

## **Regional Eco-Schools Partnership Meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 10.30am

The EWE Centre

### **Present**

Rich Hurst, NESPSS

Andrea Bishop, Education Officer, Groundwork South Tees

Steve Ashton, People & Places Manager, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Ed Turnbull, Jacobs

Ann Johnson, Regional Healthy Schools Manager, GONE

Nichola Ramshaw, Groundwork East Durham

Ben Grant, Newcastle City Council

Mel Wallace, Newcastle City Council

John Chidgey, Durham County Council

Andy Haddon, Newcastle University

Jess Brown, Harrogate Hill Primary, Darlington

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies have been received from Wendy Wilson, Claire Fairclough, Frances Hinton, Graham Temby, Kathryn Warrington, Pam Lovell, Krista McKinzey, and Alistair Wilson.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

- ENCAMS awards scheme report, supposed to be out in April, but RH will chase and update us **\*RH to action**
- Report is available to download from: [http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools/tools\\_detail.cfm?id=12](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools/tools_detail.cfm?id=12)

### **3. BREEAM Education Assessment tool** (Ed Turnbull)

- Ed gave a presentation to the group. This presentation/handout will be placed on the NESPSS website. Also information is available at [www.breeam.org.uk](http://www.breeam.org.uk). If anyone wishes to contact Ed directly please ask RH for Ed's details.

### **4. Feedback from National Schools Eco Schools Conference** (Ben Grant)

- Held at Aintree Racecourse
- More workshop based, exhibition style trade show this year
- No registration required, drop in was allowed
- Very well attended, more partners were there as well as schools and pupils

### **5. NCSL Pilot School Update** (Andrea Bishop)

- Bydales School, Marske is leading cluster of 10 schools as part of its NCSL project
- AB delivered teacher training looking at WWF pathways, eco foot printing, and S3 work with teachers, started writing action plans too.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> activity used a touring climate change trailer. This was at Bydales School for a week. On the evenings, the trailer was open to community (via pre-booking). Feedback was all positive.
- Zetland Park have received a 'Breathing Places Grant' and are making a wildlife area £10k. Quite a lot of planning involved.
- Sustainable Schools group meeting in September, chaired by an LA person, Groundwork and other NGO partners should be involved. North Tyneside MBC just organised a group too. 10-15 schools attended.
- Success of eco schools in R & C 95% of schools registered. **\*AB will forward info to RH**

### **6. NESPSS Update**

NESPSS and the Y&H ESD Forum and the respective GO's are working together on a bid to support six authorities to look at how to pull together all aspects of working with Sustainable schools and develop a Sustainable Schools Corporate Strategy. If successful this work is likely to start in the autumn term.

- All Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) information is out next term.
  - The Ofsted report will be out in September.
  - National Conference is in October.

- How to' guidance will be available from October for schools.
- Also launching a new badging scheme to apply for, route 1 low risk and route 2 higher e.g. AALA etc first lot of badges start in the spring term.
- Explore renewable by NAREC now out. Very keen for as many schools as possible to get the solar trolleys which are free. Approx 70 schools so far have taken the trolleys (Secondary or middle schools-KS3 only) and there is 170 available in total. Resources produced by Northumbria University, trolleys built by EAGA, funding by O.N.E. and NAREC are project managing this. Two schools are getting solar panels installed to heat the school water etc Website details are [www.explorerenewables.co.uk](http://www.explorerenewables.co.uk). Please encourage schools to register
- Solar car challenge at Nissan tomorrow, Brian Yule organising it from Middlesbrough Environment City this year.
- Future NESPSS Strategy, looks like there will be another networking event on 3<sup>rd</sup> September tied in with the NEEN AGM, at Blackfriars, Newcastle. Once this has been confirmed RH will update people. **\*RH to action**. RH has meeting with ONE & GONE, IGNITE first.
- RH mentioned the NCSL NE Learning Network in each region organised by two head teachers. RH attended Gateshead meeting. AB said that the toolkit could be used with teachers as well as HT's

## 7. Updates from members

- Monkchester Road Nursery School update from BG. This school got their green flag today, which is a good sense of achievement for them. Anne Humble, the head-teacher has set up her own cluster which is developing nicely and has a good strong relationship with Enviro Schools (BG). Ben will find out how schools are funding assistance from lady who is working between Walker and Monkchester. BG to find out more and update us **\*BG to action**
- Toyota project update from AB. Groundwork South Tees were chosen again this year to run this project. The 5 schools and community groups have been identified for this year. All quite rural schools. AB to support one school to green-flag status and the others to silver.
- Andy Haddon from Joseph Swann Institute, Newcastle University.
  - Andy works with projects with energy issues.
  - Under-graduates, post-grads run discussion and debate forums.
  - Uses an electric motorbike to highlight low carbon transport
  - They work closely with the Enviro-School team at Newcastle City Council.
  - Also Funded by Newcastle City Council. Students get either paid £6 an hour or get credits towards their degrees etc. science, agriculture, engineering students develop models that are successful and this can be rolled out.
  - Website should be set up soon. AH will forward info once he has details **\*AH to action**
  - AH also said making a film on climate change, time travel film. Hopefully inspirational. Will be available online possible. **\*AH to update**
- Ann Johnson mentioned that 3 CSA's (Children Service Advisers) had gone to London to attend BSF Meeting all seconded with different specialism's.
- Steve Ashton mentioned the local food lottery grants, schools can apply as long as it's connected to learning and food. Open for 3 or 5 years. Apply to 'Local Food' through the big lottery website.
- RH explained that the Guardian had produced a greener schools supplement funded by Generation Green on 8/7/08. Probably available to download.

## 8. AOB

- NR is working with Sunderland Schools and would like to give the group an update at the next meeting. **\*RH to agenda**

## 9. Dates for next meetings

- To be organised for the autumn. RH will circulate some dates