



Sustainable Glasgow

**Green Economy/Private Sector Industry Hub
Chairman's Report to the Board – Guy Jefferson, SP Energy Networks
17th February 2021**

Purpose of Report:

To update Sustainable Glasgow Board on progress and actions associated with the Green Economy/Private Sector Industry Hub.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Sustainable Glasgow Board

- note the content of the report.

1. Background

Second meeting of the hub took place on 16th February 2021 with following representation:

SP Energy Networks, Glasgow City Council, Scottish Enterprise, University Of Strathclyde, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow Chambers Of Commerce, Scottish Government, Clyde Gateway, SDS, ESP, SPT & Wheatley Group.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 Terms of reference for the Hub have now been approved. They include a link to the Climate Emergency Implementation plan to recognise it as the key document to guide our action over the coming year.

3. Membership

We have been joined by Skills Development Scotland, SPT, Fraser Of Allander and Wheatley Group since our last meeting. Invitations have been issued to a number of prospective members and the Chair has committed to meet each one to explain the purpose of the group and gain a commitment to sign up to our Green Business Charter. With support from Glasgow Chambers Of Commerce invitations have been issued to Deloitte, Edrington, ACS Clothing and Natwest/RBS and initial discussions have been positive. We have further suggestions for the Arts and Health Sector to potentially complete our set of "Champion" Businesses.

4. Work Programme

Progress in a number of the areas initially identified by the Hub members at the first meeting. Focus remains on ensuring that some initiatives are delivered for COP26 to shine a light on Glasgow Businesses and the work being completed to deliver our Net Zero target.

4.1.1 Green Recovery Charter Pledge (as attached).



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Green Recovery Charter Pledge has been updated(attached) for public & private sector businesses to sign up to which included climate emission targets under four specific areas (Operations, Leadership, Transport, Buildings). Principle remains to publicise widely in run up to COP26 showing commitment of businesses to short and long term goals with real change prior to COP26 event. That could potentially culminate in presentation at one of the COP26 venues.

The pledges can ultimately be used to create best practice transfer among all of the participants. One of the challenges discussed in February is to ensure that both large and SME business can sign up and ensure a wide variety of participation.

Ian Manson presented a proposal to signpost direct support to SME's that sign up to the charter and Scottish Enterprise have offered to facilitate further to create an incentive and real benefit for smaller organisations who have the ambition but not necessarily the resource and knowledge to make good on the commitments within it.

The Hub hopes to finalise the charter this month by reviewing the transport commitments and agreeing how the SME support can be embedded. Another ambition is to provide an excellent resource for Sustainable Glasgow website which could be used as part of launch.

4.2 Green Business Awards.

Proposal to be discussed/developed with Chamber Of Commerce and included as part of the existing Glasgow Business Awards Ceremony. Meeting arranged for March in line with GBA planning timescales.

4.3 Green Recovery – Top Infrastructure Projects

Fraser Of Allander Institute have agreed to join the hub and will present at the March meeting on their work on defining a Green recovery in Glasgow. Our ambition remains to tie this research into defining and promoting infrastructure projects which support this principle.

4.4 Future Skills

New topic area discussed this month which the Hub members felt would have relevance across some if not all of the Sustainable Glasgow Hubs. ESP presented the work they are doing across Scotland's colleges in providing courses for Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Technology skills (Installation & maintenance). 10,000+ students set to benefit from these initiatives. SDS agreed to present at next month's Hub to discuss how this is broadened out to other disciplines to support Green Economy and recovery. Hub need to consider how we are best placed to influence and support the development of these essential skills to create new jobs and ensure a just transition for existing companies and employees.

5. Actions to Progress for this Month

- 5.1 Finalise Green Recovery Charter Pledge and engage Champion Businesses, prior to planning initiative launch.
- 5.2 Develop SME support proposal and resources and present options at next Hub meeting.
- 5.3 Draft proposal for Green Business Awards.

- 5.4 Complete Hub chairs initial meeting and identify potential synergies or joint proposals.
- 5.5 Next meeting agreed for Tuesday 16th March.

6. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Sustainable Glasgow Board note the contents of this report.