

Dear Colleagues,

### 1. **Energy & Waste Management**

#### 1.1 **Improvement of University Recycling Facilities**



The Sustainability Team are investing in a programme to improve the recycling facilities at our campuses. The intention is to install improved sustainability notice boards and recycling stations (see left) in key communal areas within each campus through a phased approach. The first phase of the programme is currently being implemented at the Atrium. It is hoped that installing these facilities will allow for more accurate quantification of individual weights of specific recycled materials i.e. paper, cardboard, plastic, cans.

#### 1.2 **Utilities Update**

- From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 the following Climate Change Levy (CCL) increases will apply:
  - **Electricity:** CCL increased by 3.2% from 0.47p/kWh to 0.485p/kWh
  - **Gas:** CCL increased by 3% from 0.164p/kWh to 0.169p/kWh
- From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 the following price increase will apply:
  - **Water:** Price increased by 1.3% from 244.06 p/m<sup>3</sup> to 247.19 p/m<sup>3</sup>

### 2. **Carbon Management**

#### 2.1 **Completion of CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Phase 1**



The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory scheme to improve energy efficiency and therefore cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in large public and private sector organisations. The University has submitted its Phase 1 Annual Report of actual emissions to the scheme, in line with the July deadline. If an organisation fails to submit an annual report by the deadline it will incur a £5,000 fine. At the end of each year, information will be gathered from the annual reports of all CRC scheme participants and used to compare performance of how successful organisations have been in reducing emissions. The comparative performance will be published as a league table by the Carbon Trust and Environmental Agency.

### 3. Travel & Transport

#### 3.1 Bike Week Free Bike MOTs with Dr Bike



On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June a Dr Bike cycle surgery was held with free health checks undertaken by 'Cycle Training Wales' at Treforest, Glyntaff and Atrium Campuses as part of Bike Week (18 - 26 June). After monitoring our bike shelters on campus and in response to several complaints from students and staff, we took the opportunity to clear away several abandoned bikes, freeing up valuable space.

The abandoned bikes where possible have been restored and have had MOTs completed on them, free of charge. If they remain unclaimed, the bikes will be utilised as pool bikes for Staff and Students to travel between Treforest Campus and Glyntaff Campus as part of the University Travel Plan initiative to encourage cycling and reduce congestion.

#### 3.2 Arriva Trains Wales - 33% Discount for UoG Staff and Students



A scheme is currently under negotiation between the University of Glamorgan and Arriva Trains Wales for all UoG staff and students to receive a 33% discount on all Annual Season Tickets on the Valley Lines. Progress on the scheme will be reported in due course.

#### 3.3 Launch of the Travel Website



To help you keep up to date with all things travel, the Sustainability Team within Estates has launched a new website dedicated to all things travel, including Staff and Student travel information, key travel contacts, travel statistics from our Travel Plan and a Travel Events Calendar. Visit <http://estates.glam.ac.uk/travel/> to find out more.

## 4. Environmental Management System (EMS)

### 4.1 Penarth Management Annual Sustainability Legislation Audit Main Conclusions



The Environmental Management System was seen to be further developing in conjunction with ambitious building and expansion projects. A well developed general commitment to environmental performance improvement was evidenced at all audited sites. The central foundation of

the improving Environmental Management System appears to be the advancing environmental data monitoring and evaluation system that is coupled with the enthusiastic culture amongst staff and students of the University. The general findings revealed that in addition to the commendable long term objectives (e.g. sustainable development) there are some opportunities to make relatively simple progress, for example ensuring that the recycling facilities/communications increase recycling activities at Glyntaff and The Atrium. The main conclusions from the audit can be found below:

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Improved student participation was seen to generate valuable feedback in terms of awareness raising and improvements towards increased student involvement. An increasingly large number of students have shown interest in the University's Environmental Management System during the last twelve months while the Environmental Representative staff members were found to be passionate and committed to enhancing awareness.

#### **GLYNTAFF CAMPUS**

An improvement in the provision of recycling facilities was noted. This now requires action to enhance awareness and alignment with Treforest processes. Hazardous chemical waste was seen to be dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

#### **TREFOREST CAMPUS**

The recent and the ongoing new developments at the Campus provide new opportunities for environmental improvements. The student accommodation recycling facilities review and the new shuttle bus services are expected to generate noticeable improvements in environmental performance. There may be opportunities for further reduction in energy and paper use at Reprographics.

#### **ATRIUM CAMPUS**

Unfortunately the building development at this campus happened before the BREEAM Ratings Scheme was implemented, however a number of post project adjustments have been identified to improve the actual performance. A review of the existing recycling and waste management facilities could identify opportunities for further improvements.

#### **GLAMORGAN SPORT PARK**

The new building has achieved BREEAM Excellence and fits in well into the well managed but ecologically sensitive area. The site shows significant achievements that arose from appropriate site management. Further environmental improvement plans are in place such as the implementation of a wind turbine. In the meantime, improvements for the chemical storage facilities in the park garage would help to minimise the risk of spillages and pollution incidents.

#### **MERTHYR TYDFIL COLLEGE**

The new college building has recently opened. The college benefits from numerous environmentally positive facilities and activities and has attained unprecedented achievements but further focus on management documentation and progress evaluations could provide better insights of the difficulties and could also help to prioritise tasks.

#### **STEERING GROUP**

The frequent meetings and the cooperation amongst the Group members seem to provide an effective mechanism for identifying and prioritising further participation based improvements.

#### 4.2 Update of ISO14001 Documentation



In line with the start of the next Academic Year all Sustainability Management documentation and additional guidance and information are planned to be updated in accordance with organisational changes, approved by the Vice Chancellor and made available on the website to provide a central access point of resources and information.

### 5. Construction & Refurbishment



5.1 Student Accommodation – The Student Accommodation Project will be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and is still on course to be the first BREEAM Excellent Accommodation in Wales with a BREEAM rating of 73%. The Woodland Walk has been used to facilitate pedestrian traffic, increasing awareness of this area.



5.2 Merthyr Learning Quarter (MLQ) – The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning has approved the change in age range of the four secondary schools in Merthyr Tydfil from 11-19 to 11-16. This means that the MLQ project can now proceed. The project is currently in the design process looking for BREEAM Excellence Rating and should be opening in 2013 ready for the first intake of year 12 learners from schools.



5.3 RWCMD New Build – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011 marked the official opening of the new build. The development is on target for a BREEAMs Excellence Rating. The contractors for the project have provided waste data that 17,186 tonnes of waste has been recycled and 735 tonnes were disposed of as general waste during the course of the project.



5.4 Atrium Street Project – A scheme is currently in negotiations to replace the front entrance doors to reduce the effect of a wind tunnel and wasted energy consumption through the Atrium Street when both sets of doors are open in the foyer/reception area.

## 6. Sustainable Procurement

### 6.1 The University 'Chain of Custody'



The Sustainability Team have been working with the Finance Division to research the sustainable procurement of core university equipment. The 'Chain of Custody' is a process that, using independent auditing, rigorously documents a certified product from the source to the final point of purchase. The process tracks through each stage of the supply chain, for example in relation to the product timber, from forest and logging through sawmill, factory and distributor, to timber merchant and contractor. This process provides transparency and traceability to guarantee compliance with demands for ethically sourced products. Identifying the chain of core university equipment (paper, stationery, furniture and IT equipment) will help recognise a common sustainable procurement procedure that can be issued for all items procured through the University.

## 7. Biodiversity

### 7.1 The University in Bloom



The University grounds are in full bloom thanks to the efforts of Simon Baker and Tyrone Minnett, the Estates grounds keepers. They have taken ownership of the University grounds and apply their creative skills to cutting back and clearing the landscape in order to prepare for the planting of attractive and interesting plants and flowers to encourage various insects such as bees and butterflies for pollination and also to develop a more aesthetically pleasing landscape for students, staff and the public. Cutbacks in maintenance budgets recently have meant that they have had to go the extra mile to maintain their own extremely high standards, but they have responded magnificently.

## 8. Research & Development

### 8.1 Universities that Count (UTC) Year 3 - Moving Forward with UTC



Engagement work has been undertaken to bring on board key sector bodies to help in the development work of the UTC Scheme. Following this, practitioners will come together with these sector bodies at advisory panels between April to mid-July. From March to August a series of case studies will also be provided from UTC which will range from Health, Safety & Wellbeing, to Equality to Environment. The UTC Index will then be re-opened during the next academic year for institutions to complete.

## 8.2 The Times Higher Green League 2011



The Green League is People & Planet's award-winning environmental ranking of the UK's universities. It aims to improve environmental performance in universities by raising the profile of environmental issues and creating a competition mechanism to drive up standards in the sector. This year the University of Glamorgan was awarded a 2:1 for its environmental performance in the 'Green League', placing 50<sup>th</sup> out of 142 universities. Next year we hope to continue to improve this standard by working on the following topics:

- Ethical Investment - Need a publicly available ethical investment policy. Record any instances where the University has divested/invested/engaged with companies as a shareholder or changed banking provider.
- Carbon Management - We need to look at having a publicly available 'Carbon Management Plan' based on 2005/2006 baseline. Targets must be set that are ambitious but attainable.
- Sustainable Food - Need to have a Sustainable Food Policy for in-house service delivery. There is a need to work with Hospitality on this.
- Curriculum – Work with teaching departments to integrate sustainability into the curriculum in the Corporate/Strategic Plan, Teaching & Learning Strategy. Look at a reporting strategy/process to monitor (e.g. number of students undertaking sustainability related courses/modules).

## 9. Sustainability Champions Meeting

A new Sustainability Champions Workshop will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. The meeting is for all Sustainability Champions, and will include the following topics:



- A tour around our new BREEAM Excellent Accommodation. BREEAM sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance.
- A guest presenter from the Wildlife Trust will provide a talk on bats as this is a hot topic with us as we have had several bat roost sightings across campuses.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas for topics that I could add to the agenda, please let me know. More information on the agenda and location etc will follow in due course.

**Remember if you have any sustainability, energy, environmental or waste related issues please contact:**



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