

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE REPORT: APRIL 2016

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The level of sustainability related activity across the University continues to broaden, which has been specifically supported by the publication of the Framework for Sustainability and its integration with the Business Planning process.

The *Futures Initiative* is now the overarching title for a series of interactions and opportunities for staff to engage with sustainability education and research. This includes the Future Leaders programme, which moves into its second year with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. It is 10 years since Christ Church agreed its first environmental policy. In celebration and to emphasise the progress that has been made since this time, we will run a national sustainability conference in July. Whilst this is focused on our internal community, the call went out nationally and has attracted interest from leaders in sustainability across the sector. Whole Earth? has travelled to the University of Kerala in South India, with its creator Mark Edwards, and continues to provide provocation and inspiration in Canterbury.

The Beer, Bread & Honey initiative grows from strength to strength. Our first Green Chapel Ale was successfully brewed in collaboration with the Canterbury Brewers. This was launched in September and had its first public showing at the Annual Meeting in November. A mobile bread oven has been built with the help of 10 students, which will be used for regular bake and take events over the coming months. The first of which will be held on April 27th outside Maxwell Davis. A 27 week programme of beekeeping opportunities is now almost fully subscribed.

Scope 1 & 2 Carbon emissions are still falling slowly with the help of small scale spend to save projects funded by Salix and HEFCE RGF interest free loans. However, the Estate Master Plan will have a significant impact on our emissions in the short to medium term, as we begin an ambitious programme of construction and consolidation. A new carbon management plan will be developed that will map projected emissions reductions based on the construction programme and our commitments for the buildings to be of the highest environmental standards.

After 3 years with SITA as our waste contractor significant increases in cost and reductions in their recycling rates has resulted in the need to retender the contract through the OJEU process. A new contractor will be appointed to begin operation on July 1st.

As a Fairtrade organisation since 2008 it is important to maintain our status and continue to enhance the breadth of Fairtrade offerings. Whilst there are challenges related to the supply and cost for raw ingredients, the Fairtrade Foundation remains impressed with our level of commitment, and we have successfully retained our Fairtrade status.

The Student Green Office (SGO) continues to grow; developing a wide range of activities and social media communications. Nearly 30 students have been either employed or volunteered within the SGO this year, which includes the increasing successful Student Accommodation Wardens.

Our Environmental Management System, which forms the cornerstone of our sustainability management system, was successfully recertified under ISO14001 and EcoCampus Platinum in February 2016. The external auditors were very complimentary about the robustness and maturity of the system. Work on developing our GRI G4 sustainability report has begun with the first of a series of briefs with key stakeholders.

2. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2.1. *The Framework for Sustainability*

A Framework for Sustainability has been developed and approved (09/16) to underpin the Sustainability cross-cutting theme of the University Strategic Framework. Key to the integration of this within the University's core activity is that individual Faculties, Schools and Departments respond within the context of their academic portfolio or specific area of professional service. To support this, 4 specific questions have been embedded within the recently enhanced Business Planning process:

1. Who is responsible for coordinating a response to the Framework for Sustainability?
2. Where relevant, has a review of the academic portfolio been undertaken to assess how the curriculum can be enhanced to support the aim and objectives articulated in the Framework for Sustainability?
3. Where relevant, has there been a review of RKE activity to identify opportunities to develop an identifiable sustainability RKE profile?
4. What activity is planned in relation to the four themes within the Framework for Sustainability, and in support of the achievement of the University KPI to "Maintain an ISO14001 accredited Environmental Management System?"

This is the first year in which this approach has been taken, but the level of engagement at Faculty level is encouraging and the approaches appropriately variable. It is expected that engagement with professional service departments will follow.

2.2. *The Futures Initiative*

The *Futures Initiative* continues to have currency and influence, which after 4 full years of operation has developed into a suite of opportunities and activities that support and underpin the academic themes of the Framework for Sustainability.

Futures Initiative funding continues to be available to kick-start ESD related activity. A further 10 small scale projects have been approved so far this year, which include the development of responses to *Whole Earth?*, the beginning of a *Tradescant 400* project, and further research into evaluating sustainability understanding within modules.

In order to support the new Learning and Teaching Strategy, seed funding through the *Futures Initiative* has been specifically included within section two of the strategy, as part of the "Building capacity to deliver transformative curriculum" section. It is expected that, academic staff will be introduced and have access to these funds as part of the PGCAP and Fellowship by Application process.

The *Futures Reading Group* is now established as a regular monthly forum in which staff and students can engage in critical discourse around specific sustainability related texts. In addition, the *Futures Forum* provides larger scale termly opportunities for the development of an ESD community of practice. This year, following a very successful sustainability related RKE Forum in July 2015; these sessions have been used to further consider the opportunities and synergies that could be created through the development of a Strategic Research Network (SRN) for Sustainability. Prof Peter Vujakovic has convened a small start and finish task group to consider this more formally, which will report back to the Professoriate later in the year.

2.3. *Future Leaders Programme & the SDGs*

The Future Leaders Programme recently introduced the second cohort to the delights of Forest School as their first engagement of the year. The activity and development in the coming year will focus on

the opportunities for integrating the aspirations of the UN Sustainable Development Goals into HE. Whilst targeted at large business and governments, many of the Goals are particularly relevant to a university and the content of our courses.

Box 1. The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Going forward, previous cohorts will be integrated with subsequent ones to ensure a growing community of practice in sustainability education and research.

2.4. National Sustainability Conference: 7th July 2016

2016 will see the first Christ Church national conference on Sustainability research and education. This 1 day event is being modelled on Plymouth University conference held in January 2015 and being co-branded as a series, which will move to other Universities year-on-year. It will be preceded by an evening event, to be held in the grounds of St Augustine's Abbey that will provide opportunities for networking, discovering the heritage of our site and tasting of the first brew of Green Chapel Ale.

The conference is free to attend as a significant staff development opportunity, and is directed mainly at our internal community. However, the call for papers has gone out nationally and several abstracts have been received from leaders in the field. Attendance will be open externally and we expect a good number of colleagues from around the country, which will help to enhance our growing reputation in leadership for sustainability; numbers will be capped at 100.

2.5. Whole Earth?

The Whole Earth? exhibition was successfully launched on the Canterbury Campus in September by Michael Morpurgo. For the second half of the Michaelmas term it was displayed in two halves at the

Broadstairs and Medway Campuses, each with their respective opening events. Following Christmas, groups of postgraduate and undergraduate students from the Faculty of Education visited southern India as part of their validated Initial Teacher Education programmes. Alongside their school visits, students participated in a two-day conference on Science Education and Sustainable Development jointly organised by Christ Church and Kerala University. The keynote address was given by exhibition creator, Mark Edwards who joined the Christ Church team for the entire visit. The Whole Earth? exhibition will be touring universities, schools and colleges in southern India over the coming months.

Closer to home, the exhibition remains a focal point at the North Holmes Campus, being displayed around the tennis court fencing. Led by Toni Wright from the England Centre for Practice Development, it has been used for an event run by the Women's Staff Network to celebrate International Women's Day, which included students from the feminist society. An associated event was run in conjunction with local Art Therapists who provided an artistic response to the exhibition, which will be displayed at the Sustainability Conference in July.

Opportunities for the development of a version of Whole Earth? for schools, with associated curriculum resources, are being explored with Mark Edwards, colleagues from Anglia Ruskin University, the Faculty of Education and our own Partnership office.

2.6. External activity

Colleagues continue to present and publish work nationally and internationally, which will be highlighted at the following conferences:

- Symposium on Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the UK, Manchester Metropolitan University, April 5-6
- Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges annual conference, University of the West of England, May 25-26
- Sustainability in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities, CCCU, July 7

Additionally, Dr Peter Rands has joined the EAUC Strategy working group, which will set the strategic direction of this increasingly international association to 2030; has been contracted by Bloomsbury Academic, along with Prof Janet Haddock-Fraser and Dr Stephen Scoffham, to co-author a book on Leadership for Sustainability in Higher Education; is a member of the UK steering group for the development of the regional questions for the International Sustainability Literacy Test (SuLiTest); and is part of development group for a new EAUC HE/FE Sustainability leadership development programme.

3. BIODIVERSITY, HERITAGE AND CURRICULUM

3.1. Beer, Bread & Honey

September 2016 saw the launch of our first Green Chapel Ale, produced in partnership with the Canterbury Brewers and using hops grown in our own hop garden, around the tennis courts on North Holmes Campus. The ale has been on sale through the food court since December and the last few cases are being saved for the sustainability conference in June. A well-attended stakeholder tasting event took place Jan 20th 2016, which included a fascinating talk by Dr Peter Darby, curator of the national hop collection. This was also preceded by a Wassailing, arranged by the Chaplaincy. However, its first formal showing was at the Annual Meeting on Nov 24th 2015, where it was available for tasting. 15 more bines of three heritage varieties from the national hop collection have now been planted along the north side of the tennis court fence, which will take 3 years to mature.

Planning for building the bread oven has been on-going for several months, which all came together on Mar 9th 2016 when Alex Metcalfe and a team of ten students built the first oven on a purpose bought trolley. The oven will be used for the first time at the Bring and Bake event on 27th April, outside Maxwell Davis.

The Johnson bees are alive and well, and beekeeping season is now upon us and there are 27 beekeeping weeks until the end of September. Weekly beekeeping sessions (1-2 hours) will be attended by volunteer staff and student beekeepers. Hopefully, our first honey harvest will be in early summer.

3.2. Edible Campus

Building partnership and ensuring on-going participatory engagement with Edible Campus is key to the success of these projects, particularly where there can be formal curriculum links. Students from Media and communication worked all last summer to develop the marketing strategy. Building this activity into all aspects of Edible Campus marketing and communications will be expanded in this and subsequent years, following excellent student and tutor feedback. Students from Science have isolated 5 yeast strains from the North Holmes Campus, one of which may well be used for brewing. This is not only a unique experience for the students but one which happens very rarely within the industry.

Engagement levels for Edible Campus programme activities in general have surpassed those of the entire last academic year before the end of the trinity term, in terms of head count at events, degree programme activities and online engagement through social media.

The Edible Campus theme of food security has been explored by students from Early Childhood Education, Occupational Therapy, Education Studies and Design Technology Primary Ed degree programmes, involving a total of 141 students and around 18 hrs contact time. Attendance at informal curriculum and staff events adds at least a further 136 staff and students. For the period 4th March to 31st March the Edible Campus Facebook page reached 1076 people (they saw a link to it) with an actual 5,841 people engaging with the page and 17 likes from current students in that period. The Facebook fan base is 70% female, 26% male (with the remainder undisclosed). These figures reflect real life student attendance at events, and are separate from the number of 'allotmentees' tenanted and tending the 24 plots across Canterbury sites. This has remained stable at between 35-40 members of students and staff.

The student coordinator for Edible Campus (Linnet Rainbow) has taken the lead on developing a monitoring and evaluation plan for the programme, which is currently on-going but will inform future strategies and engagement activities.

3.3. Biodiversity Action Plan

The CCCU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is the culmination of 5 years collaborative biodiversity management at our university. Members of the Biodiversity Working Group have developed a Biodiversity Action Plan responding to international and UK commitments as well national and regional BAP's. The BAP sets out our unique environmental heritage and details criteria for green space and biodiversity management. An innovative focus group was conducted to ensure meaningful participation of the Grounds and Gardens team whose input is crucial to ensuring a fully informed and practical process. The BWG is an excellent example of how collaboration between a range of professionals from across the organisation can achieve so much.

The BAP formalises the process for approving greenspace projects developed by academic colleagues in partnership with the grounds and gardens team through the Biodiversity Working Group (BWG). Anyone wishing to develop such a project now has to develop a mini BAP responding to the criteria in the CCCU BAP for protecting and enhancing existing green spaces, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

The first project to go through this process is the restart of the Physic Garden by the Johnson building, which is being undertaken by PhD candidate and instructor Dawn Evans, who presented her plans to the BWG. Mini BAP criteria require a detailed implementation and continuity plan, and sign off by the Head of School, to ensure curricular integration of greenspace learning and long term support for the initiative.

3.4. Canterbury In Bloom and Business Landscape of the Year

After receiving a Gold award for the South and South East In Bloom category, Canterbury has been put forward for the national Britain In Bloom award this year. Judging for Canterbury In Bloom will take place on Wednesday 20th July and Britain In Bloom on Wednesday August 3rd 2016.

Canterbury In Bloom has always been an amalgamation of many separate groups activities, of which Christ Church has been one. This year, all individual groups have been encouraged to submit separately in addition to the collective submission. There are now 10 separate entrants from Canterbury, which are detailed below. The North Holmes Campus is has entered the competitive “Business Landscape of the Year” category.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Whitefriars Shopping Centre | Town Centre |
| • Love Hambrook Marshes | It’s your neighbourhood |
| • Market Way Area Residents Association | “ |
| • Oaten Hill & District Society - Milton Road | “ |
| • Oaten Hill & District Society - St Georges Garden | “ |
| • Oaten Hill & District Society - Fire Station | “ |
| • St Stephen's Residents' Association | “ |
| • The Friends of Kingsmead Field | “ |
| • Tyler Close Neighbourhood Group | “ |
| • Canterbury Cathedral | Large conservation area |
| • Canterbury Christ Church University | Business Landscape |

3.5. Biodiversity and integration with the Master Plan

In Early March 2016, the Biodiversity working group met with architects for the Estate Master Plan (BDP), in order to consult on the proposed outline design and the role of the Biodiversity Working Group in relation to the development of external areas. A very productive meeting resulted in the agreement that the Group would be integrated into the development process and consulted at regular intervals. This would comprise consideration and development of design proposals, both in relation to green roofs and walls, as well as more general landscaping. Additionally, the Group and BDP agreed that the specification of ground works and soil composition at tender stage was very important to ensure good quality and appropriate growing environments.

4. MASTER PLANNING

Over the past few months the Estate Master Plan (EMP) Project team has been continuing to work on the proposals for the redevelopment of the North Holmes Campus.

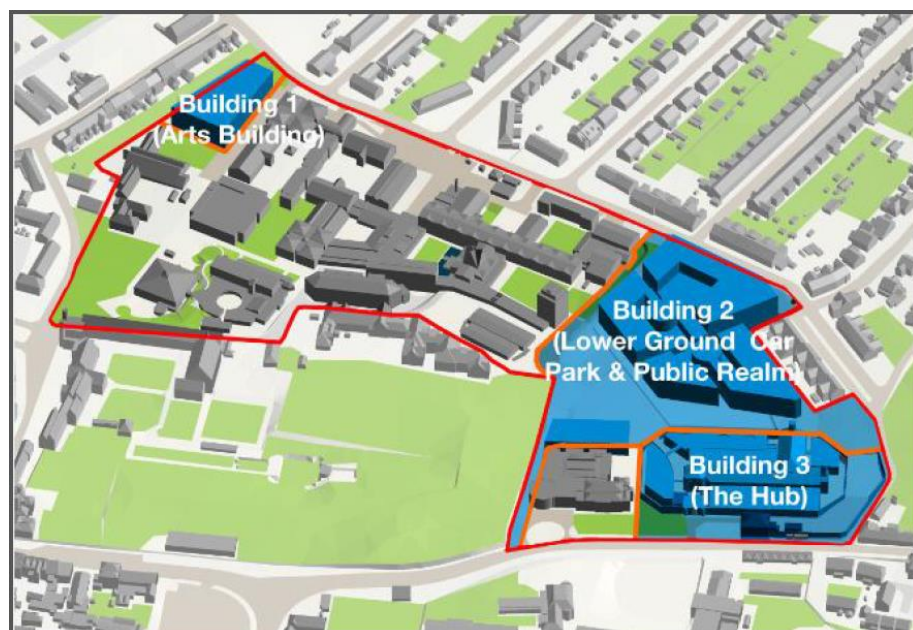
This long term investment will allow the University to modernise and consolidate its facilities to meet the changing demands and expectations of students, deliver evolving approaches to teaching and learning and to incorporate new technologies.

In the autumn of last year, a series of consultations were undertaken with key stakeholders to enable them to feed in their views and ideas to the Estate Master Plan and since then we have been consulting internally with the user groups involved in the early stages of the plan. This has included the Biodiversity Working Group and the Travel & Sustainable Business Working Group.

The first three stages of the proposed Estate Master Plan are:

- Building 1.** Arts Building. 2,600m² building adjacent to gate 1 and on the site of the Blue car park. This facility is being designed to house commercial music, digital media and photography courses, which are currently being offered at our Broadstairs Campus.
- Building 2.** 17,000m² – 20,000m² building to be constructed on the prison back land with lower ground floor car parking for circa 300-350 cars, together with the creation of the Abbey Square and St Martin's steps to link the elements of the World Heritage Site.
- Building 3.** The Hub. This will create a Hub for student services in new buildings within the listed prison wall linked to the historic prison, which will be adapted to form a heritage museum, gallery and other public facilities.

Figure 1. Estate Master Plan schematic for buildings 1, 2 & 3.



Design work for Buildings 1, 2 & 3 is continuing and work is starting on the environmental modelling to ensure that the buildings will meet the University's target of BREEAM Outstanding and DEC A/A+. For Buildings 2 & 3 a full Environmental Impact Assessment is being prepared in line with EU legislation to support the planning application. However, there will be significant impact on our carbon emissions in the short to medium term, as we begin an ambitious programme of construction and consolidation. A new carbon management plan will need to be developed that will map projected emissions reductions based on the construction programme and our commitments for the buildings to be of the highest environmental standards.

Next steps

The University and EMP architects BDP are now fully engaged with Canterbury City Council, its advisers and other statutory authorities, such as Historic England, on the emerging strategy and detailed designs. The next phase of external stakeholder consultation in May/June and the internal consultation will continue with the relevant departments and the student body.

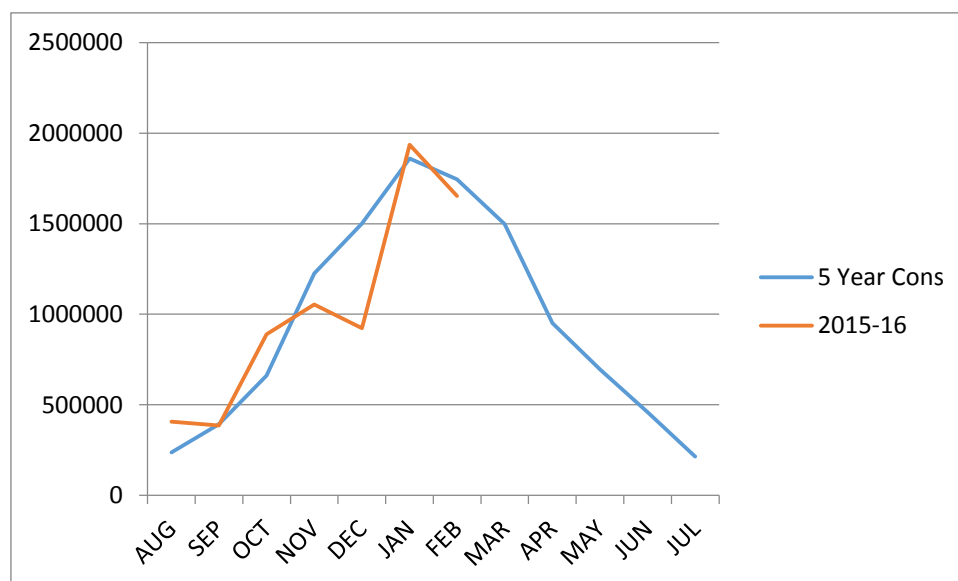
It is anticipated that a detailed planning application for the former prison and the land to the rear will be submitted to the city council in summer 2016. Public exhibitions will run in parallel with the submission of the application.

5. SCOPE 1&2 CARBON EMISSIONS AND CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

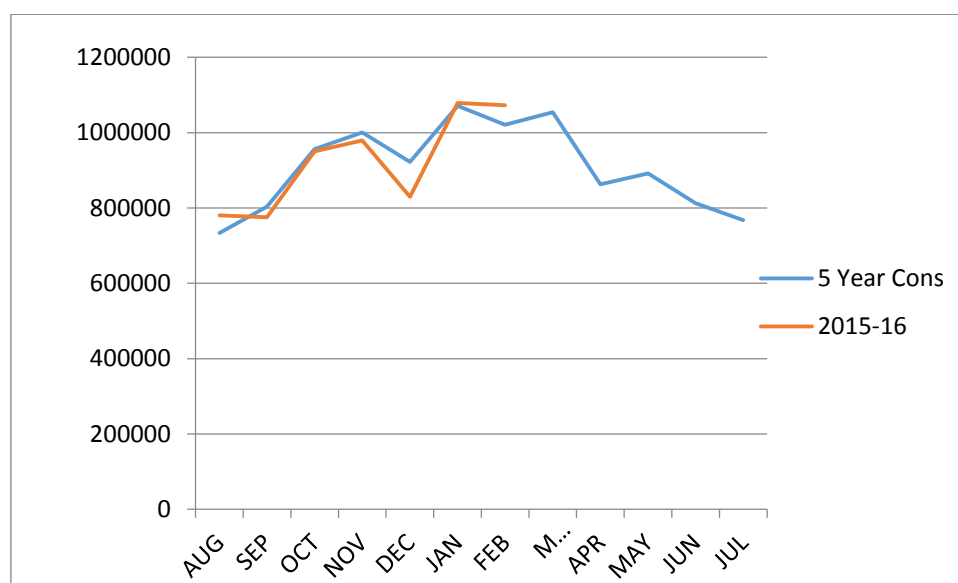
5.1. Emissions from Gas and Electricity

Use of gas and electricity, for the period August to March, is down from the 5 year average by 5% for gas and 0.65% for electricity, as shown in the graphs below. Carbon emissions as compared with the same period last year are also down from 4,612 t/CO₂e to 4536 t/ CO₂e, which is a reduction of 1.65%.

Graph 1. Gas consumption (kW/h) compared with 5 year average.



Graph 2. Electricity consumption (kW/h) compared with 5 year average.



5.2. Tender for half-hourly metered electricity

The retender for the half-hourly metered electricity supply at North Holmes Road was completed in March for a further 2 year period through SSE¹. The decision was taken to replace the previous Green Tariff with a Blue for Business Tariff, being cost neutral and based on the projected additional cost of £10,000 due to the Climate Change Levy being charged on Green tariffs from April 2017. The following has been provided by SSE:

- *Blue for Business is backed by Generator Declarations giving customers a 100% guarantee that every unit of electricity they buy will be matched by an equivalent volume of electricity generated from a low-carbon source.*
- *Nuclear power is recognised by the government as a zero-carbon electricity generation source, making it a genuine alternative to renewable power for organisations looking to buy low-carbon electricity.*
- *Enables customers to demonstrate their sustainability credentials and comply with global greenhouse gas reporting standards.*
- *Not priced at a premium. Customers get the all the benefits of Blue for Business at the same competitive price as our 'standard' energy.*
- *We are one of only a few suppliers in the UK that can make this offer to major electricity users – because we generate such large amounts of low-carbon nuclear electricity.*

5.3. Carbon reduction projects

As reported in the annual report 2014-15, the University received £141k from the Salix SEELS and a further £280k from the HEFCE Revolving Green Fund 4 scheme. Both schemes provided for internal and external LED lighting upgrades at Canterbury and Medway; both of which have been successfully completed.

A further £168k of Salix funds has been received in order to continue lighting and heating upgrades at Medway and Canterbury.

6. SCOPE 3 CARBON EMISSIONS

6.1. Waste Contract

The University engaged in a waste contract with SITA on January 1st 2013, this was for a 3 plus 2 years contract. On November 23rd 2015 a contract review meeting was called between Geoff Marsh (Assistant Facilities Director – Operations), Gill Williams (Housekeeping and Waste Manager) and 2 members from SITA, to discuss the options to take up the 2 year extension and to find a way forward with the reduction on recycling that SITA could now offer as the number of items that were classed as recyclable has been reducing over the term of this contract.

During this meeting SITA informed CCCU that they were losing money with this existing contract and they were only interested in recycling paper, cardboard and tin, they also informed CCCU that there would be an increase in the cost. This transpired to be a 49% increase. SITA was then given a 6 month

¹ Energy company comprising Southern Electric, Scottish Hydro, SWALEC and Atlantic.

extension to enable CCCU to go out to tender to obtain the best options and value for money within the current market for CCCU.

The tender is a significant undertaking as our requirements are complex and extensive and, due to the value of the contract, our requirements have to be advertised across the whole of the European Union, through the OJEU process.

The specification included within the tender covers not only the basic collection of waste and recycling, but also requires the successful bidder to support the University in the implementation of its waste management strategy. This will include the provision of detailed management information, attendance at CCCU internal meetings, advice on improving recycling rates and behaviour change programmes.

Waste Contractors who recently attended a site visit on Thursday 7th April 2016 are, Viridor, Veolia, Country Style, Biffa and 707 Resource Management.

Table 1. Timescale for tender process to contract commencement.

Date	Action
21/03/16	Tender Documents sent to Suppliers
07/04/16	Site Visits
12:00hrs 18/04/16	Deadline for submitting clarification questions
12:00hrs 25/04/16	Deadline for submission of completed tender proposal
25/04/16 – 06/05/16	Evaluation of Bid Submissions and Clarifications
W/C 09/05/16	Reference Site Visits
19/05/16	Presentations
20/05/16	Intention to Award
21/05/16 – 30/05/16	Standstill Period
31/05/16	Contract Award
01/06/16 – 30/06/16	Implementation
01/07/2016	Contract Commencement Date

6.2. Travel Plan review

The University Travel Plan and associated Action Plan were agreed by SMT in June 2009. Since this time, the action plan has formed the basis of all work related to enhancing sustainable travel options at all campuses, and has been reviewed annually. As a consequence of the need to submit an overarching development brief to the City Council for the University Master Plan, urban flow were contracted to refresh the Travel Plan.

Through a series of Working Group meetings, consultation workshops and staff & student travel surveys, urban flow are now in the process of finalising the plan for approval by SMT.

7. SUSTAINABLE FOOD

7.1. Fairtrade Status

After 8 years of continuous Fairtrade Status, the University has once again been re-accredited by the Fairtrade Foundation. Being a Fairtrade institution means the University has made a commitment not to just supply and promote Fairtrade, but to embed it into our policies and practices and to undertake an ongoing cycle of improvement and evaluation. We have 5 key commitments within our Fairtrade Policy:

- to adopt a university-wide Fairtrade policy with input from staff and students
- to ensure Fairtrade products including food and cotton are made available for sale in all campus shops
- to ensure Fairtrade products are served at all meetings and events hosted by the University and the Students' Union
- to run campaigns on campus to increase the understanding of Fairtrade and consumption of Fairtrade products
- to establish a Fairtrade Steering Group, with representatives from the student body, from University staff and from our catering and procurement teams.

The University also received very positive feedback from the assessor in the final report:

"It is brilliant to see specific points included within the policy that outline how you intend to implement the five goals, most notably your dedication to increasing your use of Fairtrade products to garments and raw ingredients"

8. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

8.1. Student Green Office (SGO)

This year the SGO has been run with three students employed for 16 hours per week between them; an Events Coordinator, Megan Cork; a Communications Officer, Irina Cristache and an Edible Campus Coordinator, Linnet Rainbow; the latter two were hired during the autumn term. We've also had a dozen active volunteers in the SGO recruited in person through events, through interaction with academic modules (primarily PR & Media and Psychology). Around a third of them have been exclusively helping with events, and the remaining two thirds have been actively blogging or creating marketing and communications materials for us. To date, the SGO have run 11 of their own events on and around campus, primarily focusing on Fairtrade and sustainable food, and Bioersity initiatives; with an additional half dozen or more Edible Campus Events. They have also had a presence at the Freshers Fair, Volunteering Fair, Wellbeing Fair and all University Open Days and Applicant Days.

8.2. SGO virtual communications

Our new Communications Officer, Irina, has made inroads with CSR radio and has begun producing a regular podcast for the SGO in collaboration with the CSR radio team. She has also been building upon the expansion and increasing engagement with students via the CCCUSustainability Wordpress blog and our Facebook page. 50 new followers have been attracted in the past two terms and some posts reaching over 500 followers in some cases. At any one time we have around six active student bloggers, covering everything from the environment, energy & carbon and Fairtrade, to social justice issues, sustainable travel and economy. There are also spotlights on local community projects and

businesses, seasonal recipes and how to manage food on a tight budget, and where to find support for mental health problems, exam stress and so forth.

8.3. Student Accommodation Wardens

The 12 Accommodation Wardens we've been managing this academic year have been working with even more success than previously. This is partly due to paired working which has greatly increased engagement with our first year students in University residences, but also by aligning their work more closely with the topics covered on the blog and themes in the wider University. Anecdotal feedback from the students we have engaged with this year through the Accommodation Warden project has been very positive. Several students commenting that:

- it has made them feel that the University cares about their welfare
- the wardens have helped them stay in the loop about events and activities on campus
- they've been friendly and communicative
- it has been easier to talk to them about concerns than to University staff sometimes
- they feel that their money is going to good use
- it's helped them to understand how fault reporting works and helped them to get issues addressed swiftly in their accommodation.

A more comprehensive report of their activities, engagement levels and feedback will be produced over the summer term.

9. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

9.1. Green Gown Awards

Unfortunately, none of our Green Gown finalists won an award this year. However, it is important that we were recognised for our good practice and all the team were able to attend the awards night and celebrate ours and the sectors' efforts to build a more sustainable future within higher education.

9.2. Guardian Sustainability Awards

Unfortunately, an application to the Guardian Sustainability awards for the Beer, Bread & Honey project failed to be shortlisted.

10. SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

10.1. ISO14001 and EcoCampus

After 3 years of full ISO14001:2004 accreditation and EcoCampus Platinum status it was time for a recertification. This was undertaken at the beginning of February 2016 by our external auditors, NQA. After a rigorous and intensive process carried out by two auditors over 2 days, they were very complimentary on a number of fronts and commended us for the evolution and establishment of a robust and mature EMS.

The new standard ISO14001:2015 was introduced in September 2015, although we have 3 years to comply we will be aiming to do so by February 2017, the next surveillance audit. In many respects the EMS is already some way towards this, due to its integration with university strategy and full senior level support. There will be areas of detail that need to be worked through that will require support

from all colleagues involved in maintaining the EMS, but it is intended that this will be carried out in parallel with the internal audit process, to facilitate a smooth transition.

10.2. *The Global Reporting Initiative: GRI G4*

The University approved a Framework for Sustainability: 2015-2020 in September 2015 that articulates an overarching policy statement. Under the section entitled “Our reputation” it states that:

“We aspire to demonstrate leadership for sustainability and will be guided by sector and corporate best practice, nationally and internationally, with reference to the international guidance standard for Social Responsibility (ISO26000). Internationally recognised reporting frameworks (GRI G4 & <IR>) will be used to ensure transparency of sustainability reporting, which: is inclusive of stakeholder view; is within the wider context of sustainability; reflects the significance of organisational impact; and provides a complete assessment of the organisation’s performance.

In recognition of the strategic importance, a top level Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for sustainability has been created, which is to “maintain recognised international standard for environmental management (ISO14001) and report on all University activity following the internationally recognised framework (GRI) G4.”

By committing to the Global Reporting Initiative CCCU will become among the first Higher Education Institutions globally to enhance its non-financial performance reporting with what is rapidly becoming ubiquitous and expected corporate disclosure. It will place the institution at the forefront of the Higher Education industry in seeking to communicate efforts to capture its significant organisational footprint, above the requirements of financial reporting alone, for the benefit of the wider stakeholder base.

During the first half of this year, Kira Shevchenko (PhD student in the Business School) has been developing a briefing document in parallel with a first series of stakeholder consultations. These face to face meetings have helped key internal stakeholders to explore the role of the GRI and the part they have to play in sustainability reporting. This process has helped the development of the first draft of the briefing document.

The next step in the consultation process asks the first group of internal stakeholders to:

- Engage with the brief as a stakeholder and to provide feedback;
- Consider and comment on the statement of materiality;
- Consider who key stakeholders are in the context of the materiality boundary;
- Review the index of disclosure in the GRI guidance for comment on relevance (or otherwise, including not applicable) to the institution in the context of materiality.

The second round of stakeholder consultations, with the academic community will commence in July 2016. The final output of the GRI framework prior to population of the elements is a combined stakeholder and materiality map that charts the requirements of institutional disclosure.