

**EAST MIDLANDS ASSEMBLY
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP**

Monday 20th March 2005

10:30 pm at Environment Agency, Trentside Office, Nottingham

Attendees:

Nick King (Environment Agency) – Chair
Sue Brothwood (Environment Agency)
Ruth Meek (Environment Agency)
Jim Williams (English Heritage)
Nigel Lee (East Midlands Environment Link)
Helen Chadwick (EMRA)
Alison Hepworth (EMRA)
Phil Keynes (Nottingham County Council)
Peter Strutton (Carbon Trust)
Darren O'Tool (Lincolnshire County Council)
Douglas Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council)
Mike Peverill (Nottingham City Council)
Karl Letten (Hinckley and Bosworth)
Paul Bodenham (LGA- EMRA)
Denise Marsden (Wellingborough Borough Council)
Craig Scott (Derby City Council)
Maggie Bishop (Derbyshire County Council)
Virginia Green (Boston Borough Council)

Apologies:

Gerry Metcalf (UKCIP)
Yvette Dearden (EMRA)
Paul Fleming (De Montfort University)
Stephen Ison (Loughborough University)

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Nick welcomed the invited guests from Local Authorities who came to the meeting to share information and discuss the possibilities of a much wider CC partnership within the EM.

2. UKCIP LOCAL AUTHORITY FORUM

Nick invited Denise Marsden to brief the group on the UKCIP LA Forum. She informed us that the forum is at an early stage and there is a need for a larger number of LA to be involved. The forum could be a vehicle to disseminate information about CC adaptation issues. At the moment it is mainly County Councils that are represented. There is a need to obtain a list of the LA representatives who are members of the forum.

Action: SB to obtain list

The group discussion concluded that there is a gap that an EM Regional CC partnership could fill by disseminating information and best practice.

3. NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION – Mike Peverill

Mike Peverill, Senior Policy Officer at Nottingham City Council briefed the group on the proposal to re-launch the Nottingham Declaration as a process.

This voluntary commitment for UK councils was launched in October 2000 at a climate change conference in Nottingham to raise awareness of CC. Since that time, over 80 councils have signed up to the Declaration to demonstrate to residents and business that their LA are committed.

There has not been any rigorous monitoring of individual and collective progress that has resulted from commitment to the Declaration. Furthermore, the ownership of the Declaration has not been clear and interested councils do not necessarily know who to talk to when they are considering signing up.

With the increasing political and media interest in climate change, it seems like an appropriate time to revise the Declaration and re-launch it. Nottingham City Council plans to host a conference in December to bring together the signatory (and other interested) councils to review and celebrate the progress they have all made and discuss the opportunities for further progress in future years.

A revised Nottingham Declaration

The main purpose of revising the Declaration is to encourage councils to move on from an initial commitment to progress through a number of key stages. This staged approach reflects the reality of getting increased commitment and improved performance within a council, but also provides an opportunity for each progression to be validated and publicised in some way. This new approach could draw from some of the existing methodologies for mitigation for example:

- **ICLEI – Europe’s Cities for Climate Protection campaign**
- **Climate Alliance of European Cities**

The Energy Saving Trust and the Environment Agency have so far expressed a welcomed interest to support and promote the revised Declaration.

It is also important that a clear co-ordination role is established, so that interested councils (and others) know where to go in the first instance. This could be within one of the national agencies, or in a separate office, perhaps in Nottingham City Council or Nottingham Energy Partnership, to retain the local link. Wherever it ends up will be subject to resources and agreement.

Summary of points raised by the group:

- Progressing something that is not a statutory responsibility is very difficult at a local level. Action is taken on legislative duties first.

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- CC is moving up the agenda due to the general level of awareness being raised.
- CC responsibilities could be met but need pot of money for spend/save measures to transform kyoto targets to regional action.
- 11 authorities in EM have signed the Declaration and most will be taking action already internally e.g. staff travel plans to reduce mileage but influencing things externally is more difficult.
- The Carbon Trust - Carbon Mgt Programme is a process for LA to improve their own internal performance, which is necessary before they can influence others to do the same.
- Sustainable Communities Strategies need to look at CC issues. Darren O'Tool informed the group that CC was mentioned in the draft Community Strategy for East Lindsey but it got dropped even though they are signed up the Declaration. However Denise Marsden at Wellingborough Borough Council signed up and has found it a useful tool to influence Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Douglas Robinson from Lincolnshire County Council told the group that there is a massive amount of work to be done because some believe there is no need to take action now. Policy makers understand flooding issues but don't make the link to CC! Policy makers need to realise that adapting to CC isn't just about building bigger sea defences. Jim Williams suggested identifying funding for a project looking at the impacts of CC on the Lincolnshire coastline e.g. long-term sustainability of coastal grazing marsh.
 - Action: JW to arrange meeting with relevant parties to discuss project.**
 - Action all: Lincolnshire needs support to take CC issues forward**
- CC is a global issue with local consequences but there is lots of work to be done to convince people therefore need localised impact studies. Phil Keynes informed the group that Brain Waters wrote a report on the impacts in Nottinghamshire which has been scaled down further in an information leaflet entitled CC in Nottinghamshire – what does it mean for you? This has been distributed with the Nottinghamshire magazine 'living for tomorrow'. The magazine has a wide audience including the general public and makes an issue of sustainable lifestyles by telling a story. It tries to sell a vision of how we should be living with a low carbon economy, which also puts the idea across that there is still a point to living a sustainable lifestyle - no matter what other countries are not doing.

EM-CCSG Role

What could add value at a regional level?

- There is a need to share information as well as disseminate national initiatives and best practice. There is lots of activity at a LA level but there is a need for regional input.
- A regional partnership would also give the issues a higher profile and recognition.

- Long-term vision for the steering group could be to follow the SE Partnership example of running a high profile project (ESPACE) which in turn encourages membership. The SE Regional partnership co-ordinator that gives continuity and energy.
Action: NK/SB to investigate the possibility of Mark Goldthorpe (SE CC co-ordinator) to attend the groups next meeting to give a presentation on his work.
- Jim Williams suggested that the group could produce a pro-forma that would give LA a framework to follow when writing a CC strategy/action plan. It is noted that Nottinghamshire County Council are now consulting on their CC - framework.

Nottingham Declaration - How do we make it work?

- Nottingham Declaration could be a hook and wider regional partnership support needed to take forward.
- A process map is needed on how to move forward after signing the declaration. The group needs to share ideas on how they have moved CC issues forward. The process needs to be flexible as LA will be starting at different levels.
Action: the group needs to produce a tickbox list to get an idea of the where people are with progressing CC issues.
- How do we ensure follow up after LA signed Declaration? There is a need for government to be keen to see what's going on e.g. who checks that community strategies objectives have been achieved? Until somebody is accountable and an external body checks up on actions and achievements which could then get publicly acknowledged it will be difficult to get CC issues moved up the agenda. It was suggested that a Government department would be best placed to check that actions had been followed up.
- A voluntary peer review system was discussed amongst the group. Dedicated officers could come and compare progress against benchmark criteria. This would be a useful prompt to bring CC issues into the front for decision makers.
Action: Paul Bodenham to research the possibilities of peer review system and send email out to trigger discussion about such a system.
- At the Declaration re-launch it was suggested that the group could run a workshop exercise for the chief executives of each county on what it means for them – this would their raise awareness of the regional dimension of CC.
- EA & EST are keen to take the declaration forward and promote.
Action: NK & MP to discuss outcomes from this meeting

4. DEFRA COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY – Nick King/Helen Chadwick

Nick invited Helen Chadwick to brief the group on this fund after having attended a briefing at DTI. There is a fund of £12million to be spent over the next 3yrs for communicating the issue of CC at a local level. Helen told the group that no decision

has been made on how to allocate the money e.g. give it to local initiatives or regional partnerships. What is known is that £6million is going to be kept as a central resource and £6million will go on regional communications initiatives. It has been suggested there maybe between £10 -100,000 pots of money for activities and the first years money will be rolled out in the next 2/3months.

The group came to the conclusion that we should develop some project ideas to put forward proactively as this could potentially influence Defra's thinking on money allocation.

Summary points made by the group:

- The group could bid for funding to support the launch of the Declaration re-launch.
- There is a need to communicate to policy makers and business the CC issues that effect them at a local level without contradicting Regional policy.
- Different audiences need to be considered and sectors influenced at different levels.
- Pooling resources so nobody duplicates efforts
- There is a need to recognise that not all audiences will be influenced e.g. from general public to policy makers, with one message.
- It was suggested that NK could investigate getting a Futerra representative to come and talk to group

Examples of communication projects:

- Use funding to engage others to join a Regional Partnership
- Sector tailored workshops
- The Turning the Tide campaign with a CC theme. Specific CC issues including both adaptation and mitigation could be addressed by using the Region's media.

Action AII/HC: Project ideas for Defra communication funding to be sent to Helen Chadwick who will send them round the group.

5. REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – Helen Chadwick

EMRA will be launching the competition at the end of the week when the website is ready. The aims of this major sustainable building design competition is to promote better buildings that will meet the needs of our communities now and in the future.

The competition provides an opportunity for a number of design teams in the East Midlands to bid for the opportunity to build a centre for sustainable construction. Entries can come from all Architectural practices and design teams as well as

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student design teams for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Not only are there cash prizes of £2500 to each of the best 4 entries and £500 to each of the best 2 entries in the student category but there is the opportunity to be short listed to win the contract to implement the design of the Sustainable Construction Centre of Excellence at Sherwood Energy Village, Ollerton.

The competition is free to enter and is facilitated by OPUN, the Architecture and Built Environment Centre for the East Midlands. The competition brief is available from www.emra.gov.uk/competition/index.htm. The closing date for registration is May 2005 and the awards will be made in December 2005.

Maggie Bishop pointed out it would be difficult for LA to centre because their design team don't operate outside their county. The possibility of running a separate competition for LA to show case their sustainable buildings was suggested.

Action: Helen to investigate possibilities of a LA competition

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

There was a positive response to Nick's question of whether all those who attended felt the meeting was useful and all were keen to meet again.

Date of next meeting to be arranged for June.

7. A.O.B.

Alison informed the group about the EM Environment Group's workshop held in February to set priorities for the group to take forward. The five priority areas are:

1. Data needs
2. Climate Change
3. Driving behavioural change
4. Land Management
5. Environmental Infrastructure

Voluntary groups are forming round these topics which will come up with project proposals as discrete areas of work. Alison recognised the need to involve the steering group when considering CC. There is a decision-making meeting on 22nd May and Alison will feedback the relevant outcomes to this group.

EM EXPO will be held as a joint event with EI Forum at Pride Park on 29th September and the theme will be climate change.

**Sue Brothwood
Environment Agency (Principal Officer)**