

Regional Eco-Schools Partnership  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 08  
At the EWE Centre 10.30-12.30pm



## Present

Rich Hurst, NESPSS

Alice Massey/Frances Hinton, BAN Waste/ NEWER (North East Waste Equals Resources)

Barbara Moorhead, Newcastle City Council Children's Services

Claire Fairclough, Sustainability Officer, Durham County Council

Kathryn Warrington, Sustainability Officer, Sunderland City Council

Clare Ross, Gateshead Borough Council Countryside section.

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

Andrea Bishop, Education Officer, Groundwork South Tees

Ann Johnson, Regional Healthy Schools Manager, GONE.

Krista McKinzey, Climate Change Schools Project

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies have been received from Nichola Ramshaw, Susan Stewart, Graham Temby, Keeley Metcalfe, Tony Turnbull

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Donna Mear to contact NL with details of the eco driver lady re doing a presentation for the group. Action still to be carried over **\*DM to action**
- Tony Turnbull from North Tyneside MBC is keen to be kept informed but may not be able to attend meetings as yet.
- Barbara Moorhead requested 2 amendments to Enviro Schools Info on last minutes - point 5 **\*NL to action**
- Schools north east (point 6) links- RH will discuss this under NESPSS update.
- Any funny films linked to sustainability, links to be emailed to RH please.

### 3. National Eco Schools info

- The new version of the website has been launched, easier to navigate but content the similar.
- RH handed out criteria info for Eco Schools Award. Bronze and silver the same. Green flag level has now teamed up with Sustainable Learning. They say the North East is still the least signed up area for Sustainable Learning. RH said he was open to suggestions from the group as to how to address this. Assessors also need to be aware of the changes. There has been a national boost of number of schools registering, but schools will need support though to get them to green flag status.
- National Exhibition is on the 21st June at Aintree. AB mentioned that they are asking for volunteers to man the stalls. Want over 1000 visitors more details will follow via eco schools website, RH will forward information. **\*RH to action**

- National College of School Leadership grants, the schools involved are Bydales School in Redcar and Cleveland, Monkchester Road Nursery at Walker and Cassop School in Durham. Ben is in touch with Monkchester Road Nursery. RH has offered support for all 3 schools to Encams, but had no reply. BG will keep RH updated on Monkchester. **\*BG to action**
- Encams are working on the Asdan COPE Award. RH has seen the final draft. RH explained the award to the group (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) and rolling this out nationally, the website will be updated after Easter.
- RH mentioned working on mapping exercise on awards schemes and how they fit together. The draft report was not what RH was expecting and he has responded to Encams with comments. A national meeting took place yesterday; RH is awaiting feedback from that meeting. Will be interested to see if there will be any changes. RH will keep us updated. **\*RH to action**

#### 4. Eco-Schools Pilots funded via Groundwork UK

- RH explained how Groundwork UK received funding from Toyota Europe, 6 pilots nationally, three in North East areas, (South Tyneside, East Durham and South Tees). These pilots were supposed to be finished by December 2007. RH is still working on his in Durham. Funding has been received again for this year. East Durham are going to bid for Sunderland schools, South Tees is also going to bid again. BG thinks South Tyneside may apply again. The deadline is next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 5. NESPSS update

Northern Sustainable Schools Conference on 7th/8th February at York. There was not the numbers attended as was hoped for, 110 each day but there was space for 200. LA's didn't circulate the info as we had hoped! In the North East only South Tyneside and Stockton didn't send anyone on either day. Workshops were more appreciated than the keynotes. Feedback shows people wanting more support, RH to meet with regional people about future events. FH preferred the cabaret layout of the last conference. Small under-spend on this conference, so funds to be split between regions and to be spent on activities next year.

NAREC Explore Renewables Launch. The launch event for the solar trolleys is on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at the Centre for Life, Newcastle. Nearly every secondary/middle school will be able to sign up and go through training to receive a trolley. Krista will be attending, speakers are still to be determined, but not many schools have signed up as yet. 170 trolleys for a possible 225 schools, sharing between schools may be required, LA's encouraged to attend the launch. The trolley is aimed at the following subjects; Science, Geography, Maths and Technology. Please circulate this information to any schools you think may be interested.

- NCSL Event. 13<sup>th</sup> March at Fyndoune Community College, Sacriston, Durham. 20 schools have already signed up, RH is also attending. The event will be talking about a toolkit which schools can use, to attend you can register via NCSL website.

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- Solar Car Challenge. RH mentioned last year's event. Middlesbrough Environment City is taking this year's event admin on, once funding has been confirmed by Nissan and NE Assembly. We should hear shortly. 50 schools could get involved and support would be appreciated. Contact RH, NL or Brian Yule at MEC.
- National Growing Schools Conference. To be held at the Botanic Gardens in Birmingham 7<sup>th</sup> April. £50 to attend. More info is on the Growing Schools site [www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachernet](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachernet)
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- Future NESPSS strategy & LA research. RH mentioned the Marketwise Strategies research, now going to contact schools and feed back on 31 March 4-6.30pm at The Devonshire Building, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. Directions to the venue can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/environment/contact/findus.htm> NESPSS want to invite all the local authority people who are being questioned, RH said a representative from this group would be appreciated. Ben Grant agreed to represent this partnership..

## 6. Updates from members

Krista McKinzey - Climate Change Schools Project Officer.

Krista gave an overview of this regional pilot, trying to put climate change at the heart of curriculum for KS2&3. Holding a fundraising day on 14<sup>th</sup> March for particular aspects of the project.

There are possibilities for a national role out. On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the afternoon they are holding the electric smart car launch, wind turbine will charge the car. Website is; [www.climatechangeschools.org.uk](http://www.climatechangeschools.org.uk)

Ben Grant-

Ben is completing the Enviro Schools annual report to distribute shortly to the group, looking at increasing recycling options within schools. Rag bags scheme was launched at Monkchester Road nursery; schools get money for what is collected and clothes are sorted and resold around the world. Ben is very pleased with this scheme. Links are getting stronger, Enviro schools links will continue.

BG mentioned that they have another school with green flag, Farne Primary in Newcastle.

Frances Hinton-

FH mentioned;

-NEWER consultancy (North East Waste Equals Resources)

-SCRAP (Schools and community recycling project) who have raised funds for a feasibility study, BG mentioned that paper collection service has been taken over by Newcastle City Council.

Alice Massey mentioned that DEFRA have reminded LA's, that schools and charitable organisations waste is now classed as household waste. There is a good system already in place in Newcastle.

Massive resources gap and a longer term model is required, want to look at regional and national good practise, incentives and FH hopes to contact some of this group to do a feasibility study.

The huge recycling issues were discussed within different councils. CF suggested FH speaks to Steven in her department at Durham. Generally fortnight collections have caused storage problems for schools.

FH and AM will collaborate findings over the next 3 months (Until the end of May) and are hoping to mark it with an event. More details to follow.

Steve Ashton-

Royal Bank of Scotland dream playground projects, £100k available to win. 5 schools in NE one will win £10k then go onto national prize of £100k.

Local food grant (£50million nationally) coming on stream, SA is an assessor and an advisor on this scheme.

National Parks Event on 6<sup>th</sup> June at Botton Village, SA doing eco schools, sustainable schools workshop at this event near Danby, North York moors.

National park is also running courses for Teesside schools on food/ local sourcing etc.

Breathing places programme was asked about by CR, no money involved, but information is available.

## **7. A.O.B**

RH mentioned the Regional School Food conference that is on 20<sup>th</sup> May at Wynyard Rooms (former Samsung Centre)

## **3. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30-12.30pm at the Ewe Centre