

Regional Eco-Schools Partnership Meeting

The EWE Centre

25 February 2009 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Present

Krista McKinzey, Andrea Carling, Kathryn Warrington, Nichola Ramshaw, Kath Hull, Steve Ashton, Andy Haddon, and Ruth Machin

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Ann Johnson, Wendy Wilson, Helen Douglas, Mandy Roberts & Claire Morris

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- National Recognition schemes doc-
 - Feedback has been given to Jake Reynolds by RH, if you have whole school schemes to put them forward to DCSF via www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools
 - Modeshift have a new travel scheme also now available on the website www.modeshift.org.uk
- Links to governors –
 - KH/AC said they would like to get it in the training plan. KH mentioned that Mike McNulty (from the Env. Agency and a R&C Governor) has been really helpful.
 - AC mentioned developing a 2 hour sustainable school course which we could offer to governors.
 - Naomi Priestley has done some recent governor training. RH spoke at the Durham Annual Governors Conference last year.
 - RH asked if there a regional governor network? No-one knows. How do we take this forward? No-one else has dealt with this
- Teaching Awards Sustainable Schools section –
 - Has anyone had luck promoting this?
 - The deadline is 1st March.
 - KW has nominated 1 school in Sunderland
 - AC has nominated Bydales School too.
 - RH suggested that once you nominate a school, you inform the appropriate Head Teacher as they will approach the Head shortly after submission; let the Head know what has been said in nomination.
- RH mentioned his attendance at the environment awards for the Chronicle on 24th February, short-listings were interesting. King Edward 6th from Morpeth won the Sustainable School award, St John Boste, Sunderland were also finalists, Edmondsley Primary, Durham won the overall environment award. The information will be in the Chronicle on Friday 27th February. RH will contact the team who runs this to find out how it will be promoted etc for next year. * **RH to action**
- Regional list of Eco Schools, all available off the website. Nikki to pull together a spreadsheet with all the schools names on it from across the region and send out to the group. AC has some info that she will send to NL ***AC to action**. We could adapt this list with all awards etc on. Split into sheets for all 12 authorities ***NL to action**
- Castlegate event Sustainable Schools - Global School. KH mentioned poor circulation in south of the region.
- BG - Regional schools event in June to be held in Newcastle – Ben to forward details ***BG to action**
- Tony Turnbull to speak at a future meeting and give an overview of North Tyneside progress– still TBA

3. DCSF National Recognition Schemes Events Update

- Idea putting together the whole school recognition schemes.
- Offered to North Tyneside Council and Darlington, RH wanted the events to be shared around.
- Paul Flynn from Food for Life is attending both events and bringing displays
- Eco schools – Emma Jones (Education Project Officer) sending displays and asking Tony Adey to attend who used to be an Eco schools assessor
- Rights Respecting schools – RH still not heard from Charlotte, KH suggested Naomi
- International school award, John Rolph, ISA in London still not been back in touch. They may send info
- KH asked who is the international local rep? RH will chase Brian Stobie
- Healthy schools attending North Tyneside and hopefully the 12th at Darlington.
- RHS – school gardening campaign. No phone numbers on website, Jackie Chave - RH still waiting for them to get in touch with him, we might get some info
- RSPB Carolyn Found from Saltholme is attending at Darlington from but can't attend at North Tyneside
- Ashton awards – RH still chasing
- Green schools awards – still chasing
- Mode Shift – rebranded from national school travel organisation, new travel accreditation award programme. Bronze silver and gold award. Each LA will have to buy into this. Nick Butler will be around to explain.
- Europe direct – bringing stand and resources
- Fairtrade schools – RH/OWNNE to try and get some Fairtrade schools information there too
- RH handed out draft agenda's for both venue and discussed handouts.
- Delegate bags will need to be sorted.
- Andy Haddon suggested using the evaluation tool for schools, this could be useful.
- NESPS couldn't take the tool forward due to limited funding. RH said GO South East have produced guidance how do sustainable schools support LA indicators? Could we pilot this via the corporate strategies? Quite a lot of funding required. Not ready for this but may be further down the line. AH has a version which we could make more widely available? Could have a session to show it
- RH asked members to promote this within your own LA
- RH will keep us updated.

4. Emission's Impossible film – Andy Haddon, Joseph Swann Institute

- Been working 2 years with Newcastle City Council and wider area schools.
- Made a film which is engaging with pupils, really for kids who are disengaged with science and technology.
- This builds pathways.
- Works with primary and early secondary pupils.
- Quite a lot of partners got involved.
- Can be used across age groups and at informal meetings, an overarching positive view to encourage them to take actions.
- The City council have asked them to make a waste and an energy film too.

Andy asked how can we integrate this into eco schools?

- The City council own the films, Andy has 100 copies. How do we distribute this?
- Agreed that Science and technology specialist schools should be contacted.
- Launch a design challenge? Colm Doyle is science and technology regional specialists schools coordinator – AH to contact at Stanley.
- Any engineering specialist's schools should also be contacted.
- KH has a resource box used by schools etc, which includes a mini turbine and paper resources, this film could be added to the box.

- KMCK had a meeting with Sam Pearson, this film could be used with their resources.
- AH says the City council said they were going to put the film on u tube.
- EAGA led on the solar trolleys; AC thinks they could be used alongside these. AH mentioned the s tube.
- Ruth Machin mentioned funding related work in Northumberland
- RH suggested Geoff McLeod, skills man from ONE.
- Schools North East are thinking about developing a north east curriculum, weekly newsletter worth registering onto. www.schoolsnortheast.com
- RH asked AH to feedback to him on updates e.g. you tube etc. RH will act as a conduit to get info out.

5. Eco-schools local authority models update

- Sunderland had 19 schools, 3 no longer interested but 5 reserves, so now 21
- Sunderland work twinning with 3 schools in France, sustainable transport as a theme. 2 year pilot called eco twins. Transport and heritage. Should hear in June from British council. 3 people in the Sunderland international team and Nichola Ramshaw working on this. School travel also to be involved.
- RH mentioned the next Durham and Darlington Eco schools Forum meeting is on 18th March, at Abbey Juniors in Darlington. It is likely in the future that this group will split into separate Durham and Darlington forums. This is to be discussed at the next meeting. There will be changes but should be a reasonable amount of support available
- Mainstreaming sustainable schools. DCSF put out a tender. Digital Public won the tender and Groundwork subcontracted to work with the schools. AC and NR did this work. NR covered Gateshead and Sunderland, AC sorted Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton. Got 40 replies back, been compiling questionnaires. 9 regions took part in total; the results will be on the DCSF website, teachernet. AC will bring the report to this group once it's released. ***AC to action**
- Digital public producing a film, there is a national group for this too. Also redeveloping the teachernet website. RH has sent an email re NGO links that can be added. Should be much quicker and better service now. Email address on the site.
- Emma Jones, Encams is now going to keep RH updated and informed on national information.

6. National Eco schools news

- Fairtrade fortnight now promoted
- Live-nation- funding available £1500
- Switched on communities grants – still one round available, closing date 3rd April
- Big tidy up- the bigtidyup.org. They will send out a kit. Revamp of Spring-clean? Suki Baines, looking at project on fly tipping. Producing DVD and pack focussing on Durham and Northumberland. RH acting as a conduit and will send info once he has it. ***RH to action.** Junior enforcement officers
- KH asked about green leaf funding by British gas? Get leaves for activities. Part of generation green see generationgreen.com
- RH mentioned the growing schools event on 17th March at Houghall College. Information on growing schools website. Twilight 4.30-6.30 at Houghall. www.growingschools.org.uk

7. NESPSS Update

- NESPSS has produced two banners to use for displays etc. If people would like to use them at events to let RH know.
- NESPSS strategy session is planned for 25th March, where key partners will attend to help steer future direction of NESPSS over the next three years.

8. Updates from members

- AC and SA said that they are running 2 growing courses courses for secondary schools
- 26 March at St Peters Primary (Also open to prim)

- 31 March at Bydales technology college- linking science to food. £95 for either course or 20% discount if you book on both. AC to give info to Krista and Rich ***AC to action**

9. A.O.B.

None

10. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 24th June 10.30-12.30pm