Challenge Fund. SCCAN’s role once these hubs are established will be to share knowledge between hubs. Q&ASM and AS asked if SCCAN engages with the FHE sector on projects, JG confirmed that it does. HM asked whether SCCAN has any challenges in bringing in a diversity of voices. JM said that this is a constant concern in the organisation. They recognise that people have other priorities, and there are different barriers to engagement within different communities. They offer training on communicating climate change, widening participation and equality, diversity and inclusion.  |
| **11.35** | **Case study: Glasgow Goes Green Festival** *Molly Davison and Alice Hickin, Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team***See Sustainability Exchange for full recording and slides.**AboutMD introduced the Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST) and the Glasgow Goes Green Festival’s origins. GUEST is a team of twelve students who take on a year-long part-time internship with the university’s estates team. Holding both staff and student status, they bring a unique perspective. Glasgow Goes Green is an annual festival organised by GUEST, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow School of Art Sustainability and the University of Strathclyde. Previous FestivalsPrevious years have taken the form of one day events in one location with stalls showcasing foods, crafts etc. as well as music and entertainment, and talks and workshops.During the pandemic the festival was moved online with the creation of a zine themed around connections between people, nature and power. In 2022, the festival’s theme was “Creating our planet”, bridging the arts and sustainability, as well as looking at some of the shortcomings of COP26. This event was the first to be spread over a week, and included a series of creative workshops and an exhibition. 2023 FestivalThis year’s festival took the city’s motto “Let Glasgow Flourish” as a theme, and focused on bridging relationships between universities and communities around the city. The team worked to support existing green projects in Glasgow with a three-step approach:1. Open call
* Aiming to find out more about pre-existing community projects looking to work together and exchange ideas
* They directly contacted sustainability organisations and shared the open call through social media
1. Bud-ding up
* Invited applicants to an online meeting introducing the festival and providing a space for discussion of how to work together
* Website was redeveloped with a graphic designer
1. Bloom
* Range of events taking place between 13th and 19th March
* Final celebration at Mitchell Library where all participating projects could showcase their work

OutreachReceived over 30 submissions from students, researchers, community groups, local charities and more, ultimately resulting in 15 events taking place across the city in one week. Most of these events included two or more projects.  The GGG team supported on logistics, including venues and material costs, with activity planning left to the project partners. Q&AMolly and Alice are happy to receive questions via email. SM asked how many people took part across the week. AH said that they averaged 10-15 attendees per event, through Eventbrite bookings as well as walk-ins. SM asked if any colleges took part. AH said that City of Glasgow College supported a group cycle ride. HM asked what they used to measure impact. AH said that community engagement was the primary aim, so the number of partners they have engaged will be a key impact measure. SS asked if they had any lessons learned or best practice to share around promoting the events. MD said that their in-house graphic designer helped a lot by creating appealing and intriguing branding. They also took part in Instagram takeovers at the 4 partner institutions. MD felt that they printed too many posters. AH said that in future years she would approach the festival with a clearer focus or aim, and an established common goal. SM asked whether they used external venues and MD confirmed that they did, across the city. AH noted that the festival is funded equally by the 4 partner universities, and they hold planning meetings with sustainability teams from the institutions in the run up to the festival. SM asked what advice they would provide to others who wanted to reproduce this elsewhere. MD said that as GUEST interns are paid, they can dedicate more time to the project, rather than volunteering. She said that having the 3-step planning process (open call, bud-ding up, celebration) helped, but in future they would try to be clearer about what they are trying to achieve. AH recommended adopting GUEST’s structure (paid student sustainability interns) to other institutions.  |
| **11.55**  | **Roundtable discussion: How can universities and colleges foster community and encourage community-led action?** *Severine Monvoisin, Community Garden Coordinator, Edinburgh College*AS asked the GGG presenters whether their staff/student status, or their attempts to branch out across Glasgow’s geography have fostered more of a sense of a community for climate action. MD said that their staff status gives them legitimacy and bridges the gap between student and staff communities. MD said that people feel like UoG students come and go and perhaps don’t integrate into the wider city community, and this festival is trying to remedy that. SS said that Glasgow Kelvin College is the smallest of the 3 Glasgow colleges and identifies itself as a community college due to the locations of its campuses. They have a strong community outreach as a result, so the challenge that she encounters is capitalising on the sense of community and pre-existing buy-in to engage people in sustainability. AS notes that this is almost the polar opposite to what GGG presenters describe at UoG. SM said that at Edinburgh College they have a similar situation.  |
| **12.15**  | **EAUC & EAUC Scotland update** *Alice Smith, EAUC Scotland**AS provided a quick update on EAUC priorities** Scottish Funding Council Outcome Agreement is still in progress with a final agreement expected soon
* There will be a [Glasgow Regional Meet-up](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=8406) at Glasgow School of Art on 25th May from 2-4pm
* [Green Gown Award](https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland) TSN representatives are required – those interested should email scotland@eauc.org.uk
* [Carbon Literacy Training](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_literacy_training) dates for August and October have been announced – SFC subsidised for Scottish institutions at £75pp, delivered online with institution-specific sessions available for cohorts of 12+
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| **12.20**  | **AOB** *Severine Monvoisin, Community Garden Coordinator, Edinburgh College*SM asked what themes attendees would like to see covered at the next TSN. AH suggested that we could explore language for engagement. SS suggested inviting groups that have had success in engaging harder-to-reach communities in sustainability.  |
| **12.30** | **Thanks and Close**  |