University of St Andrews and Sustainable development

October 10\textsuperscript{th} 2007
Making it Real workshop
Format of the day

• **Timing**
  - 2:30 – 3:00  Coffee
  - **3:00 – 3:10**  Welcome from Mark Butler  
    *(Secretary/Registrar of the University of St. Andrews)*
  - 3:10 – 3:45  The story to date – University of St. Andrews and sustainable development
  - 3:45 – 4:30  Round I of table discussion and feedback
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Crisis … what crisis?

• “are the most fortunate generations that have ever lived” and at the same time “might also be the most fortunate generations that ever will”, inhabiting as we do “the brief historical interlude between ecological constraint and ecological catastrophe”

• George Monbiot in *Heat*. 
The five principles of sustainable development

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly
Policy context for SD & for HE/SD

- Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy

- Learning for our Future: Scotland’s first action plan for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

- The Scottish Funding Council …
  - Will work with institutions & national bodies to identify how sustainable skills, attitudes & behaviours can influence the development of courses
  - Assess progress made by Scotland’s universities and colleges & report annually to Executive (& review sectors progress of following SD principles in capital projects)
  - Consider how sustainable development research capacity can be developed
SFC and SD in its own mission

• Mission: provide a strategic overview of tertiary education in Scotland to help secure a more coherent system of high-quality learning, teaching & research

• Required by statute to have regard to:

  – Skills needs in Scotland
  – Issues affecting the economy of Scotland
  – Social & cultural issues in Scotland
  – Achieving sustainable development
  – The UK & international contexts
  – The education and related needs of students & potential students
St Andrews

• Scotland’s first University (founded 1314), 3rd oldest in the UK … consistently highly rated in surveys and by our students
• St Andrews has approx. 17,000 residents
• St Andrews University has
  – 6,799 students (5,746 undergraduate, 1,053 postgraduate)
  – 2,048 staff (897 academic, 1,151 support and academic related)
  – 90.4% of students in employment or further study (35% go on for further study)
• St Andrews’ size is constrained by its infrastructure (housing, sewage & roads) … extensive tourism via golf
• A town with extensive sustainable development challenges … but also a high quality of life etc.
University of St Andrews
SD initiatives

• Governance

• Teaching and learning

• Research

• Outreach
Governance structure

- Sustainability Policy
- Sustainable Development Strategy
- Objectives and Targets
- Performance monitoring and reporting to Court

Environment
- Waste
- Energy
- Transport

Community & Social Issues
- Community liaison
- Education
- Diversity

Economic
- Funding
- Jobs
- Investment

Sustainability

University Court

Planning and Resources Committee

Environment Task Group

Changing Behaviour Group

Sub-groups
- Tree and Frog
- E & E

Travel and Parking Group

Sub-groups
Measuring our impact

• Ecological footprint modelling

• Carbon accounting

• Plus ongoing measurements of waste, recycling, etc.
Breaking down 3,699 hectares
3,699 global hectares in context

- No direct correlation with cost
  - Wages
  - Air travel
  - Gas and electricity

- University makes up about 0.126% of Scotland’s GDP
- Yet contributes only 0.014% to Scotland’s total footprint
Our carbon footprint

2007 UNIVERSITY CARBON FOOTPRINT
(Note - does not include construction waste; embodied carbon; procurement of goods etc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CO2 Source</th>
<th>tonnes CO2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>energy</td>
<td>16,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>student travel</td>
<td>10,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waste</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water use</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>staff commuting</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>staff business mileage</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fuel use</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39,271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Core business – educating for SD

- Undergraduate degree in Sustainable Development

- Sustainable Development topics within discipline areas

- 2008 launch of postgraduate degree in Sustainable Development
Core business – research and SD

- Significant research activity over all schools (approx 75 academics in cognate fields)
- Centres for
  - Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling
  - Social and Environmental Accounting Research
- Institute of Environmental History
- St Andrews Sustainability Institute
Core business – KT & SD

Courage, wisdom & vision for the future

Understanding of present systems & processes that drive unsustainability

Stories about the past

Stories from others alive today
What do we need?

Stories about the past

Stories from others alive today

Understanding of present systems & processes that drive unsustainability

Divinity, Philosophy

Stories about the past

Stories from others alive today

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Divinity, Philosophy
What do we need?

- Stories from others alive today
- Understanding of present systems & processes that drive unsustainability
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- History, Literature, Art
- Stories from others alive today
What do we need?

Understanding of present systems & processes that drive unsustainability

Divinity, Philosophy

History, Literature, Art

Social Anthropology
What do we need?

- Divinity, Philosophy
- Geoscience, Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, medical science
- Management, Economics, Maths/Stats, International Relations, Psychology
- History, Literature, Art
- Social Anthropology
This is fabulous … but is the start of the conversation not the end

• What step wise changes are possible?
• What is the longer term strategy for this (and other) Universities?

• Strategic
  – Art or skill of carefully planning towards a desired end

• Tactical
  – Plans or procedures to carry out a scheme to achieve an end
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Questions for the day

• **Round I of questions …**
  – *What will Universities look like in a carbon constrained world?*
  – *Where are the boundaries of a University that is addressing its SD impacts?*

• **Round II of questions**
  – How will education change in the face of SD demands?
  – What does leadership in SD look like for the university sector?
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Thank you very much for all your ideas and input

- We will send you a seminar report on the afternoon

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