

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2005 AT DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, LEICESTER

Present

Simon Drury (Chair)	Center Parcs Ltd
Alan Smith	Groundwork East Midlands
Anthony Payne	EMDA
Bettina Lange	EMEL
Clark Field	EMFEC
Diane Whitehead	GOEM
Joan Travis	Derby City Council
Jonathan Harris	Regional Public Health Group
Keith Melton	Institute for SD in Business, NTU
Lucy Care	Derby City Council
Nick King	Environment Agency
Paul Fleming	De Montfort University
Scott Ghagan	Sustainable Development Commission
Yvette Dearden	EMRA

Apologies

Nick Brown	Nottinghamshire County Council
Hugh Fenton	Scott Bader Ltd
Tony Marmont	Beacon Energy

1.	Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
	The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed. Action point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3 – SD to provide YD with contact details of potential new business members
2.	Annual Report and Work Programme
	The group discussed the report and noted the additional points requested by Policy Board. The group was keen to ensure the inclusion of the rural dimension throughout its work programme and discussed issues in relation to the availability of data to measure progress.
3.	Evaluation of East Midlands Expo 2005
	The Expo was well received with good feedback via the evaluation forms. The group discussed and evaluated the event.

	<p>It was noted that attendance was almost double that of 2004 and that the feedback forms showed that about 50% of those attending were not already knowledgeable about sustainable development.</p> <p>The points raised by the steering group, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report, to help improve the event were agreed. It was also agreed that the seminars were a useful way to further engage a wide range of sectors.</p> <p>The group concluded that it had been a highly successful event.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2006 - DW to contact those who attended to ask about progress made/actions taken as a result of the event • The Expo steering group to continue to lead Expo 2006.
4.	<p>Behavioural Change</p>
	<p>BL presented the report. The group discussed the need to ensure that transport, energy, procurement and waste issues are addressed but that the work of this group needs to be focused. It was also keen to ensure that academic research and information from other regions is utilised and built upon.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small working group to meet to draw together the research that is already being undertaken in relation to behavioural change. KM/BL/DW/SD/AP/NK/PF/YD all expressed interest. • PF to host the first meeting at De Montfort University - PF to email potential dates to those interested (CF to be kept informed)
5.	<p>Project updates</p>
	<p>Climate Change</p> <p>NK provided an update, including the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to be held on 5/12/05 to celebrate 5 years of the Nottingham Declaration • There is a need for action on the economics and costs of energy together with future carbon issues and demands. <p>Public Procurement</p> <p>JH informed the group that a range of sustainable procurement activities had been identified across the East Midlands. Recruitment was currently underway for a person to fill the short term post to further this project. Further progress to be reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>Sustainable Design Competition</p> <p>Eighteen final design schemes had been submitted and the judging was to take place on 18th November at Center Parcs HQ. The awards ceremony would then</p>

	take place on 7 th December. A report would be provided at the next meeting.
6.	Regional Sustainable Development Champions
	<p>SG provided the group with an overview of the role of SD Commission, explaining how it reports direct to the Prime Minister, is a critical friend of Government and influences government policy. SDC reports are publicly available.</p> <p>In relation to its current review of sustainable development in the English regions, the report is due to be published shortly. The SDC proposal is to have regional champion bodies that would provide independent scrutiny and advice. The SDC is currently supporting a pilot in East of England. A key issue is to identify resource levels that would be required for a regional champion body.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding the links to the group and the potential effectiveness of such a champion body.</p>
7.	Elliott Morley's National Tour
	<p>The group were informed that Elliott Morley was due to visit the region for a sustainable development tour on 16th January – <i>since the meeting this visit has been postponed and is now due to take place on 20th March</i>)</p> <p>YD/SD/DW to meet and finalise details of tour. Group members to email suggestions of initiatives to visit to YD/SD/DW before 16 November.</p>
8.	Any Other Business
	<p>AP informed the group that a new member of staff – James Luger - will be joining emda to replace Andy Barron.</p> <p>CF reported that the ESD survey has commenced and that a report on progress will be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>SD/YD thanked SG for attending the meeting.</p> <p>SD thanked PF for hosting the meeting.</p>
9.	Date of Next Meeting
	The next meeting of the PSD Group will be held at 10am on 8 February 2006 at Environment Agency offices, Trentside, Nottingham.