

PP4SD Newsletter

February 2005

Please visit our website at
www.pp4sd.co.uk

From the Chairman

When we were giving evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Sub-Committee on Environmental Education we learned that the Environmental Action Fund was not funding education projects at the next round. This is causing problems for many organisations, not least PP4SD. This change of policy was not mentioned in any of the application forms, so we applied for a further grant in good faith. We heard in January officially that our proposal was not to be funded.

PP4SD will continue and will use income from training activities to maintain its presence. Meanwhile we are discussing opportunities with DfES and Forum for the Future and developing other funding proposals to carry on our activities in the financial and land-based sectors. We are also still hoping that the European Social Fund will be able to fund our project in the South West.

The land-based materials are now ready to put on the website. We are working with LANTRA to test ways of using the materials in inter-active Internet based training. This is a very exciting development and if the initial testing shows the potential we think it will, we will seek funds for the production of a training framework that can be used with these materials and those for other sectors of agriculture.

John Baines

PP4SD gives evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Sub-Committee on Environmental Education

On 14 December 2004 John Baines and Glenn Strachan represented PP4SD at an evidence session of the Inquiry into Environmental Education at the House of Commons. This inquiry was a follow-up to "Learning the Sustainability Lesson", a previous inquiry and report from the EAC. The MPs firing the questions were clearly concerned about education for sustainable development as a viable concept as opposed to environmental education. The questioning ranged well beyond training for professionals to include schools and public education. Forum for the Future and Global Action Plan gave evidence in the same session and the un-corrected transcript from the session can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cms/elect/cmenvaud/uc84-ii/uc8402.htm

Strategies, strategies.....

If the publication of strategies is an indication that public bodies are moving forward on the sustainable development agenda then we are currently seeing some leaps ahead. Here are some examples to look out for, one that is soon to be published, two that are out for consultation and another being drafted.

DEFRA - UK Sustainable Development Strategy

Following almost a year of consultation and review the UK Sustainable Development Strategy will be launched on **Monday 7 March 2005**. This will replace "A Better Quality of Life" published in 1999 as the overarching strategy from the UK Government. More details can be found at: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/

LSC Sustainable Development Strategy

The Learning and Skills Council have produced their strategy for sustainable development in the post 16 training sector. The strategy and a supporting document can be found at: www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Media/PressReleases/sustainable_dev_launch.htm

The strategy covers the Vision for the sector; Guiding Principles; Skills for Sustainable Development; Working with Partners: and Key Areas for Action. The LSC are inviting comments on their strategy; they held a consultation seminar in Wigan on 18 January at which PP4SD was represented.

HEFCE Sustainable Development Strategy

The Higher Education Funding Council for England published its draft strategy in mid-January. The strategy is on the web along with details of the consultation process which includes seminars to be held around the country. All this can be found at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_01/

The strategy includes the following vision for the HE sector in England.

"Our vision is that, within the next 10 years, the higher education sector in England will be recognised as a major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability - through the skills and knowledge that its graduates learn and put into practice, and through its own strategies and operations."

Education for Sustainable Development in Wales

With sustainable development at the heart of Welsh Assembly policies, an ESD strategy and action plan for all sectors of education in Wales is currently being produced.

Masterclass in CSR

A masterclass on CSR, organised by the Institution of Financial Services and delivered by PP4SD is being organised for later this year.

This masterclass is aimed at professionals in the financial services sector and is one of a series organised by the IFS. The masterclass will be delivered by Jimmy Brannigan and Phil Case. Details of the masterclass will be circulated when finalised.

Delivering Sustainable Communities

From 31 January to 2 February the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, hosted a conference in Manchester, focused on delivering the much-talked about concept of sustainable communities.

John Prescott called for a Europe-wide approach to developing sustainable communities and he hopes to use the UK's Presidency of the EU to progress the idea. At the heart of Mr Prescott's initiative will be the UK's new Academy for Sustainable Communities, which was launched at the conference. The Academy will be based in Leeds and will be supported by a network of regional centres throughout the country.

The conference was an international event involving 2000 delegates, the largest of its kind ever staged in the UK.

Worcestershire County Council scoop Green Apple Environment Award

Worcestershire County Council energy efficiency initiative has won both the regional and national Green Apple Award for its holistic approach to sustainable energy use. The Council has worked hard to effect a cultural change through installing a wood fuelled boiler for heating County Hall, switching to a renewable energy tariff, training school caretakers on energy management, linking to the school curriculum through the EcoSchools programme and energy awareness programmes carried out at Bishops Wood Environmental Centre.

Japanese Government creates Environmental Efficiency Improvement Indicators

The cabinet office of the Japanese Government has developed a set of environmental improvement indicators to gauge the sustainability of the economy and the environment. The indicators have resulted from a study into the interrelationship between the Japanese environment and economy, based on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA), put forward by the United Nations in 1993. More details at:

www.japanfs.org/db/database.cgi?cmd=dp&num=863&UserNum=&Pass=&AdminPass=&dp=data_e.html

PP4SD Land-based Pilot

A one day pilot training session for the PP4SD land-based materials took place at Lantra House on 6 December 2004. Various changes had been made to the materials as a result of previous consultation sessions and the feedback from the participants was very positive. Discussions are on-going with LANTRA with regard to the most effective method of disseminating the materials, but they will be available on the PP4SD website in the near future.

PP4SD in talks with DfES

PP4SD met with Peter Wilkinson at DfES on 27 January to explore how we might contribute to the implementation of their Action Plan for Sustainable Development Education. As yet there is not a strategy for funding the implementation of the Plan – which makes the loss of the Environmental Action fund all the more serious. There is a danger of losing some of the organisations that have the knowledge, experience and contact to deliver the Plan. Here was yet another case for joined up thinking!

New Centre for Sustainable Construction

The Genesis Project is an exciting development at the Somerset College of Arts and Technology, which is a Centre of Vocational Excellence in Construction and Sustainability.

Designed by John Hines of Architype, Genesis is an educational resource centre for both modern and traditional sustainable building technologies. The centre is being constructed from a range of sustainable building materials and methods and will open as a regional and national resource in 2006. For more information visit:

www.genesisproject.com

NGO/Business Engagement: How to create win-win outcomes

A conference running from
22 to 23 February 2005 - London

For the first time in Europe over 50 leading multinationals and NGOs will come together to discuss the issues of Corporate-NGO partnerships. The conference will feature 28 pioneering case studies and joint keynotes from Robert Napier, CEO of WWF-UK and HSBC, International CSR Policy Manager, Amanda Combes, and David Threlfall, CEO of npower and Stephen Tindale CEO of Greenpeace UK.

For more details see:

www.ethicalcorp.com/engagement

If you have any comments about this newsletter or wish to contribute to a future edition please contact Glenn Strachan at Glenn@gesearth.co.uk or call 01974 298058