

Topic Support Networks Waste Management

20th June 2011

University of Dundee 10.00am – 14.30pm [website](#)

Attendees:

Barbara Aitken	(BA)	University of St Andrews
William Close	(WC)	University of St Andrews
Carol-Ann Cunningham	(CC)	University of St Andrews
Amy Gray	(AG)	University of Aberdeen
Colin Girdwood	(CG)	University of Dundee
Trudy Cunningham	(TC)	University of Dundee
Peter Copeland	(PC)	University of Dundee
Brian Mcilroy	(BM)	University of Stirling
Andrew Baillie	(AB)	University of Strathclyde
Laura Watson	(LW)	The University of Edinburgh
Alison Dixon	(AD)	University of Abertay Dundee
Miriam Adcock	(MA)	Zero Waste Scotland
Iain Bell	(IB)	AHVLA
Andy Anderson	(AA)	APUC
Sarah Hayward	(SH)	EAUC Scotland
Alex Henderson	(AH)	EAUC Scotland
Lorenzo Pergola	(LP)	EAUC Scotland

Apologies:

Paul McGowan (PG) University of Strathclyde

1.	<p>Update on the progress of APUC Tender from Andy Anderson (APUC)</p> <p>Andy Anderson introduces the APUC Waste Tender and how it was created. <i>The presentation can be found here.</i></p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste tender aims to provide a range of local service providers for the collection and disposal of all categories of waste. The providers enter a competition in which they are selected for quality and cost criteria. The process will allow Universities and Colleges to manage their waste without having to source their service providers independently and negotiate contracts individually. • The Tender is designed to be flexible and meet the needs of different organisations, which might be at different stages in their progress towards sustainability and therefore have distinct priorities and requirements. • The terms and conditions are standard for all contracts, although alterations can be made to meet single institution's needs.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarly, if an institution prefers to negotiate the disposal of a particular type of waste with a company outside the scheme, this is also possible. • Waste is grouped in 5 broad categories, so big contractors are at an advantage as they can provide a wider range of services. However, this could also represent an opportunity for smaller companies to partner and create local networks. • Scotland has been divided into 11 geographical areas, so the services will always be provided by local companies. • Reporting, monitoring and training will be strictly regulated. • The scheme is ready to be activated, and should be operative in August 2011. <p>Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA - What checks, if any, are done on companies' ethics? AA - Over and above the standard environmental checks, they have to have a clear sustainability policy.
2.	<p>Visit to Waste to Energy Plant, Dundee</p> <p>The plant's energy manager delivered a presentation detailing the technology used, key advantages and challenges specific to it and plans for the future. <i>The presentation will be uploaded to the website shortly.</i></p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plant converts waste into energy by means of incineration: waste is first prepared by shredding it and separating ferrous substances and aluminium cans, which can be recycled. Two boilers then incinerate the waste and the resulting heat powers a steam turbine, which generates up to 11Mw of electricity. The main fuel is municipal residual waste from Dundee and Angus. The system represents a valid alternative to landfill disposal, with the added value of net energy gains. • Despite being far from optimal efficiency, the plant still produces enough electricity to power nearly 14.000 homes, equal to 20% of Dundee's population. • A positive spill-over is represented by the recovery of metal: an automated system allows up to 90 tonnes a week of aluminium cans to be separated from general waste and recycled. Another by-product of the process is ash. Most of it is clean of pollutants and can be used in building (asphalt & other). 0.4% of ash contains heavy pollutants. This is collected and treated for licensed disposal. The gas that is produced through the combustion is also filtered and cleaned up before its release. • Possible problems: future regulations will require incinerators to have the highest possible efficiency in terms of energy to waste ratio. • While the physical process used to incinerate waste in the Dundee plant can not be changed, it would be possible to increase the energy output by utilising part of the energy currently lost during the process. One possible way would be to create commercial partnerships to allow local companies to utilise heat generated in the plant. The same process could be applied for the creation of a heating network in a new housing estate.

3.	<p>Presentation from Iain Bell (AHVLA)</p> <p>Presentation illustrates the new European and domestic legal frameworks for the disposal of animal by-products. <i>The presentation can be found here.</i></p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences and additions to the previous framework are analysed and the possible implications for the FHE sector are detailed. • Procedures for registration of Universities and colleges to the AHVLA are also explained. • Here is the link to Iain Bell office: http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/qalashiels.html <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG - Is the application to the AHVLA from the whole University or from single departments? IB - The registration is for the University, but it needs to detail all the activities that will be carried out involving animal by-products. • BA - What is the difference between international and domestic catering waste? IB - International catering waste is whatever is coming from outside the EU. If Catering material is coming from within the EU, it is classed as product of trade, not importation, so it is not international. • BA - If there is a composter in the University, can the compost produced then be taken away and used elsewhere? IB - No, the current regulation states that that the compost can only be used on the grounds where it was produced, so strictly in the very department it comes from. However, this could change and the definition expanded to encompass the whole University grounds. Not anywhere outside the campus, though. • BA - What instruments does the AHVLA have to police compliance to these regulations? IB - We are authorised to carry out inspections. However, if we are refused access to do so, then we have to request a warrant.
4.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC, BA, MA discuss one of the main barriers to effectively reduce the amount of food waste coming from the FHE sector is that a large number of students are not able to cook meals for themselves, and there fore rely on pre-packaged food. MA was asked to produce and disseminate short cooking demonstrations relevant to students. BA suggested a web resource called "Student Cooking TV" as possible solution. <i>Link to website http://www.studentcooking.tv</i> • BA, TC discussed another problem encountered in particular by international students is that they can not find the ingredients to cook their recipes, and a

	<p>possible solution would be to organise supermarket-tours, showing them where shops are in their area and what is available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC, MA discussed the disposal of food waste produced by staff is also an issue, particularly as the absence of dedicated rooms results in the habit of eating at the desk. Oncoming regulations requiring Universities to dispose separately of all their food waste are set to make the creation of an effective collection system necessary. • BA, CC enquired about the possibility to continue funding for volunteer groups to organise talks and demonstration on sustainable cooking is being considered by Zero Waste Scotland and information will be disseminated to all the participants. • Information about the Zero Waste Campus Project will also be provided. (TC, MA)
5.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Participants were invited to consider possible topics for the next meeting that would be held in ~ 6 months. Suggested topics should be emailed to AG (e.a.galbraith@admin.gla.ac.uk)</p> <p>Possible Topic: Legislation regarding the disposal of food waste and implications for university staff.</p>

Note prepared by Lorenzo Pergola (EAUC-S Project Support Officer) & Alex Henderson (EAUC-S Scotland Events Officer).