University of Aberdeen
UCCCfS Progress Report 2011/12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM IMPLEMENTING OUR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN (450 words maximum)

The University of Aberdeen's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 outlines our institutional commitment to the twin principles of sustainability and social responsibility.

We are actively engaged in scholarship and research into sustainable development and social responsibility. These areas feature prominently in our four core research themes of Energy, Environment and Food Security, Pathways to Healthy Living and the North.

The ongoing development of our Curriculum Reform process emphasises graduate attributes for the modern world, provides inter-disciplinary Sixth Century courses addressing a broad range of social and global issues, and encourages students to pursue co-curriculum activities such as student volunteering.

Operationally, these commitments are evident across campus and can be seen in the embedding of sustainability principles in construction projects such as The Sir Duncan Rice Library and Suttie Centre (both attaining BREEAM Excellent); the ever more efficient use of IT; encouraging fair-trade consumption; supporting the attainment of national emissions reduction targets through our carbon management plan; promoting a healthy working environment; and an ongoing commitment to cultural and public engagement programming.

Through our able campaign we work to ensure that all staff and students understand the collective nature of our responsibility to act in accordance with these principles.

Our Climate Change Project, based in the Students' Association, is our frontline in engaging students in sustainability issues. Its activities include energy efficiency training, carbon conversations, food and cookery workshops, and innovative reuse schemes. During 2011/12 a decision was taken to fund the scheme to 2014, with funding having initially come from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). Further CCF funding secured in July 2013 will see the project enhanced through the addition of two new posts and extended to at least 2015. In April 2013 the AUSA elected its first full-time sabbatical officer for Environment and Ethics, a development that will provide further capacity to engage the student body in sustainability.

Looking forward, in 2012/13 we will introduce a new Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy to reiterate further these commitments. Specific activities include the installation of over 700m² of photovoltaic cells at our main accommodation site; progressing a Passive House nursery project; introducing a major new public festival to engage the public with culture, science and research; enhancing our public engagement with research activities; completing a multi-partner data-centre project that will secure substantial monetary and carbon savings; establishing a number of social responsibility partnerships to offer employment placements for young people; and participating in the emerging APUC supply-chain assurance regime.

Alongside these initiatives, we will continue to actively engage colleagues across the University in consideration of where they can support sustainability, for example through emerging policy commitments in areas such as sustainable food and sustainability in the curriculum. Information on all of these initiatives will find a new home as part of a revamped sustainability web presence, being developed over the summer of 2013 as part of our award-winning Aberdeen Internship scheme.

Emission/Consumption Commentary

During 2011/12, total emissions from energy usage fell by 1.9% (or 555 tonnes). This followed two successive years in which emissions had risen. Unfortunately a prolonged heating season during the winter of 2012/13 looks likely to see emissions increase next year. Electricity consumption increased, in part as a result of the new library development, but overall energy consumption fell by 1.1%. During the reporting period the cost of energy used rose by 11.7% (see below). Water usage fell in line with the institutional target of a 2% p/a reduction with costs largely unchanged. The University produces annual Utilities and Waste Reports that, alongside details on all aspects of energy usage, provide reporting on water usage, waste production, re-cycling rates and reuse initiatives. These reports are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/estates/environment/resources/reports.php or on request.

Expenditure Commentary

As indicated above, expenditure on energy increased by 11.7% in 2011/12. This was despite a reduction in total energy used and is indicative of the volatility in the energy market and the ever increasing charges for gas (up 26% from 10/11) and electricity (up 11% from 10/11). While the University is to some extent insulated from in-year effects as a result of longer term contracts and collective purchasing, the overall trend in energy price rises is sharply upward. Water and sewerage costs were largely static, but waste costs rose as a result of the landfill escalator and increased charges for transport and labour.

Sustainable Estate Development	*A series of carbon and energy saving projects were undertaken during the year and are outlined in detail in the Utilities report. These included replacement lighting, insulation, glazing, heating and ventilation projects, as well as connection to the NHS CHP system at our Foresterhill campus (late in the reporting period). These in-year initiatives contributed some 379 tonnes of emissions reductions, with other minor projects contributing further, albeit unquantified, savings. Recurring savings continue to accrue from projects implemented in earlier years , for example our CHP plant and IT initiatives such as PC power management and MFD migration.*
Waste Minimisation/ Resource Efficiency	*The University produces an annual Waste Report that details all aspects of institutional waste minimisation activity, recycling rates, reuse inititiatives and related information. The University is committed to reusing items where possible and does this through internal reuse schemes and a series of charitable partnerships that support initiatives such as our end of term hall clearance. In 2011/12 the University reused 5.01% of all waste arising, in large part thanks to the decommissioning of the Queen Mother Library with major charitable donations of books, furniture and metal shelving. While the figures show an increase in CO2 emissions from 2010/11 to 2011/12 this is mainly due to waste data now being available for the disposal of clinical waste. The weight of general waste sent to landfill decreased from 919 to 870 tonnes from 2010/11 to 2011/12.*
Water (finite resources)	*The University's Utilities report for 2011/12 contains details of water usage for the year. In 2011/12, water usage fell by 2.1% (5,564 cubic metres). This is in line with an institutional target of 2% reduction per annum and comes as a result of better monitoring, leak identification and the introduction of water conservation as standard in new-build and refurbishment projects. Early in 2013 a major leak was identified and this will be reflected in reporting for 2012/13. Rain-water harvesting systems in the new library have also come on stream and are effectively contributing 10% of the building's water needs.*
Procurement	*The University continues to support Fairtrade across campus, with annual support for internal and external Fairtrade initiatives. Our campus services team actively source free range eggs and sustainable fish, while in the past two years efforts to reduce bottled water supplies to campus have seen plumbed in water supplies introduced across campus. So far in 2012/13, the University has participated in the APUC working group that has introduced a new model for supply chain assurance and has begun to investigate a formalisation of its sustainable food commitments.*

Metrics: Towards Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (CO2e tonnes)		2010 / 11	2011 / 12
Gross Emissions (tonnes CO2e)	Scope 1	Fossil fuels: Non-residential	11,492	11,334
		Residential	3,707	3,668
		Farms	n/a	n/a
		Fleet Vehicles	n/k	65.07
	Scope 2	Grid Electricity (kWh)	12,061	11,492
		Heat & Steam (ie purchased from NHS)	1,931	2,142
	Scope 3	Water & Sewerage (m3)	111	108
		Waste sent to landfill (tonnes)	266.5	273.5
		Recycled waste (tonnes)	8.3	8.9
		Staff & Student Commuting (km)	220.2	230.6
		Business Travel (km)	n/k	n/k
Consumption	Residential Gas (kWh)		16,887,705	17,786,234
	Non-residential Gas (kWh)		51,806,381	50,611,786
	Residential Electricity Purchased (kWh)		3,312,531	3,201,589
	Non-residential Electricity Purchased (kWh)		19,147,497	18,199,624
	Heat/Steam		6,560,418	7,276,980
	Water (m3)		274,023	268,369
	Fleet - Petrol (Ltr)		n/k	2585.27
	Fleet - Diesel (Ltr)		n/k	18327.19
	Grey, Leased (personal) & Hire - Petrol (Km)		n/k	n/k
	Grey, Leased (personal) & Hire - Diesel (Km)		n/k	n/k
	Electric Vehicles (km)		n/k	n/k
	LPG Vehicles (km)		0	0
Expenditure	Total Energy Supplies		3,980,922	4,642,833
	Total Water Services		684,898	679,656
	Total Waste and Recycling		459,151	469,918
	Total Fleet Vehicle Fuel		n/k	23,986
	Total Business Travel		n/k	n/k
Data	Number of staff (FTE)		3348	3246
	Number of students (FTE)		13676	13379
	Gross internal area (sq mtr) residential		56062	54461
	Gross internal area (sq mtr) non-residential		191225	199577
	Total Income (£'000s)		219,101	215,287
	Estimated savings (£) from CCAP implementation		n/k	73711

Prepared by: **Fraser Lovie**
Position: **Sustainability & Social Responsibility Manager**
Institution: **University of Aberdeen**

Senior Management sign off:

Irene Bews **Director of Finance & IT Services**
Acting Convener, Advisory Group on Sustainability & Social Responsibility