



## Energy and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 9th September 2025, 14.00 until 15.30

Hybrid/UKCRIC Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The George Solt Building

Attendees	
Ian Sibbald ( <b>IS</b> )	University Director of Finance
Geoff Say ( <b>GS</b> )	Director of Finance and Operations (CDS)
John Street ( <b>JS</b> )	Director of Facilities
Gareth Ellis ( <b>GE</b> )	Head of Energy and Environment
Becky Wishart ( <b>BW</b> )	Environment Officer/minutes
Ceri Dawson ( <b>CD</b> )	Energy Advisor
Stewart Elsmore ( <b>SE</b> )	Director of Campus Services
Phil Longhurst ( <b>PL</b> )	Professor and Director of Theme for Transport and Energy
Apologies	
Rosina Watson ( <b>RW</b> )	Associate Professor in Sustainability
Kate Biggs ( <b>KB</b> )	Environment Officer
Ginny Ford ( <b>GF</b> )	Environment Advisor

Item	Action / Approval
<p><b>1 Minutes from previous meeting</b></p> <p>Previous minutes were reviewed and approved. Outstanding actions:</p> <p><b>BW-</b> to amend distribution and to invite Gregor Waddell (Director of IT)</p> <p><b>GE-</b> We have dropped in THE Impact Rankings, but our overall score has gone up. Report presented at Executive council. No submission for 2025-2026 due to cost and resources. Cost now over £4000. Results were still relatively high.</p> <p><b>CD-</b> Currently working on a training document which is focused on energy saving aimed at all staff and should engage people at the earliest stages of project development. CD to share with EEC members for feedback/comments before circulation. Still need to engage with Worktribe process to ensure energy and environmental information requirements are flagged at the different levels of approval.</p> <p>Action carried forward- <b>CD</b> to chase with John Newcombe regarding for progress on Water Framework contract. Progress expected in early October.</p>	<p><b>BW</b></p> <p><b>For information only</b></p> <p><b>CD</b></p> <p><b>CD</b></p>

	<p><b>BW-</b> had meeting with Henrietta Campbell (Head of digital learning experience) regarding an update on the Sustainability Badges. Awaiting to hear more information regarding if the licence will be renewed for 2025. BW will chase again soon</p>	<b>BW</b>
<p><b>2 Items for approval</b></p> <p><b>None</b></p>		
<p><b>3 Items for discussion</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Targets review</b></p> <p><b>GE-</b> Environmental strategy due an interim update. Tweaks needed for 'Net Zero by 2030' target, needs to be clearer for scope 3, with a new sub-target defined. Scope 1 and 2 need better focus. GE to send to consultation in early 2026.</p> <p><b>IS-</b> better alliance with suppliers on scope 3. Need to identify all existing emissions and work together for a target.</p> <p><b>GE-</b> 'Zero avoidable waste by 2030' target- Cawley's have helped to identify 'Avoidable' waste amount. New waste contractor Mitie promise better reporting. The target is very challenging.</p> <p><b>PL-</b> centralise recycling collection more in buildings?</p> <p><b>SE-</b> need more awareness/education to encourage better segregation of waste. Campus Services have now taken away under desk bins. Look to see where bin segregation is problematic.</p> <p><b>GE-</b> updated progress on '50% water reduction against a 2010 baseline'. <b>CD</b> making progress with Wave and Anglian water. Improved reliability in metering over the last year, combined with regular manual reads has made it easier to track progress. There have been a number of leaks across site – mostly on the DH system, which have affected consumption figures. Third party supplies on the network have now been officially recognised and CD is working with AW and Wave on a resolution.</p> <p><b>SE-</b> reduction in student numbers means less demand on resources.</p> <p><b>GE-</b> 50% target maybe too ambitious for water reduction by 2030 target, 30% is more realistic.</p> <p><b>JS-</b> Should we look to reduce water on a per person basis- rather than overall total?</p>		<b>Information only</b>

**SE-** There has been a reduction in total meter square floor area.

**GE-** Target exceeded for sustainable transport. Need to revise target. To look at carbon emissions and include business travel. Overarching travel target needs to consider electric cars.

**GE-** The 'net environmental gain including biodiversity to be increased by 20%' target is ambiguous. Needs clarity or redefining.

**IS-** Is this inclusive of tree planting at Silsoe?

**GE-** Aim to use 'net gain baseline assessment' completed in July to update the Biodiversity Action Plan for next year. Create a new baseline and set a target to improve on this.

**GE-** Pollution target 'Pollution control monitoring systems in place by 2023' not achieved- lots of monitoring equipment in place but data not been used. Some not working i.e. water sensors. No consistent data. Air monitoring data only used for research. Need more funding for Living Lab/urban observatory.

**PL-** Need to develop a better response to pollution incidents

**GE-** Sensors work well for the sewage treatment works- need similar access for other monitoring equipment.

**IS-** Need catch-up with Living Lab- what is the situation? Is it possible?

**PL-** What are other Universities doing in regard to pollution monitoring? Ask EAUC

**GE-** Our Climate Adaption Strategy needs a progress review as this has not been updated since 2021. Flood events costing a lot for insurance.

**JS-** Need to look at faults in drainage system as too much run off from airfield. It is very expensive to maintain current infrastructure. All new buildings are equipped with water attenuation features. Building improvements needed. Runway refurbishment design includes runoff attenuation, to reduce flooding.

**SE-** Swales added around BYH.

**JS-** Need a continuation of what we are planning to do- Climate Change adaptation plan needs to be developed.

**GE-** trees also vulnerable to high winds. Not a KPI- but plan/target is needed.

	<p><b>GS-</b> need to reframe rather than remove targets. What do other University's do for climate adaptation? <b>BW</b> to look into this.</p> <p><b>JS-</b> need to look at an overall energy reduction target</p>	<b>BW</b>
4	<p><b>Items for information</b></p> <p><b>Energy &amp; Environment update</b></p> <p><b>GE-</b> A non-conformity was raised during ISO50001 audit on refrigeration maintenance. Auditor will return in October. Overall, the auditor was very impressed with our Energy Management System.</p> <p><b>JS-</b> Rob Oxlade is currently working on addressing the non-conformity.</p> <p><b>GE-</b> One incident report to EA- a district heating leak which caused flooding.</p> <p><b>CD-</b> Solar Farms are reported to be at increased threat of copper cable theft. Security for our solar was discussed and considered adequate</p> <p><b>Energy Plan and Water Plan update</b></p> <p><b>CD-</b> Anglian Water leak detection team have visited campus to look for hidden leaks.</p> <p><b>CD-</b> presented the Red, Amber, Green RAG report for energy and water which indicated the status of actions against the energy and water plans and gave an update on progress. For those actions where progress has yet to be made, this has been largely due to resource limitations. Since the last meeting, there has been further activity on leak detection, the 3<sup>rd</sup> party water connections, ISO 50,001 documentation updates and audit, and on HVAC and BMS issue resolution. Building energy audits last Winter and Spring proved extremely valuable in identifying opportunities for savings and many were successfully followed through.</p> <p><b>CD</b> hopes to undertake some more this year, workload permitting. The Procurement Team now intends to have undertaken a comparison of Water Framework options for us by late September / early October. <b>Action:</b> CD to make GE and IS aware if this does not happen.</p> <p><b>Hedgehog Friendly Campus platinum status – report</b></p> <p><b>BW- Platinum</b> level achieved for Hedgehog Friendly Campus following the successful submission of a case study, which included the hedge planting on campus. This is the highest level</p>	<b>CD</b>

	<p>achievable, and a 'legacy' project so will last forever. It suggested we look at other schemes for key species on site.</p> <p><b>Power BI sustainability dashboard presentation</b></p> <p><b>BW-</b> presented the new Sustainability Dashboard which was created using Power BI. Includes SECR report, waste and recycling, commuting and THE Impact Ranking and QS Sustainability. BW to send EEC the dashboard link to review. Will look to publish with a few amendments for new student intake, and on webpages.</p>	<b>BW</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>Tenant smart meters</b></p> <p><b>CD-</b> Ofgem document states that tenants have right to a Smart Meter. This includes both commercial tenants and residential tenants.</p> <p><b>SE-</b> the cost of this needs to be considered in the context of the option to charge within the rent.</p> <p><b>JS-</b> need to be a MID meter.</p> <p><b>GE-</b> tenants will have access to web portal to view energy data.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Future meeting actions and agenda points</b>	For information
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting-</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> October 12.30-13.30 B26 meeting room</p>	For information