

Regional Eco Schools Partnership Meeting

Thursday 8 November 10.30am
at the EWE Centre, Esh Winning, Durham

Present

Rich Hurst, Ben Grant, Claire Fairclough, Kathryn Warrington, Nichola Ramshaw, Sam Jackson, Andrea Bishop, Andy Haddon, Roger Morris, Barbara Moorhead.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Krista McKinzey (Climate Change Schools Officer) Pam Lovell, Caroline Jackson, Brian Yule, Mike Tones, Clare Ross, Steve Ashton, Ann Johnson, Graham Temby, Alistair Wilson and Donna Mear.

RH explained the last minute change in agenda from the Climate Change Schools Project by Krista McKinzey to information from the Climate Change Steering group meeting instead.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (19th July)

- 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**
- Eco Schools assessor training- anyone who wants register should do so with ENCAMS
- Paul Gibson sent Setpoint info, they were working on webpage-RH to chase this. ***RH to action**

3. Climate Change Steering Group update

- RH gave background to this project; Discussions between Sustaine and the Environment Agency were successful in receiving 2 years funding from Flood Defence Levy. Some of the work will be focussing on schools in flood risk areas. The Science Learning Centre at Pity Me is the host organisation. The Steering group is made up of Sustaine, Environment Agency, One World Network North East, NESPSS and the SLC. Dr Krista McKinzey has been appointed as Project Officer and has been in post since mid September.
- The Steering group are looking at modules of work to be rolled out up to 2009.
- RH discussed the project model.
- RH would like a member of NESPSS to attend the Working Group. Andy Haddon volunteered to attend this group to ensure links to Science City/ IRES work/ Carbon Detectives etc. RH to forward AH's details to KM ***RH to action**
- RH talked through the project timeline information.
 - The Bristol online survey may be used to evaluate the children's baseline and analysis
 - The Children's logo competition ends 13th December
 - The CCSPWG/sub groups standardised package will involve 24 schools in the pilot

AH- Carbon Detectives launched at the DOTT07 event in the region, this overlaps with activities that Krista may be doing. Lots of resources at Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. Model of delivery and framework available. Shifting these groups towards climate change. Cycle of engagement. AH has developed a sustainable model of delivery that is not grant dependant. Carbon detectives is one element that can be delivered in schools.

- Information has been fed back to DCSF. The site etc still needs work. It enables a whole school footprint and produces a table of potential activities to work on. BM interesting to see how DCSF will respond to the comments made. in a review phase. This has potential.
- Other tools available;
 - ACTonCO2 , not specifically for schools.
 - <http://www.thinkleadership.org.uk/audit.cfm>
 - It can be confusing for schools to use these sites.
 - A good project would be to appraise all these sites. If there was one which would link with individuals and schools and the whole community.

BM and AH waiting for feedback from DCSF about their thoughts on Carbon Detectives, work will then be needed on what additional resources are required. Should have something by Easter '08.

- BM asked about the budget for Carbon Detectives. Funds have come out of central Sustainable Schools funding. DCSF have commissioned Encams to produce guidance on the cross references between a range of whole school programmes. RH not sure of timescales.
- RH asked which carbon tool etc do we recommend to schools? AH offered help to get some clarity. Krista will hopefully attend the next meeting in February. ***RH to action**
- Anyone trialling foot-printing tools, RH is very interested in the feedback. ***All to action** RH will also feedback on Bydales school and find out which tool they are using.
- Science City. Vision is for NE to be globally recognised for sustainable living and climate change initiatives. Developing solutions and this should pull together with Krista's work.
- FSC have recently launched the carbon game. AH handed out postcards www.carbongame.org
- Krista McKinzey's contact details are Krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk
- RH mentioned the climate change young champions competition for the region, closing date 9 November. It should be interesting to see who wins it this year.

4. Eco-Schools Pilots via Groundwork

- GWK UK successful in getting funding from Toyota Motor Europe to work on Eco Schools Pilot to get schools up to silver level or the green flag level. Three trusts in the NE, GED, R&C and STAN(South Tyneside and Newcastle)
- AB explained her work with 5 schools in Marske, and gave an overview of this. To be delivered by the end of December as all funding must be claimed by then. AB was invited to Brussels to update Toyota on what her project is doing. Bydales going to apply for NCSL Leadership grant.
- EWE Centre working with Fyndoune Community College and DCBD, and 3 of their partner primaries; New Brancepeth Primary, Witton Gilbert Primary and Sacriston Primary. Timescales are tight.
- Gwk STAN is working with schools in Newcastle on the project in partnership with NCC/ Newcastle University.
- RH explained the NCSL grant-36 schools across England. 4 per region £5k per school (national college of school leadership) sustainable schools grants. RH showed details via the NESPS website. Deadline is the 23rd November. <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/sustainableschools/index.cfm>

5. Enhancing support for Eco Schools in the region - how do we support it?

- RH asking for ideas on how we can make things happen as a region?
- BM/BG mentioned the Enviro schools programme based on partnerships in Newcastle working with/ through Science City umbrella.
- AH felt that applying for funding together helps and this adds clarity and momentum to the project.
- RH hasn't mapped what is happening in the region for Eco-Schools.
- NTMBC have now appointed a Sustainability Officer, called Tony Turnbull It was suggested that we contact him to see if he wants to join this group ***RH to action** NTMBC are the only LA not currently engaged in this group
- AB explained the current system in Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Darlington, etc. This is more project based than strategic.
- Gateshead's Sustainability Officer is Tim Debow. The Enviro Academy is also based in Gateshead
- RH asked if the group felt there was a viable option to work regionally or by local authorities. BM felt it's better to work within authorities so we can work with our local schools. **Practical action-** we know we can find schools and we have got people to deliver to them. RH asked everyone to keep their eyes open for regional funding. *** All to action**

- RH mentioned event DCSF Sustainable Schools seminar on the 25th Jan at the Rivergreen Centre in Durham. The information will go out shortly to Directors of Children's Services and Chief Executives shortly.

6. NESPSS Update

- Northern Sustainable Schools Conference Spring '08 update; 7th/8th February at The Park Inn Hotel in York. 7th is aimed at schools (schools presenting to schools), 8th workshops delivered by LA's/ partners. Link to SDC Every Child's Future Matters document (download from www.sd-commission.org.uk . 8th is for LA's and their partners. Different strategic approaches. ED Balls MP has been invited to close the conference. It is a free conference funded by DCSF. Administered by GOYH. RH has planning meeting next week, possibly considering putting the onus on LA's to get representation from all LA's.
- NAREC Low Carbon Solar Project. These are trolleys with solar panels to go out to every secondary school in the NE. RH has heard nothing recently about roll out. AH has attended a meeting, and they are not ready to roll out yet. AH could use Newcastle undergraduates to help put them into the schools. The funding needs to be spent by the end of the year. Anyone who gets an update let us all know.
- DOT07 - schools event went well. AH ran a workshop including electric motorbikes. 12,000 attended the first week and there was positive feedback from workshops etc. loads of info on website www.dott07.com
- UN Regional Centre of Expertise for ESD update. Newcastle was successful and won the bid. The team are busy working out details now. NESPSS been asked to sit on the management group for this. A new website is being set up and RH will keep us updated with this information
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/environment/research/EducationforSustainableDevelopment.htm>
- Fairtrade in Schools status www.fairtradeschools.net/schools RH would recommend this site to schools. The regional group is linked to OWNNE, contact Averil Newsam on a.newsam100@durhamlea.org.uk the next meeting is on 21st November at TOWC (Teesside One World Centre) at 1.30-3.30pm
- Schools North East. This is a new charity, set up to look at how schools impact and deliver regional economic strategy. It appears to be addressing sustainable development from the press release. The launch is on 12th November. Dave Smith (NESPSS Board Member) is invited and he'll find out more info. RH will keep us updated. ***RH to action**

7. AOB

- CF mentioned that we now have the winner of the UK's most sustainable school at Cassop Primary. Cassop is the 1st school ever to win this. Great news! Nominations have been announced on teaching awards website for next year's award.
- BM mentioned that Newcastle are going to appoint a senior advisor with a sustainable schools brief.
- RM referred to the Greenlight Conference tackling climate change on Friday 7th December at St James Park in Newcastle. They are seeking young people to contribute. Neil Smith (Tel 0191 2613915) Association of NE Councils is the contact, also going to contribute to a green manifesto. 4 schools with 10-15 pupils attending. This is a precursor to a bigger event.
- Any funny films/links to climate change please forward them to RH
 - BG suggested looking at the rural media company - which is youth project commissioned, its 5/6 minutes long and quite humorous.

8. Date for the next meeting

Thursday 28th Feb 10.30-12.30pm at The EWE Centre.