

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

**Leadership & Communication:** The University's Strategic Plan (2011-2015) outlines our commitment to the twin principles of sustainability and social responsibility. In 2012/13 we set out to articulate those principles by introducing our first SSR strategy. Alongside the strategy an enhanced web presence now provides easy access to relevant information, reporting and links. The strategy and web site are available at [www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainability).

Our Advisory Group on SSR oversees this activity and in 2013 introduced KPIs against which to gauge performance in areas such as energy, waste, procurement, and reporting. In April 2013 we invited our internal auditors to look at SSR activity and are now working to implement recommendations in staff engagement and senior leadership.

**Estate & Infrastructure:** see detailed commentary below.

**Learning, Teaching & Research:** Our research themes of Energy, Environment and Food Security, Pathways to Healthy Living and the North continue to promote scholarship in areas directly linked to sustainability and social responsibility. The ongoing development of our curriculum emphasises graduate attributes for the modern world and in particular provides inter-disciplinary Sixth Century courses – including a new Honours level module "Worlds of Food" (which examines issues such as food security). In 2013 we introduced a statement on "Sustainability in the Curriculum" that outlines our approach to this aspect of sustainability.

**Partnership & Engagement:** In 2013 several new initiatives enhanced the ways the public could engage with institutional research. The new May Festival showcases research as well as being a festival of music, literature, film and language. Our established Café series has been joined by a lively Pecha Kucha chapter, with both showcasing ALL research but with sustainability, public health, social justice, and associated global challenges prominent. Our Café Controversial strand provides a specific outlet for discussion of more challenging issues.

Other highlights in 2013 include: achieving Silver in the Healthy Working Lives scheme; Bronze in the ATHENA Swan programme (gender equality in STEM); a new Sustainable Food policy; a staff volunteering day in the local community; and Project search, a collaborative venture helping adults with learning difficulties into employment (the first UK University to be an employer partner). In 2013 our Natural History Centre was re-badged the 'Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre', with a strong focus on schools engagement and learning for sustainability.

The Sustainable Futures team, based in the Students' Association continues to support a range of energy efficiency, reuse, and social justice schemes, notably the new Carbon School (where students support local charities reduce their energy use and emissions). CCF funding secured in July 2013 has extended the project to 2015. In April 2013 the AUSA elected its first full-time sabbatical officer for Environment and Ethics. The AUSA recently achieved Gold in the NUS Green Impacts scheme.

### Emission/Consumption Commentary

Our annual Utilities reports are available at [www.abdn.ac.uk/about/strategy-and-governance/energy-554.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/strategy-and-governance/energy-554.php). During 2012/13 the report outlines an increase in energy consumption and a corresponding increase in carbon emissions. We purchased 107,104,827 kWh of energy, resulting in emissions of 27,017 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, up 3.7% (or 970 tonnes) on 2011/12. Gas and oil use was up, largely due to a cold winter, while electricity use was down in large part thanks to the new data centre. Overall energy consumption as supplied increased by 6.6%. Indications are that emissions will fall substantially in 2013/14 but that the net impact of these changes will only see us return to our CMP baseline level. This is in part a consequence of increased floor area (up 6.2% since our baseline year) but also reflects the fact that initiatives to improve energy efficiency are being countered by increased demand.

### Expenditure Commentary

The overall cost for utilities in 2012/13 was £6,155,377. Of that sum energy costs consisted of £5,575,593, while water costs contributed a further £579,744. The actual cost of the energy used increased by 22.5%. Although the volume of waste going to landfill reduced, the cost of disposing of that waste remained more or less constant. This in large part reflects the escalating cost of disposing of waste to landfill. Water and sewerage costs were down significantly to £579,744, reflecting the substantial reduction in water consumption.

<b>Sustainable Estate Development</b>	<p>Capital projects continue to showcase our sustainability commitments. The North East Scotland Shared Data Centre (a collaborative project with RGU and North East Scotland College) was completed and has won national industry awards and a prestigious Green Gown (Modernisation and Efficiency). The project saw the three partners co-locate IT equipment in an improved facility. Indications are that UoA will save around £90k and 600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually, with further savings accruing to the other partners. Throughout 2012/13 a major installation of solar photo-voltaic panels has been taking place at our main student residence (Hillhead), with some 2,500m<sup>2</sup> being installed. High standards of sustainability performance have also featured on projects such as our new Rowett building which is working towards BREEAM 'Outstanding', while our new university Nursery has been designed as a PassivHaus, among the first in the UK HE sector. Our Utilities report details smaller CMP projects in areas such as heating, lighting and insulation, while recurring savings continue to accrue from earlier projects, e.g. our CHP plant, PC power management and MFD migration.</p>
<b>Waste Minimisation/ Resource Efficiency</b>	<p>During 2012/13 the University produced 1305.16 tonnes of waste. Of this figure; 1.48% of waste was reused, predominantly through charitable donation, 40.72% was recycled, 56.88% was disposed of to landfill and the remaining 0.92% went to heat treatment technologies. The main highlight of this reporting period is that the recycling percentage has surpassed 40% for the first time since the inclusion of clinical waste. The University continues to support a range of charitable donations to encourage re-use – including furniture to local charities, computers to educational projects in Scotland and Africa, and various donations associated with refurbishment projects and end of term hall clearances.</p>
<b>Water (finite resources)</b>	<p>We aim to reduce water consumption by 2% year on year. In 2012/13 we saw significant progress against that target, with a 6.4% reduction year on year to 251,049 m<sup>3</sup>. The identification of a major leak in early 2013 and adjustment to automated toilet flushing in the Library generated almost 13000m<sup>3</sup> and £26k of savings, with improved water metering and leak detection vital to this. Water conservation measures are now standard in new builds, while the rain water harvesting system in the new Library contributes approximately 10% of the building's water needs. The Utilities report has full details of water usage for the year.</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	<p>The University remains a Fairtrade University and supports a range of institutional and civic initiatives. Our Campus Services team introduced a Sustainable Food Statement in 2013 and are working on initiatives to build on our procurement of only free range eggs and sustainable fish products. The University continues to participate in the APUC group that is working to develop a supply chain assurance framework. We welcomed APUC's assistance in developing consistent HE Procurement Emissions reporting which indicated that we were responsible for some 30,023 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from procurement in 2012/13.</p>

**Metrics: Towards Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009**

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> e tonnes)		2011 / 12	2012/13	
<b>Gross Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	Scope 1	Fossil fuels: Non-residential (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	10,325.07	11,551.20
		Residential (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	3,298.04	3,645.85
		Farms (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	n/a	n/a
		Fleet Vehicles (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	53.15	53.87
	Scope 2	Non Residential Electricity Purchased (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	9,033.57	8,435.36
		Residential Electricity Purchased (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,589.14	1,690.48
		Heat/Steam (e.g. purchased from third party) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,142.00	1,545.40
	Scope 3	Water & Sewerage (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	263.47	246.47
		Waste sent to landfill (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	194.60	147.62
		Waste recycled (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	9.17	8.70
Staff & Student Commuting (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)		230.60	230.60	
	Business Travel (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	n/k	n/k	
<b>Consumption</b>	Non-residential Gas (kWh)	54,036,291	60,514,342	
	Residential Gas (kWh)	17,800,088	19,788,290	
	Non-residential Electricity Purchased (kWh)	18,199,624	17,443,924	
	Residential Electricity Purchased (kWh)	3,201,589	3,495,835	
	Heat/Steam	7,276,980	5,862,437	
	Water (m <sup>3</sup> )	268,369	251,049	
	Fleet - Petrol (Ltr)	2585.27	3736.36	
	Fleet - Diesel (Ltr)	18327.19	17532.8	
	Waste sent to landfill (tonnes)	978	742	
	Waste recycled (tonnes)	548	532	
	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)	n/a	n/a	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Total Energy Supplies (£)	£4,642,833	£5,635,094	
	Total Water Services (£)	£679,656	£579,744	
	Total Waste and Recycling (£)	£469,918	£464,764	
	Total Fleet Vehicle Fuel (£)	£23,986	£23,319	
	Total Business Travel (£)	n/k	n/k	
<b>Data</b>	Number of staff (FTE)	3,246	3,307	
	Number of students (FTE)	13,379	13,197	
	Gross internal area (sq mtr) residential	54,461	66,362	
	Gross internal area (sq mtr) non-residential	199,577	199,530	
	Total Income (£'000s)	£215,287	£222,196	
	Estimated savings (£) from CCAP implementation	£73,711	£158,456	

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**Senior Management sign off:**  
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