

REGIONAL ECO-SCHOOLS MEETING
THURSDAY 19TH JULY 10.30AM-12.30PM
AT THE EWE CENTRE, DURHAM

Present

Rich Hurst, Donna Mear, Kate Hatton, Claire Fairclough, Kathryn Warrington, Alistair Wilson, Andrea Bishop, Georgie Allen (Encams) and Paul Gibson (Setpoint)

1. Apologies

Chris Francis, Averil Newsam, Keeley Metcalfe, Susan Stewart, Graham Temby, Steve Ashton, Paula Jamieson and Nichola Ramshaw

2. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

- The last meeting was held on 26th April 2007 at The EWE Centre.
- The ENCAMS assessor training took place on 11th July at the EWE Centre
- DM reminder to email NL with details of the ECO driver lady who is willing to come up and do a presentation. ***DM to action**

3. Eco-Schools Assessor Training (GA)

- The Eco Schools assessor training took place at the EWE Centre on Wednesday 11th July
- GA hoped the training went well as it was her first course.
- One change to being an assessor is that there is no longer a flat fee; ENCAMS now only pay the assessors expenses. They are hoping this won't cause any issues.
- In the past, assessors would attend schools in pairs, now they are being asked to go alone. This is mainly due to the big backlog of required visits.
- The content hasn't changed in the assessor training though.
- All but one attendee at the training course were from the North East area. Sarah Ransom recruited the attendees.
- More assessors are needed and would be welcomed to help clear the backlog.
- GA has had a group of HSBC staff wanting to become assessors. These people may not be suitable to assess schools alone due to their non educational background.
- ENCAMS have stronger ties with certain regions of England.
- RH commented that possibly half the list of our Regional Eco schools network could already be assessors, so there are lots of opportunities if Encams wants to use us.

4. Eco Schools Pilots

- Toyota Motor Europe has allocated funding to Groundwork UK for 6 trusts to work with at least 5 schools each over 6 months. One school must reach Green Flag status and the other 4 'Silver' levels.
- 3 areas were successful in the North East, South Tees, Newcastle and the EWE Centre
 - EWE Centre is working with 6 schools. 2 secondary schools linked by Rural Dimension specialism (Fyndoune and DCBC) and all of their 4 feeder primary schools. RH has already met with the secondary schools and will start working with the primaries in September. There is 30 days of support- 6 days for the secondary schools and 5 days for the primaries.
 - Newcastle area. AW says 5 schools have been chosen, 1 secondary and 4 primaries. The activities and support has already been identified, all these schools are registered with Eco schools and all are Enviro Schools.
 - AW gave a short synopsis of the Enviro Schools Programme. This can be used as a stepping stone to Eco Schools. 100 schools are registered.
 - South Tees. AB says in the Redcar & Cleveland area they have 5 schools involved. 1 secondary, 3 feeder schools and 1 RC Primary school. One primary school already has

'silver' status, so they are hoping to get this school to 'Green Flag'. AB has her plan and will start work in September.

- RH mentioned the S3 document and asked GA to find out when this will be released or if RH can use the tabular/graph info now. GA to check with Alison Ellis *GA to action
- RH asked if everyone involved can report back to the next 2 meetings re these pilots.
- RH also suggested that we pitch to other partnerships in the future too.

5. Newcastle Eco Schools Event (AW)

- AW handed out information and gave an overview on the programme and partners at the event held on 5th July, 10am-1pm.
- Sherriff of Newcastle was involved on the day
- The event went well & there has been good feedback
- Hoping to get funding to replicate this programme for a bigger scale event next year for the whole region.
- Partners included, GONE, Newcastle University, Eco Schools representatives, reverse vending machines, recycling companies.
- 'Love your City' is a scheme where children and public are asked to pledge to love their city. This is now 2nd phase of this scheme aimed at dog fouling and fly tipping etc. Neighbourhood services are spearheading this.
- RH asked everyone what they felt about doing a larger scale event in the future. DM thought it would be nice to be involved and get more support in North Tyneside.
- RH mentioned the 2 CPD training events being organised:
 - The Pan regional event in spring 2008. The event is to be over 2 separate days aimed at different audiences. It is being funded by £25k from the DCSF, so should be free. The 1st day will be for support structures around schools and the 2nd day aimed at Schools, Schools representatives e.g. Head-Teachers and Governors. The event will probably be held in York now and RH will let people know as soon as he has more information on the dates etc. GOYH is now co-ordinating this event. RH felt this may be an opportunity to look at AW's event and benefit from building this in.
 - EEAA event (Environmental Education Advisors Association) is working on 4 National Seminars
 - Worcestershire's is to be on Energy and Climate Change in October '07
 - Durham's is re sustainable procurement in November '07
 - Cambridge will be the venue for Traffic and Travel in February '08
 - The South East are to hold their seminar in March '08 - the details are still to be released.
 - The seminars will be free
 - A senior officer from each LA will attend
 - DCSF are to agree details over the next few days. There are real opportunities from these seminars.

6. NESPSS Updates

- Year of Action/ Sustainable Schools
 - RH showed everyone the website on the OHP
 - The Assembly and Bursars guides are excellent
 - The group looked briefly at the Carbon Detective Kit and then the Defra 'Act on CO2' site. The website for this is www.actionco2.direct.gov.uk
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- NEREC. (North East Rural Energy Centre)
 - Based at Blyth, Northumberland. The Director is Keith Melton
 - They have produced 235 solar trolleys. 225 are to go into secondary schools. 10 will be spare.
 - They are slightly behind schedule due to the EU tender process.

- The Science Learning centre is involved and Newcastle University are helping with the design. The Science Learning Centre are working with Bydales School.
- This is an excellent tool for economic regeneration
- They plan to put one trolley on the roof at Blyth to make comparisons from
- Pre Xmas sub regional clusters to be organised. RH will share information as he receives it. *RH to action
- DOTT'07
 - The Final festival is to be held in Gateshead between the Sage and the Baltic on the weeks beginning 15th and 22nd October.
 - 100 schools entered, which is now down to 20 and the final 5 will be chosen to attend the festival.
 - Other information pods will be at the festival too. E.g. Food Feast
 - Please look at the www.DOTT07.com website to keep updated
- Year of Food and Farming
 - Starts in September 2007
 - Website is www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk
 - Regional groups linked to Government Office and One North East.
 - RH involved. Asked the group to complete the mapping form and project ideas form attached to these minutes. *NL to action
- Newcastle University Bid
 - IRES (Institute of Research on Environment and Sustainability)
 - Newcastle has entered their bid, they will find out in August if they have been successful.
 - NESPSS are supporting the bid.
 - There are currently 33 regions in the world with this status.
 - RH will keep everyone posted on updates. *RH to action
 - Website. www.ncl.ac.uk/environment/research/EFSDUbuntu
- Solar Car Challenge
 - The day was held last week on Thursday 12th July at Nissan at Washington
 - The Speed category winners were;
 - 1st Mortimer Primary from South Tyneside
 - 2nd Dodmire Primary from Darlington
 - 3rd Marton Grove Primary from Middlesbrough
 - The Design Category winners were;
 - 1st Westgarth Primary from Redcar & Cleveland
 - 2nd Grangetown Primary from Redcar & Cleveland
 - 3rd Stocksfield Avenue Primary from Newcastle
 - If this challenge runs again next year, RH feels that the group need to think more carefully about timings and more activities. RH suggested that we have an evaluation meeting next term to discuss this.
- Climate Change Support Officer
 - The first round of interviews were on Tuesday 17th July. RH was unfortunately poorly and couldn't attend.
 - The second round of interviews are next week
 - Hope to appoint someone to start in the autumn term.
- Setpoint, Tyne and Wear (PG)
 - Based at Newcastle College
 - There are 3 Setpoint areas. Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Teesside
 - Ambassadors are very hard to find
 - Being funded by the college at the moment

- Need to be more pro-active and finding out what other activities are happening in the region
- There is an event to be held at Stocksfield Avenue Primary on engineering but they also want events based on environmental sciences
- RH asked about the ambassadors. Each one will normally do 1 event each year, Setpoint will organise it and meet with the ambassadors, giving them a run down & fact sheet, activities and training.
- Setpoint needs to make contact with partnerships
- Costs the schools £200 for a whole day or £100 for a half day at present. Would like to get funding to help with these charges
- Their webpage is currently being worked on. PG will forward information to RH to distribute ***PG to action**
- PG will also forward contact details for Northumberland and Tees Valley too to RH ***PG to action**

7. Any other Business

None

8. Next meetings

- There was a request to change the next meeting from 20th September to **Thursday 8th November 10.30-12.30 at the EWE Centre**
- The spring term meeting will be on **Thursday 6th March 10.30am-12.30pm at the EWE Centre**