

Environmental Champions Network

An Environmental Champion is a student or a member of staff who is interested in helping to actively reduce the overall environmental footprint of the University. A voluntary position, Environmental Champions will not be expected to give up a lot of personal or work time, but will be encouraged to feed into and support the Sustainability Office with any ideas, suggestions comments or complaints regarding the Environmental performance of the University. They will also be expected to encourage fellow students or members of staff, wherever they can, to ensure that everyone associated with Edinburgh Napier contributes towards reducing the environmental footprint of the University.

Sustainability Office

The Champions network will be managed by the Sustainability Office. The Office comprises of Richard Cebula (Energy & Utilities Manager), Tracey Walker (PA to Sustainability Office) and Jamie Pearson (Sustainability / Environmental Advisor). The work of the team is managed by Prof Robin Mackenzie (Vice Principal, Research and Knowledge Transfer) and Grant Ferguson (Assistant Director of Facilities Services). Picture below (left to right), Jamie, Tracey and Grant.

There are many other staff throughout the University who have responsibilities covering varying aspects of environmental and sustainable conservation, improvement, regulation and development. Examples include the Facilities Manager with responsibility for waste and the Mechanical and Electrical Manger with responsibility for building energy control.

It is widely recognised that there are a number of staff and students throughout the University with a personal interest covering many environmental areas. It is therefore wise to ensure that these people have a voice, and a clear communication channel, to ensure that they can help the Sustainability Office, and vice versa, in making Edinburgh Napier University as sustainable as possible and all staff and students as environmentally aware and responsible as possible.

Becoming an Environmental Champion

Being an Environmental Champion is a voluntary position. The benefits are personal, with Champions assured that all queries, comments and recommendations will be investigated fully so that they can sincerely feel that their input will have a positive influence on the University. Champions will be part of a cross-campus network which will allow volunteers to network with other colleagues throughout the entire University estate who have a similar interest in environmental matters. Champions will also be directly sent the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group (ESAG) to comment on so that they are made more aware of the structure of all on-going work.





It is the responsibility for each prospective Environmental Champion to check with their line manager to gain permission to volunteer. There is no specific time commitment, it is entirely up to each Champion. It is proposed that an annual meeting of Environmental Champions will be held, however, this may change as the success of the network develops fully into the volunteering structure of the University. Other than that, all communication will be electronic and all information provided will be web based.

Role of an Environmental Champion

To be an extra set of eyes and ears for the Sustainability Office. Many projects, lead by the team, covering a wide range of topics, are now under way. In addition, The Environmental Sustainability Policy and Plan are now in place. But, often, policy can be different to practice. Also, the Sustainability Office are currently based off-campus during the re-development of Sighthill. So, even more reason to have named contacts on-campus.

To bring ideas through the Sustainability Office such as development of recycling facilities, increased provision of Fairtrade goods or energy reduction initiatives.

To inform the Sustainability Office of any internal changes, within their team or campus, which may impact on energy or water consumption or increase generation of waste.

To champion the green agenda, and the wider work of the University, becoming aware of University policies on energy and water management, waste and recycling for example.

To encourage colleagues to use recycling facilities, take part in events such as Fairtrade Fortnight and consider their travel footprint for commuting to and from work.

To be a named contact (if the individual volunteer is happy) for new staff, or staff in the surrounding working area to ask practical questions for example, where the ink cartridge collection boxes are, where to find information on sustainability within each campus.

To feedback to the Sustainability Office any environmental information / publications that come to light through the professional working of the Environmental Champion to aid the full integration of sustainable development into all curricular and professional working areas of the University through all teams, staff and student groups and campuses.

For more information on the Environmental Champions network, do not hesitate to contact:

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