UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD AT 9.00 AM ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER AT COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM, B-BLOCK

1. APOLOGIES
Present: David Hamilton (DH), Brennan Allen (BA), Priya Kurian (PK), Katie Laurence (KL), Mark Thompson (MT), Jeff Hawkes (JH)
Invitees: Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford, Sarah Knox, Gord Stewart, Eva Collins
Apologies: Aroha Yates-Smith, John Cameron

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
Accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING
Matters arising are included in the points listed below.

4. CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (GORD STEWART)
A presentation was given by Gord Stewart of AQUAS Consultants of the Campus Environmental Sustainability, following on from a report that was commissioned by Facilities Management Division and supported in principle by the Environmental Policy Committee. Gord provided a compelling case for the University to make investment in sustainability along the lines of his report – from a viewpoint of credibility and in business. The report is presented as an Appendix to these minutes (see below).

The follow up from the report is:
4.1 The Vice-Chancellor strongly supports the University of Waikato becoming the first NZ university to be a signatory on the Talloires Declaration – an Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (www.ulsf.org).
4.2 The Vice-Chancellor supports in principle the recommendations arising from the AQUAS report.
4.3 To begin a process of implementation of the recommendations, it is suggested that Gord present the report to Gord present to the senior management team (or VCC – Vice Chancellor’s Committee) in mid-February. This is a necessary prerequisite to implementation of any major actions (Sustainability Officer, Sustainability Office, etc.). It was also suggested that Gord’s Council report could be coupled with a presentation on the same day to staff and students.
4.4 The Environmental Policy Committee should meet late-January to more closely examine the recommendations from Gord’s report and develop proposals as required. In this meeting the Environmental Policy Committee could also give consideration to its name and functionality in light of changes arising from the Aquas report.
4. HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY GROUP (EVA COLLINS)

Eva gave a brief presentation on how the University of Waikato is providing information and having input into the HCC Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group through a Steering Committee. The committee has identified key areas in which it is looking to develop contributions towards sustainability, such as in energy, transport, water and urban land use sectors. Key projects have been identified as well as key stakeholders – the University of Waikato is prominent in both and Eva will continue to act as a conduit for providing information from this group to the University.

5. UNIVERSITY TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP (KL)

A new working group has been established to examine university transport. Katie outlined members of the team.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Hawkes made mention of Earth Hour, March 28th 2009, and indicated how this will coincide with the week of Balloons over the Waikato, to provide opportunity for the University to be involved.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next EPC meeting will likely be late-January – arrangements for this in the New Year – thank you all for your various contributions during 2008.
APPENDIX – CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
PRESENTED BY GORD STEWART

Campus Environmental Sustainability Options & Opportunities

Campus environmental sustainability

Why bother?

- Smart business practice
- Competitive advantage
- Community leadership
- Custodian of public funds
- Environmental stewardship

Stated Commitments

- University Charter
- Environmental Policy
- Distinctiveness Statement
- Consultation Paper

Two-part Study

Part 1: Campus environmental scan
- Energy use
- Water use
- Waste management
- Transportation
- Purchasing

Part 2: Initiatives at other institutions
- "The Competition"
- Best practices overseas

Study Part 1

Campus Environmental Scan

Three steps...
- Review data, documents, reports, etc
- Interview key staff/additional info
- Clarify/confirm current efforts

Which provided...
- A snapshot of the current situation
- Easy options to progress sustainability
- Further opportunities

Energy Use

- Significant annual expenditure ~ $2.5 million
- Systematic upgrading over the last decade
- Annual target for energy use per square metre
- Plant/operational improvements ongoing
- Tremendous opportunity for savings via changes in energy-use behaviour
Water Use
- Annual cost for "three waters" services ~ $105,000
- Indoor use: Metering and upgrading programme
- Biggest users: science labs and hostels
- Outdoor use: Minimal irrigation (lawns, trees in extreme drought)
Possible modest savings in labs and hostels

Waste Management
- Solid waste management ~ $115,000/year (contaminated waste in addition)
- Some good systems in place for recycling, with enhancements occurring
- Significant portion of current waste to landfill could be recycled or composted
- Organic waste: 100% from grounds, 0% of kitchen waste and food scraps
Significant opportunity for improvement via behaviour change initiatives
Considerable cost savings possible

Transportation
- Travel to campus overwhelmingly single occupancy private vehicle (free parking)
- Bikeway service underutilised
- Reasonable bus service, but low ridership (<5%)
- Minimal active commuting (cycling, etc)
- Vehicle fleet management - purchase, maintenance and fuel-efficient driving
Air travel ~ 10 million km first half of 2008 ~ 2.24 million kg CO2 emissions
Campus Travel Plan to address commuting issues

Purchasing
- Major public sector purchaser of goods and services
- New procurement function can influence ~ $45 million annually in purchases (ICT in addition)
- Unilink - Independent e-procurement system - co-op with other tertiary institutions
Opportunity for environmental specialist to assess products and assist in tendering process

Economics of Campus ES
Possible Annual Savings
- Energy ~ $65,000 (50%)
- Water ~ $6,000 (5%)
- Waste ~ $30,000 (15%)
- Vehicle fleet, (air) travel ???
- Purchasing ???

Potential Annual Income
- Parking ~ $150,000 +/- (E@$150/pace)

Study Part 2
Initiatives at Other Institutions
Talloires Declaration
- Signed in 1990 by 22 presidents and chancellors
- Genesis of sustainability initiatives in tertiary institutions
- Now 360 signatories in 40 countries on five continents
A document spelling out key actions institutions of higher education must take to create a sustainable future
In New Zealand
Considered ...
- The University of Auckland
- Massey University (Palmerston North)
- Victoria University of Wellington
- University of Canterbury
- University of Otago

New Zealand Institutions
By Comparison ...
- Auckland – commitment to energy- and water-use efficiency
- Massey – focus on recycling and transportation
- Victoria – students instrumental in pushing for change
- Canterbury – student-centered approach
- Otago – variety of initiatives, intent better coordination

Three of them have a full-time position, one part-time, one considering a new position.
Three are members of ACTS.

New Zealand Institutions
By Comparison ...
The University of Waikato would be among the leaders in terms of operations and management of building and grounds, but lags in the area of programmes to encourage staff and students to adopt more environmentally-friendly habits and practices.

Overseas Institutions
Considered ...
- Australian National University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria
- Middlebury College
- Oberlin College
- University of New Hampshire

Overseas Institutions
By Comparison ...
- Commitment at the highest level
- Advice on policy at the highest level
- Sustainability managers and staff
- Goals and targets
- Comprehensive programmes
- Sustainability champions
- Financial incentives

Progressing Sustainability
"Educational institutions committed to the real work of building a sustainable and decent human future are willing to learn what that requires of us, would be exciting and challenging places. More to the point, they would equip the rising generation to see that the world is rich in possibilities and prepare them to act competently in that light."
—David W Orr, Oberlin College
Progressing Sustainability

"Universities should act as practising models of sustainability."  
– David Hamilton

Toward Campus Environmental Sustainability

Action Steps ...

- Establish a full-time campus environmental coordinator position
- Locate the position appropriately in the organization
- View coordinator’s role as one of facilitating change
- Establish a suitable presence for the campus environmental programme
- Properly resource environmental policy committees, have it serve as an advisory group to the coordinator
- Prepare campus environmental sustainability action plan

Broader Sustainability Initiatives

Action Steps ...

- Sign the Tellieus Declaration and take on its commitments
- Form a University Sustainability Council to advise the Vice Chancellor
- Establish and properly resource a university Office of Sustainability