



## Eco-Schools Regional Partnership Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at the EWE Centre

### Present

Claire Fairclough, Brian Yule, Rich Hurst, Steve Ashton, Keeley Metcalfe, Nichola Ramshaw, Donna Mear.

### Apologies

Mike Tones, Clare Ross, Rachel Ford, Gloria Pearson, Paula Jamieson and Andrea Bishop

- No Formal agenda for this meeting.

### 1. Minutes from the last meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

- SA is doing the MA in ESD at York University. Also a teacher from Wolsingham School, SA to confirm name and inform RH. **\*AS to action**
- RH asking everyone to push the Sustainable Schools agenda with schools **\*all to action**.
- Reminder for GP to supply RH with information regarding Beacon of Excellence schools. **\*RH/GP to action**
- [Dott07.com](http://Dott07.com) Eco Design challenge has been launched. RH to speak to Nick Devitt. **\*RH to action**
- Year of Food and Farming - to discuss later
- Sustainable Schools Year of Action - to discuss later

### 2. National Work

What has changed since September?

- The consultation period for Sustainable Schools has now finished. The DFES responses have been released. 870 responses, 300 from children and young people, 31% from school staff & governors.
- DFES have written to all the Chief Executives & Directors of Children's Services in November announcing an early allocation of capital funds. 2 key areas for this funding to be used 1) energy & water efficiency 2) enhancing schools kitchens. Suggested that it will be worth chasing LA Children's Services to find out how the funding will be allocated. **\*all to action**
- DFES is publishing its Top ten tips to create Sustainable Schools (downloadable from NESPSS news page website)
- RH went through the funding allocation to the councils. £18,721,042 in total to the North East region
- Capital spending in schools increasing from £6 billion to £8 billion in two years time
- 23 local authorities are to have £150 million cash injection. Darlington and North Tyneside are the two LA's in the NE region to have been chosen as part of this pathfinder project. It will be interesting to find out how these 2 authorities use their funding.
- Sustainable Schools launch will now be in January 2007
- Building Sustainable Schools Conference was mentioned, comments made about it mostly being about climate change/carbon reduction.
- KM mentioned the new build school at Richmond, unsure if this build is BSF. RH to investigate. **\*RH to action**

### 3. Teachernet Website

- Support Section. Email Teachernet (via the 'contact us' link on the homepage) to add your organisation information to the north east support section of the website **\*all to action**
- News section. Once you have logged into this site, you can download the SS PDF response from this section
- DFES now asking each local government office to act as a lead and each office is receiving £25k to help towards partnership building. Dave Smith at GONE is writing to all 12 LA's to ask for their involvement and plans, hopefully this will help engage better with Sustainable Schools. A lead contact has been requested in each LA, RH will forward this information on once he has received it. **\*RH to action**
- Strategic Partnership. NEEN are looking for influential trustees to enhance the Board.

#### 4. Regional Work

- Newcastle University have decided to bid to the UN to become a Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD. There will be 50 regional centres worldwide. RH will email this information around to everyone **\*RH to action**. We will watch this to see what happens, there could be some good opportunities to link with other countries. RH will keep us informed. **\*RH to action**
- Regional Sub Partnerships work - numbers are expanding, new partnership includes Rural Dimension (Specialist School Trust). John Harpin from Fyndoune College has agreed to co-ordinate this. If anyone knows any schools that might be interested please forward their details to RH. **\*All to action**.
- The group are organising an event in spring, the National Conference is in June, Autumn Term will include teacher training support.
- List now includes; OWNNE, Eco-Schools, Forest Schools, School Grounds, Growing and Cooking Food, Whole school change Action Research Project with WWF UK, Leading for the Future CPD Programme, Inter Regional Professional Development Programme.
- Another new partner is Chemicals Industries Education Programme. [www.sustainability-ed.org](http://www.sustainability-ed.org) They have a regional group who may become a sub partnership at a later date - NECIP (North East Chemical Industry Partnership). These are also linking to the new 14-19 diplomas.
- 'Challenging Climate Change' is another project which RH will keep everyone informed about. Hydropolymers gave us the link for this project. **\*RH to action**

#### 5. Energy

- RH showed everyone the Eric Prydz video, via [www.futerra.co.uk](http://www.futerra.co.uk)
- Energy Saving Trust advice centre was discussed, it can support schools.
- Green Pound incentive scheme by Stockton Borough Council was discussed.
- NPower power packs, teachers notes covering all school ages can be downloaded from [www.npower.com/education](http://www.npower.com/education) British Gas and EON are also doing similar packs and Water companies have educational resources which are collated nationally. NPower is also linked to CSV (Community Service Volunteers)

#### 6. Inter-Regional Conference

- There has been a favourable response, nationally, from GONE and Jake Reynolds
- NECLEA have been asked to source venues in the York and Leeds areas, currently considering amongst others the National Science Learning Centre in York.
- Need a theme - The new DEFRA Programme, Production & consumption? Could we link with this?
- Looking at a 2 day conference, with overnight accommodation.
- Speakers: target list: Al Gore (Video Conference), Bishop of Liverpool, Libby Purvis (Radio 4), contact of Jonathon Porritt's from Singapore
- Preferred '07 dates include 01/02 Nov, 08/09 Nov, 23/24 Nov.
- GONE will hopefully be contributing some funding towards conference
- Hoping that costs will be in the region of £250 for a 2 day event including the overnight accommodation
- This will be the main event to finish the Year of Action, so we need to agree the Year of Action activities a.s.a.p. Need to collectively market and promote activities, ideally linking them to professional development, staff, governors and parents. This needs to be sorted by early in '07. Tees Valley has already got some events organised. All partnerships must do something to show how we are working together. RH asked everyone to think about this and then let Nikki Lamb know their ideas by 19<sup>th</sup> January, if any specific links to Sustainable Schools doorways can be added, all the better! **\*All to action**
- BY mentioned site managers and caretakers involvement. RH showed the Governments response to Sustainable schools Year of Action, which includes bursars, caretakers, catering staff and schools managers guidance (short Handbook addressing energy, water, waste, etc)
- The next meeting will pull all this information together in early Feb.

#### Next Meeting.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007, 10am-12noon at the EWE Centre.