



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

**14 March 2005**

**10am at Scott Bader, Wollaston near Wellingborough**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Notes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
3. Launch of UK SD Strategy\*
4. Audit of existing Education for Sustainable Development
5. Sustainable Public Procurement
6. Climate Change
  - Response to Government Consultation on the Climate change Programme\*
  - Sustainable design and construction project update
7. EXPO event 2005
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Any Other Business

\* report attached

**MINUTES OF  
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEETING  
HELD 25 JANUARY 2005 AT EMRA**

**Present:**

Simon Drury (Chair)	Center Parcs Ltd
Cllr John Bull	EMRA member
Yvette Dearden	EMRA
Alison Hepworth	EMRA
Clark Field	EMFEC
Hugh Fenton	EMAGE
Keith Melton	Institute for SD in Business
Nick Brown	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sue Brothwood	Environment Agency
Diane Whitehead	GOEM

For part of meeting – Nicky Conway, Forum for the Future

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Roy Mayhew	EMRA member
Tony Marmont	Beacon Energy
Cllr Michael Edwards	EMRA member
Alan Smith	Groundwork
Bettina Lange	EMEL
Jonathan Harris	Regional Public Health Group
Andy Barron	<i>emda</i>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</b>
	<p>A meeting of the Regional Education for S.D. Group took place on 10 December. The most effective way for the Education Group to link with the Promoting SD Group needs to be established. Some areas of the region have shown good activity in education, others have been poor. The Education Group plan to undertake an audit to map out the progress schools are making in regard to S.D. throughout the region. An action plan would then be developed to move things forward.</p> <p>The Education Group to report to the Promoting SD Group the cost of undertaking an audit.</p> <p><b>Action Points from Previous Meeting</b></p>

	<p>KM had tried to arrange a meeting for the group to consider the next EXPO but had not managed to secure a convenient meeting date – a meeting was to follow on from this meeting.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Sustainable Development and Scrutiny Project (Interview by Forum for the Future)</b></p>
	<p>Nicky Conway from Forum for the Future attended the meeting to interview members of the Promoting SD Group to gain feedback and information for their project reviewing <i>emda's</i> commitment to and delivery of S.D.</p> <p>Comments from the Group on <i>emda's</i> strengths and weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involved in training</li> <li>• If a link can be made between economics &amp; S.D. then <i>emda</i> are interested.</li> <li>• Contributions to the Toolkit</li> <li>• Sherwood Energy Village</li> <li>• Financial contribution towards S.D. EXPO</li> <li>• Financial contribution towards Markham</li> <li>• Sustainability checklist on application for funding.</li>   <li>• Could do more to consult with local communities.</li> </ul> <p>Any further comments could be sent either directly to Nicky or fed through YD.</p> <p>The Group felt it would be helpful for Nicky to speak to all SSPs and reps from the voluntary sector.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental Infrastructure Project</b></p> <p>AH gave an update on this Project to the Group. At the last meeting of the Policy Board it was agreed to engage consultants to run the first phase of a scoping study on green infrastructure and to map areas of deprivation where green infrastructure could be incorporated. An inception meeting had been held with the consultants and a pilot area of 100 sq kms had been agreed in which to carry out the study.</p> <p>The consultants will be using the Land Use database and using an East Midlands study area which will be showcased at the S.D. summit at the end of January.</p> <p>Phase 2 will focus on how communities should be built. The toolkit for planners and developers that is being developed as part of this Group's sustainable design and construction project will contribute to this.</p> <p>Eco Footprints – it was reported that discussions have taken place with the WWF, linking work with Reward and the economics of environmental infrastructure.</p>

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Change Update</b></p> <p>Feedback from the Climate Change Steering Group workshop on “Planning for Change” included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim to try and pull together all climate change groups</li> <li>• The idea of having a regional co-ordinator.</li> <li>• The need for a business plan</li> <li>• A larger partnership with the potential of partners paying membership fees.</li> </ul> <p>The next meeting of the Climate Change Group to take place on 27 January. After then it was hoped to have an action plan in place and to share good practice.</p> <p>It was suggested that ERN is used to get the message on climate change across.</p> <p><b>Update on S.D. and Construction</b></p> <p>YD updated the Group on the Project. The first phase was completed last September. Phase 2 includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A design competition for architects to design a building at Sherwood Energy Village, including a professional development training programme for architects..</li> <li>2) The development of a toolkit for planners and developers</li> </ol> <p>The professional development training programme will take place in June. The design competition will be judged in December. A shortlist of candidates will be given to Sherwood Energy Village and those selected will be invited to tender for the award.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Dates of Meetings in 2005</b></p> <p>14 March, a.m. 27 April, a.m. 28 June, a.m.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>KM circulated document on Environmental Forum Strategy.</p>

# EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

## PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

14<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Item 3

---

### LAUNCH OF UK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Prime Minister launched the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March - 'Securing the future - delivering UK sustainable development strategy'. Yvette Dearden attended the launch event on behalf of the Regional Assembly.
- 1.2 At the launch event, Tony Blair warned that we are more likely to diminish our quality of life if we don't progress in a sustainable way, highlighted the need to ensure that people in local communities engage, emphasised the opportunities for business and set out the potential to achieve greater sustainability in goods and services through the Government's own procurement activities.

#### 2.0 The Regional Dimension

- 2.1 The Strategy states that the Government will look for new ways to help regions contribute fully to sustainable development and that the Sustainable Development Commission will review the overall arrangements for delivering sustainable development in the regions.

#### 3.0 Priorities and Guiding Principles

- 3.1 Four priorities are set out in the Strategy:
  - Sustainable consumption and production
  - Climate change and energy
  - Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
  - Sustainable communities
- 3.2 The following set of guiding principles are also highlighted:
  - Living within environmental limits
  - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
  - Achieving a sustainable economy
  - Promoting good governance
  - Using sound science responsibly

Yvette Dearden

Acting Head of Regional Policy and Sustainable Development

# **EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

## **PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Item 6

---

### **CLIMATE CHANGE – RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

#### **1. The Government Consultation on the Climate change Programme**

1.1 The Government released their review of the UK Climate Change Programme in December 2004. The original programme was put in place in 2000. The Government has reiterated a commitment to action on climate change a number of times over the past months and the Kyoto Protocol has just come into force following Russia's ratification during February.

#### **2. The East Midlands Response to the review.**

2.1. The Climate Change Steering Group considered the need to respond to the Government Consultation during February. Assemblies were not included on the initial list of DEFRA consultees, so were not approached specifically and we did not become aware of the consultation until late January. This matter has been raised with DEFRA through the English Regions Network (ERN).

2.2 In view of the short period for consultation, the view was that the climate change steering group should ensure that some response went forward, but it was not possible to go through the various boards. The consultation response was put together by officers of the Assembly, Environment Agency and English Heritage, with comment from other members of the steering group, which includes a wide range of stakeholders. The response is attached to this report.

#### **3. Review of the UK Government's review**

3.1 The Government review is primarily a continuation of the previous programme, highlighting new policy, such as the Energy White Paper, but not putting in place any innovative new programmes. It is also disappointing as it deals almost exclusively with mitigation, makes little inroad into the increasingly important area of adaptation and makes no links between adaptation and mitigation. The Climate Change Steering Group response has highlighted the need for better linkages with adaptation and for new initiatives if we are to move beyond meeting the Kyoto targets towards meeting the 60% targets.

Helen Chadwick  
Energy Coordinator EMRA

**Review of the UK Climate Change Programme Consultation Paper  
December 2004**

**Response from the East Midlands Regional Assembly Climate Change  
Steering Group.**

**Overview**

We welcome the review of the climate change programme, but feel that this document does not make a clear enough step forward, beyond the previous programme to really deliver 60% cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. We would wish to see a far more integrated approach to emissions and adaptation for this to be delivered. An integrated approach would lead the way to a step change in behaviour that is essential if such deep cuts are to be possible.

Adaptation will now be necessary regardless now of our ability to mitigate as we are committed to some level climate change within the next twenty years and extending into the next 100 years at least.

Adaptation needs to be incorporated in the future migration measures otherwise people may put in place adaptive measurements that are high carbon choices, e.g. installation of highly intensive air conditioning. The development of a real strategy for climate change requires careful cross-sector action for joint adaptation and mitigation actions. Thus adaptation issues should be included within each chapter of the documents.

We also need to recognise that some of our emissions savings are merely a displacement of emissions to other places, as more of our manufactured goods come from abroad, so are not truly mitigation measures. We probably need to include some measure of carbon dioxide in relation to our consumption and import of goods, as a reflection that our consumption is driving up some countries emissions. This also clearly links our behaviours in this country with Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In both evaluation and appraisal these wider issues need to be appraised and the ability to change behaviour should be considered. For example, small scale RE doesn't necessarily deliver huge savings, but when coupled with on line monitoring can make a link between behaviour and emissions, that can be a powerful motivator for changing behaviour. A study would be worthwhile. We need to make the point that mitigation measures themselves have considerable environmental costs, such as the loss of landscape and historic landscape, impact on archaeological sites and the setting of historic sites and buildings from the development of wind farms, or the impact of biomass and biofuel crops on landscape and archaeology. These costs need to be considered in a cost benefit analysis.

Obviously, the biggest omission in the programme review is that again, environmental issues are only seen as affecting the natural environment. Defra do not appear to be able to see that climate change also impacts on the historic environment. Whilst that is the biggest concern from a sectoral point of view, a further concern is that whilst the report discusses impacts, these only appear to be impacts of climate change and not the impacts of mitigation or adapting to climate change. However, this is a significant issue, and affects natural and historic environment and landscapes. For example, wind farms have a significant landscape, and potentially site-based impact, but they are an important climate change mitigation measure. Equally, buildings may need better air-conditioning, but installing it on an important historic building may lead to an alteration of the appearance and loss of historic fabric, which would be unacceptable. The same is the case for other energy efficient building concepts, and we need to make sure that the government understands the need for balance, and more importantly, that they are aware of this issue in the first place. We also need to make sure that they see the historic environment issues not just a buildings and sustainability, but also archaeology, and historic parks, gardens and landscapes.

## **Response to Consultation Questions**

### Section 2.30

#### Q1

It is essential to have a good climate change programme so that all the good work so far is not undone. Significant progress has been made in achieving the Kyoto target for the reduction in GHG emissions; however we are concerned that the UK is not going to meet its domestic targets of 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2010 and 60% by 2050.

Recent extreme weather events have heightened public awareness and understanding of climate change but there is still a need to improve education and communication to people which intern would generate ownership of the problem.

The recent ratification of the Kyoto protocol by Russia has demonstrated that international diplomacy can achieve results. The Prime Minister is right to use opportunities such as Chairmanship of G8 to influence those countries, which have not done so, notably the US, to sign and implement the protocol.

There is a need to provide more financial incentive for the uptake of renewables. Economic instruments to encourage a reduction high carbon technologies and lifestyles, and to encourage the uptake of low carbon technology and lifestyle choices, are a pressing need.

Specific functions sit across Departments (e.g. energy– between Defra and DTI, although the SEP network does seem to be helping to address this in this area) there is still some confusion and a lack of co-ordination, and the result is less progress than would otherwise be the case.

Given the range of activities it's difficult to get an overview of policy framework nationally and regionally. Further regional coordination could deliver benefits

There is a need for clear monitoring to measure movement to targets.

Q2

Existing measures have mixed benefits. Some are not working consistently and in a co-ordinated way, particularly action on domestic energy efficiency measures.

Although we have already achieved our Kyoto targets for GHGs, the UK is behind target in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the Government's 20% reduction target between 1990 and 2010. The UK has achieved a 7% reduction in the first 13 years, with the balance of 13% to be achieved in the remaining 7. This is compounded by the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will become progressively more difficult to achieve as all the simpler measures (such as conversion of power stations, industry and homes from coal and oil to gas) are implemented.

The target to achieve 10% of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2010 is also behind schedule. Decisive action will be required to improve this situation.

The poor performance of transport (where emissions have increased by 10% since 1990) is of particular concern.

The fact that international air travel and shipping is outside the framework set out in the Kyoto protocol is equally of concern, since there remains little control over emissions from these sectors.

Nationally there is not enough incentive for using renewable energy or installing CHP.

Q3

Yes, we agree with the overall analysis of projections and impact of existing measures. Sectoral targets are best set by sectors or partnerships as this provides buy in and challenges the sectors to respond with their own targets.

Q5

Yes, but these are comparatively easy to achieve and are due mainly to earlier actions, that were not always linked directly to action on climate change. Indeed some of the reduction in our emissions is merely an export of emissions to other

countries as our own manufacturing industry declines, and manufacturing takes place elsewhere. Complacency will not deliver the next stage of very challenging targets and the costs of adoption will spiral within the next twenty years.

Q7

Domestic emissions probably need to be expressed as some kind of running mean to capture trends.

Q8

New measures for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from transport are essential, in particular, public transport improvements and changing the attitudes to car usage.

More co-ordination in domestic programmes to ensure better take up of energy efficiency improvements

Support for clean coal and Coal Mine Methane energy generation;

A value for heat so that less heat is wasted in generation processes.

Q9

New measures should be decided on effectiveness; ability to change attitudes, carbon dioxide savings and value for money.

## Section 6 Energy Supply

Q18

If heat can be included and given a monetary value, there is a high chance that further changes will be prompted. This will particularly benefit the emerging biomass heat markets. There also needs to be clear linkages with the current cost and penalty regimes in waste to deliver low carbon energy and methane reductions. Energy Generators also need to consider now what adaptation measures they may face. For example coal fired power stations are often on floodplains and changes in flood risk and water resources could have a profound impact of their delivery of electricity. All generators should be encouraged to perform a climate risk analysis to inform their future business plans.

Q19

The development of a heat market and the measurement of renewably generated heat would make contribution to emissions savings. For example any heat generated during electricity generation should be used or generator should pay, this would encourage generators to build markets for their heat.

There is a lot of interest in renewable energy production but a general assumption that it's not cost effective on a small scale. Funding to collate best practice examples, identifying energy and cost savings, particularly for small-scale projects would be worth while. A study that coupled on line monitoring with small scale RE would mean that a link could be made between behaviour and emissions which could then be a powerful motivator for changing behaviour.

## Q20 & Q21

Investigate bio-waste issues with local authorities as a means for generating energy and offsetting methane emissions. This should ensure that opportunities for energy from waste and anaerobic digestion projects are properly supported in an integrated way with the energy from renewables programme.

---

## Q.22.

Micro-generation can help to change hearts and minds. Small amount of RE on all public buildings with monitored data on generation carbon dioxide could have a huge impact on engaging with people and getting the necessary buy in to deliver the deep cuts in carbon that are necessary.

There are numerous examples of good practice, for example in the East Midlands for example, Leicestershire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have equipped some schools with wood-heat boilers, and more are planned.

The East Midlands Bioenergy Group has recently been established to look at better market co-ordination but more can be done at national level. This includes closer co-operation between DTI and Defra.

## Section 7 Business

### Q24

Businesses need to begin to perform risk analysis on the risks to them of climate change. For example increased flood risk, water resource shortages, increase summer temperatures. This information, with costing, should inform business planning and would make a direct link with Carbon emissions.

### Q25

Additional monitoring of electricity water and gas especially in SMES can make an impact, particularly if just in time help is available e.g. through Carbon Trust programmes.

## Section 7 Transport

### Q33

The current programme places the emphasis on cleaner cars – but there needs to be a shift in the “car” culture of the UK. Government policy needs to strongly support the delivery of good quality efficient public transport. Large inefficient “lifestyle” vehicles need to be heavily penalised, especially if used in urban areas. Government needs to find ways to shift from everyone expecting to use a car for every journey to an expectation of using cars less This is a huge job and could include:

- ♥ Innovative approaches to community ownership of vehicles – club cars, Apartments that share a car or cars
- ♥ Reduction in community charge as incentive to not owning a car.
- ♥ Clearer labelling and more understandable labelling like A → G for car emissions Improvements in rail and bus.

- 🌱 Provision for cyclists.
- 🌱 What about the electric cars?
- 🌱 Encouraging better and smarter use of technology such as meetings by video phone, with provision of central resources for such to enable smaller business to keep their competitive edge

## Section 9 Households

### Q34

There is an urgent need to consider adaptation to climate change in homes. New buildings today need to function in a future climate. Design needs to consider low carbon emission heating and cooling. The risk of building in flood areas has to be considered and management techniques such as SUDS to control flooding, particularly from run off, should be part of every building plot design. Climate change needs to be considered within the wider sustainable building agenda.

- Adaptation of homes to warmer conditions (built in low carbon cooling) and variable water resources (rain water collection).
- Minimise embodied energy or maximising thermal mass depending upon the expected use and longevity of the building
- We need to ensure that principles of conservation are not overridden by requirements for energy conservation, and that the government works with EH to ensure that new building regulations make most of EH best practice guidance (i.e. the application of Building Regulations Part L (2002)) and provide a balanced approach to energy efficiency in historic buildings.

### Q36

Very difficult sector to influence as energy represents a small costs to all except fuel poor.

The provision of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on bills could help raise awareness.

Simplification of delivery of myriad of programmes would also help to make it easier to engage with householders, who are currently bombarded with too many agencies offering programmes. This leads to a lack of trust.

A widening of EEC, when utilities act in partnership with social landlords to deliver carbon savings, eg solid wall. Ground Source Heat Pumps, solar hot water, measured as CO<sub>2</sub> savings.

Building codes need to be designed to recognise that any households could become home to a vulnerable householder at risk of fuel poverty.

Better engagement in renewable energy at community scale could incentivise individuals eg very small scale renewable energy or community owned RC?

## Section 10 Agriculture

### Q40

We also need to consider the changes in agriculture that will result from changes in climate. And the impact of agriculture on the wider environment. Farmers will need to consider possible changing water resource, and the appropriateness of certain crops.

Q41

Action on energy from waste on farms, with appropriate incentives to consider renewable energy for farm diversification.

Q43

It is vital that we reduce consumption of fossil fuels, and one way to do this is to burn biomass crops. However, although this might mitigate emissions and CO<sub>2</sub> output, many biomass crops have high water requirements, and may have farming regimes that involve more intensive use of land. This can have an impact on archaeological deposits, and may lead to de-watering of wetland sites. Although no figures are given in the report for areas to be planted with SRC and *Miscanthus*, they would have to be fairly large to achieve the targets. This is shown by the fact that over 5% of arable land would have to be converted to biofuel crops to provide just 5% of the total UK road fuel requirements. That would represent a significant change of land use, which could again impact on buried archaeology, earthworks and historic landscape character. Important link to waste agenda opportunity for A/D composting?

Section 11 Public Sector.

Q45.

All publicly owned buildings should look to conform to a very low carbon footprint. The buildings should also be designed to adapt to future climates. Public bodies should lead the way with good procurement policies that consider both the contribution to climate change and potential adaptation opportunities. For example local food initiatives, travel plans, school travel plans etc should all be considered. Innovative approaches to reducing journeys to school by car should be a priority, e.g. through school buses. CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring in all schools and public building could provide ways of engaging with a large number of the public..

Resourcing of English regions could provide coordination of projects in climate change awareness raising and adaptation.

Q46.

Develop national set of climate change indicators for monitoring purposes to allow Regions to measure their own success and compare performance nationally. If there are no statutory objectives then poor performing regions need to be subject to league tables and or name and shame reports. Good performance should be used to spread best practice and ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> responsibility becomes imbedded in the culture.

Local Authorities need to have the power to encourage developers to use environmentally friendly methods through their development plans. Public transport needs to be cheaper and at the same time an improvement in service

needs to be seen. These measures require government to take on the issue at a national level.

## Section 12 Adaptation

Q 48.

This section is weak and does not build upon either the knowledge gained through recent UKCIP programmes nor the previous programme. There is a need to recognise that adaptation goes hand in hand with mitigation, thus adaptation should be threaded through whole document. There is little work on the impacts of climate change on the historic environment, or appraisal of the suggested mitigation measures. This is an urgent need.

Q50

The review suggests that “implementation of adaptation action is frequently carried out at regional or local levels and by public and private sector stakeholder organisations.” This might be true, but until the government recognises the impacts of adaptation on the environment (natural and historic) then it runs the risk of significant budget problems or hard choices on infrastructure schemes, such as riverine and coastal flood defence. Works carried out by the Environment Agency are funded by Defra, and where these works, to protect against climate change for example, come into conflict with archaeology, significant costs can occur as a result of having to ‘mitigate’ the archaeology. We have seen this recently on the Essex coast, and as well as adaptation impacts, we have recently had the example of climate change impacts, from Holme next to the Sea, of Seahenge. Similar cases will increase with climate change and climate change mitigation and adaptation work, and the government needs to consider the financial implications for dealing with the environmental cost of climate change.