

## STAFF AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



### **Writtle University College Student Coaches Network for People and Planet (SCNPP)**

#### **Preamble:**

In 2017 students studying for BSc in Conservation & the Environment, BSc Horticulture and MSc Horticulture within the School for Sustainable Environments and Design called a meeting with staff to discuss ways in which they could contribute to the institute's action for environmental sustainability. It was agreed much greater student involvement was called for in setting the institute's agenda and in driving through its strategies, particularly now as Writtle University College embarks on an ambitious programme of embedding environmental sustainability principles, concepts and science in to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Students and staff have proposed the establishment of a "Students Coaches Network for People & Planet" to structure the activities and contribution of students in driving WUC's Environmental sustainability programme for now and the future.

The following information is the results of a workshop organised by BSc III Conservation students in April 2017. The intention is to build on progress made so far through further action of the SCNPP in the forthcoming academic year. Information will be shared with all students in WUC, and staff, by up-dating news and events on the dedicated Moodle page.

Currently, the activities of SCNPP are coordinated by Mr Joshua Abbott, and in the new academic year a steering group will be organised with rolling membership.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

"Writtle University College aims to support a responsible campus where sustainability, education and economics co-exist to encourage positive change to the environment"

#### **Student Coaching Network People & Planet**

*"A student led team, responsible for engaging with staff in WUC to promote student participation in the design, planning and delivery of the institute's environmental sustainability agenda."*

## **Role of SCNPP**

- To produce annual progress report/checks
- Use the Facebook page as a platform for communication with students in the network
- Set targets, monitor and evaluate progress
- To clearly delegate roles and communicate clear tasks, plans and targets
- To conduct focus groups open to any member of staff and/or students
- Connect with other Universities with similar goals i.e. Eberswalde University, Germany
- To contribute to discussions about embedding environmental sustainability into the different programmes delivered at WUC

## **Meetings and communications**

- Annual general meetings to be arranged once a year; steering group meetings to be held once in each semester.
- Focus groups to be held twice a year open to all staff and students
- Outcomes of meetings to be documented and up-loaded to the moodle site

## **SCNPP steering group membership**

- A desire to progress the University College's commitment to environmental sustainability
- Actively contribute to potential improvements on WUC ES policy & activities, including blue sky and creative thinking
- Be willing to speak to senior management team at meetings and be willing to complete this role for one year to ensure continuity and a "point of call" for senior management.

## **Initial points for action put forward at the first SCNPP workshop in 2017**

- Construction and refurbishment
  - Low cost
  - Aesthetically pleasing
- Emissions and discharges
  - As low as possible both in construction and maintained post construction
- Community involvement
  - High involvement and consultation
- Biodiversity
  - Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem function
  - Supporting and building climate change resilience in the landscape
- Waste management
  - Produce little waste
  - Waste is responsibly disposed of
- Travel and transport
  - Reduced distance to procure material
- Sustainable procurement
  - Responsibly sourced material
- Water
- No abstraction

- Water conservation management plan
- Flood mitigation
- More staff with “sustainable” aspects to their job role, or staff dedicated to university wide sustainability
  - Outreaching roles and easily reachable to staff, students and externals.
  - Provides a budget for sustainability projects.
- EMS cycle
- Ethical investment
- Policy and outward facing projects