

RSA Fellow-led Sustainability Network
Sub Groups Progress Update January 2018



The Sub groups of the RSA Sustainability Network are committed to and engaged in delivering their chosen outcomes in pursuit of a more sustainable world.

A number of the sub groups have provided updates on their progress toward their outcomes up to Q4 2017 and for your interest these are provided within this document.

Listed below are the Q4 Sub Group progress reports and the pages that they appear on:

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If you would like to join a RSA Sustainability Network Sub Groups listed here or the others that are in development please visit the RSA Sustainability Network Sub Group web page and utilise the contact form provided:

<https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/sustainabilitynetwork/rsa-sustainability-network-sub-group>

Sub Group Name:	Circular Economy Commercial Comparison
Outcome Title:	Research and analysis
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>Ever wondered whether circular economy business models are really worthwhile? Will businesses operating circular models be a more attractive investment to funders? Those are the questions this sub-group is answering.</p> <p>Plans are in place and initial positive engagement with key stakeholders has commenced, including an investment organisation and a provider of circular lease services. We're in the process of defining "linear" and "circular" businesses for comparison.</p> <p>We now need some volunteers to help with research and analysis to help determine whether circular businesses are more attractive to investors than linear businesses.</p> <p>We will also need people who can help us prepare for communication of outputs once the work is complete, although this resource is less urgent. We're aware that this project is out of scope for core RSA activity, so we need to resource the project from volunteer effort alone.</p> <p>I'm happy to send through a more detailed project scope to interested people so they can find out more and ask questions. Please contact gerrardfisher@qsapartners.co.uk</p>
Date:	20/11/17
Paragraph Author:	Gerrard Fisher

Sub Group Name:	Consultation Responses
Outcome Title:	Clean Growth Strategy: forming a Network response
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>In October the UK Government published its Clean Growth Strategy, saying it is “an ambitious strategy setting out how the UK is leading the world in cutting carbon emissions to combat climate change while driving economic growth”. They welcomed views and comments by 31 December. We believed the RSA Sustainability Network could provide a useful and distinct view, based on our deep expertise and values.</p> <p>If you are interested in helping respond to future consultations then please contact David Bent (who has recently become lead on the Consultation Response sub-network).</p>
Date:	21 Nov 2017
Author:	David Bent

Sub Group Name:	Creativity & Sustainability
Outcome Title:	Seeking out a range of creative examples across the world with the aim to co-create hope, increased wellbeing and sense of pride
Progress to Q4 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have met with Eve Watson, RSA Archivist about the Arts & Ecology 2005 - 2010 archive. I wanted to delve into this as it is important to me we review what has gone before at the RSA within creativity and sustainability to take forward learnings and successes. It's very clear as a group we could support raising new funds to get the whole archive digitized and collated for use in a range of exciting ways. • We have been fielding a range of email, telephone and a face to face meet up early in September 2017. • We were 3 strong at the meeting with others thwarted in joining due to public transport issues. Nevertheless, the conversation was connecting, creative and the following main threads and ideas have come up. What is listed below is merely a very distilled summary of this 2 hour meeting, nothing is fixed so do please see this as a starting point. <p><u>Vision</u></p> <p>To focusing on hope, using creativity as the baseline to "communicate*" the creative, the beautiful</p> <p><u>How?</u></p> <p>By seeking out a range of examples across the world with the aim to co-create hope, increased wellbeing and sense of pride</p> <p><u>Tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-enliven and share globally the Arts & Ecology 2005-2010 archive through digitising all archive materials - <i>seek out RSA funds / HLF funds</i> • Within in this sub group seek out examples of what we are each doing or know of - <i>this could be via a list we can then publish, a blog?</i> • Develop an initial 1-2 days way of showcasing these examples i.e. a pilot festival, unconference? • Review progress, decide next steps forward <p>277</p>
Date:	20.11.2017
Paragraph Author:	Anna B Sexton

Sub Group Name:	Sustainable Fashion network
Outcome Title:	Sustainable Fashion Symposium during London Fashion Week Looking at a sustainable fashion journal in 2018
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>The RSA Sustainable Fashion Symposium</p> <p>The RSA sustainability network's sustainable fashion group recently organised an event which took place during the SS18 London Fashion Week in September. The first annual Sustainable Fashion London symposium aimed to connect industry, organisations and leading researchers in fashion sustainability from across the UK with innovative talks and presentations, addressing the key themes of sustainable design, ethical production, retail and consumption, and education. The event provided a platform for sustainable fashion during fashion week and created a discussion about how the fashion industry can implement sustainable solutions to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of Production and Consumption.</p> <p>RSA Fellows speaking at the event included sustainable fashion group lead Debbie Moorhouse- Certified Made in the UK, RSA Sustainability Network founder, Susan Harris- Anthesis Group, Catherine Weetman- Re-think Solutions, Dr Paul Pritchard- Iken Associates, Talia Hussain- Ramnation, and Dr Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas- London College of Fashion.</p> <p>The upcoming project the sustainable fashion group will now focus on is to publish an international journal for sustainable fashion. The journal will include industry insights and also act as a repository for the advancement of published research within fashion sustainability, creating a resource of updated information on the subject.</p> <p>Fellows interested to be part of the sustainable fashion group please contact Debbie Moorhouse certifiedmadeinuk@gmail.com</p>
Date:	25 September 2017
Paragraph Author:	Debbie Moorhouse

Sub Group Name:	Sustainable Finance
Outcome Title:	knowledge sharing platform
	The meeting of the subgroup occurred in January 2018. If you would like to join please contact Talia Hussain
Date:	22/1/2018
Author:	

Sub Group Name:	Corporate Governanance For Sustainability
Outcome Title:	A model for the incorporation of sustainable practices into the core of business strategy
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>We've launched a brand new subgroup of the RSA Sustainability Network that deals with corporate conduct on the way to a more sustainable future. As we're all aware, businesses play a huge part in developing change towards a fairer and more environmentally friendly economy. And there are numerous reports, research papers, and consultations about the issue that short-term thinking, focussed on financial profit, is still in the way of sustainable long-term goals.</p> <p>Running a business, let alone a global corporation, is a complex task. But the current system doesn't only allow but promotes short-term profits and the regulatory basis gives it a lot of leeway to do so. So a good analysis of the interactions of all the tiny wheels in the big corporate machinery is fundamental to finding where a spanner could be thrown into the works to start steering it into a different direction. There are vast resources for this and we're certainly not the first ones with this thought. However, what becomes obvious is a lack of <i>practical</i> models to actually <i>implement</i> the good intentions. A useful way to throw the spanner, so to say.</p> <p>And this is what this subgroup will focus on: to develop a relevant, effective model of corporate governance structure that puts ESG factors (or the 'triple bottom line') into its heart. While still being an efficient income source for shareholders, to distinguish it from a purely social enterprise.</p> <p>It's crucial to build such a model with the input of participants from diverse backgrounds - to bundle the knowledge and 'real world' insights from practitioners, investors, board members, consultants, legal specialists, advisers, analysts and innovative thinkers.</p> <p>That's why we need you! Whatever your background or experience, if you have an interest in the subject and a creative mind-set, please get involved.</p> <p>Unfortunately due to circumstances Lea is unable to maintain a leadership role with this sub group and is currently arranging a transition, in the interim if you would like to join this sub group please contact Robin Dickinson</p>
Date:	22/11/2017
Paragraph Author:	Lea Hurlin

Sub Group Name:	Sustainable Households
Objective	To seek ways in which UK households can become more sustainable and to offer them implementable solutions.
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>We surveyed RSA Sustainability Network members in March 2017 around the seven themes of <i>Energy, Water, Waste, Transport, Health, Habitats and Community</i>. Results showed that 98% of UK households surveyed felt they can live more sustainably and that their biggest concerns are: wasting energy, excessive use of water, food waste, and the challenges of recycling different materials....Read findings</p> <p>In early July we then ran an ideas workshop on the theme of energy efficiency and asked participants to respond to the question: <i>“How can we radically improve residential renewable use?”</i> The top three ideas participants developed in the course of the workshop were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community power using roof spaces to generate solar energy ○ Matching renewable generation with renewable use to obtain a more competitive price rather than just selling the energy back to the grid and ○ Bitcoin for renewables - where there is a peer-peer sales platform for energy service providers and individual households can purchase energy seamlessly from different providers by comparing prices <p>Since the workshop the group has been focusing on how we might support community energy schemes around the country. We intend to tap into other community groups such as Community Energy London to prepare guidance on delivering community solar schemes, and we will share this information through our Sustainable Households website.</p> <p>In addition, we would like to create individual working groups with different leads to run a number of sustainability initiatives in parallel through 2018 to allow for the biggest impact possible. We will focus on solutions to reduce waste in the areas of energy use, water use and food consumption, and also on encouraging the necessary behavioural changes required to achieve this.</p> <p>We have received expressions of interest from other Fellows wanting to join our group and will invite them to attend our next meeting in January 2018.</p>
Date:	22 November 2017
Paragraph Author:	Tanuja Pandit

Sub Group Name:	Sustainability Network Survey 2017
Objective	To find out what the 400 + Sus Net members wanted, liked and could offer by way of skills and experience.
Progress to Q4 2017	<p>A survey of the Network was undertaken this year, the purpose was to find out what the 400 + members wanted, liked and could offer by way of skills and experience. The hope was to find clusters of people around the country with ideas for projects and those with the skills and knowledge to help make them happen.</p> <p>The response was limited, after two attempts around 70 responses were received. For this reason the results may not be representative of what is bubbling away around the country.</p> <p>Although the sample not being large the range of organisations represented and the experience and knowledge available is very wide eg small tree planting charity, to, Crossrail and a global ecology constancy. In addition the range of practical skills offered was similarly varied and very useful eg web design, accountancy, business start up.</p> <p>Because of the way the data was presented I am unable to identify where the volunteers are or contact them. Thank you especially the 7 who said they have a project in mind and would like to lead a sub group.</p> <p>44% CEO, Directors or Chairpersons 73% Fellows 45% London 3% North East and North West</p> <p>Over half said they enjoyed the events and being part of a sub group and reading the newsletter. About half would like to blog or present at an event. Webinars and on line events were suggested involving those outside London or who cannot attend. Indeed communication was highlighted as a problem.</p> <p>In the coming months Fellows on the Steering Committee will use this information to try and locate the volunteers, uncover new ideas and get people together, to make things happen. As well as improve communications and a few host events around the country. But please be patient .</p>
Date:	22 November 2017
Paragraph Author:	Hilda Varley FRSA

Sub Group Name:	Sustainable Manufacturing
Outcome 1 Title:	RSA Medal
Progress to Q4 2017	Discussions are taking place with various RSA internal departments to ascertain the interest in such an award and the procedures that will be required for this proposal to move forward.
Outcome 2 Title:	Quality Product
Progress to Q4 2017	The purpose of this project is to identify quality designed products that would gain from the support and expertise of the RSA network to achieve a market presence and to work with the organisations behind the products in their route to market. All the Innovate UK-funded projects over the last 6 years have been reviewed and a short list of potential projects are being identified to be approached with a view to finding one or two where there is an appetite for co-operation and potential for success.
Outcome 3 Title:	Quality Mark
Progress to Q4 2017	The concept of this project was to work with standard setters and appropriate partners to encourage and support the development of recognised and accepted standards for circular economy manufactured products. This objective has been partially met with the publication of BS 8001 by BSI. We are now liaising directly with BSI on the development of circularity indicators which will underpin both the Quality Products and RSA Medal projects.
Outcome 4 Title:	Infrastructure
Progress to Q4 2017	Not started yet as this is a Phase II project
Date:	25-11-17
Paragraph Author:	Clive Hall

Sub Group Name:	Students and graduates
Outcome Title:	Mentoring event
	If you are interested in supporting this outcome in Q1 2018 please contact Paul Coverdale and Krista Tukiainen
Date:	
Author:	