

PP4SD Newsletter

March 2004

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

From the Chairman

We must be doing something right. PP4SD has just heard that it will receive a grant from DEFRA's Environmental Action Fund for the third and final year of Phase 2 of our project. We will still need to raise a further £30,000 in matching funding, but this is a great start to the year. Our objectives for year 3 are:

1. Use and develop tools and techniques of stakeholder dialogue through inter-professional learning events and opportunities including arranging regular workshops, servicing a forum, developing a web site and preparing a newsletter.
2. Report on the progress of sustainable development within the Continuing Professional Development of the participating institutions and other organisations with which we are working.
3. To develop and test new learning materials for use in sustainable development training events for professionals.
4. To provide for the sound management of the project

If you would like an electronic copy of the programme that is planned, please contact Glenn Strachan.

We are now starting to plan for Phase 3. We want to continue the development and promotional work of Phases 1 & 2 but also wish to provide some support to those who are asking for our help. We are preparing a working document and will circulate it for responses in the near future. We are also developing funding proposals because without adequate funding we will not be able to continue

John Baines

The Sustainability Alliance and PP4SD working together

On 5 December 2003 the Sustainability Alliance and PP4SD jointly held a consultation session with representatives from DEFRA on the Government's proposals for sustainable consumption and production. These proposals will feed into a larger review of the Government's policy on sustainable development, which was first published in 1999 under the title "A Better Quality of Life".

The Sustainability Alliance and PP4SD are in the process of submitting recommendations to DEFRA regarding their proposals for sustainable consumption and production.

New guidance for managing change towards resource efficiency

A new guide is available to help managers in industrial, commercial and public sector organisations. It is published by the Government Office for the South West, in partnership with Envirowise, and it is entitled "Resource Efficiency and Corporate Responsibility - Managing Change". The guide, which is endorsed by Action Energy and the Energy Systems Trade Association, seeks to overcome the management inertia that prevents real and sustained progress. It will also help managers take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the need to move towards a low carbon and resource efficient economy. The guide includes a simple diagnostic tool ('Change Management Matrix') to enable managers to reveal their current status on implementing change and to track progress in a structured way. It also features GOSW's highly successful 'Energy & Environmental Management Worst Practice Guide' to help managers learn from the mistakes of others so that they can identify and avoid them in their own organisation. The guide is available on-line at: <http://www.oursouthwest.com> or a free hard copy of "Resource Efficiency and Corporate Responsibility - Managing Change" can be obtained from the Environment & Energy Helpline 0800 585 794.

The UK Environment Agency backs World Environment Day 5 June 2004

The Environment Agency (one of the PP4SD Project Partners) is playing a key role in raising the profile of this annual event and in trying to engage organisations and individuals so that they:

- a) make on-line environmental pledges;
- b) organise activities under the banner of World Environment Day;
- c) promote activities that are already planned between now and 5 June under the banner of World Environment Day.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wed/>

World Environment Day is organised internationally by the United Nations Environment Programme

PP4SD materials for the Land-based Sector

PP4SD held a further meeting with representatives from the land-based sector on 17 February at Pershore College. As a result PP4SD will be drafting continuing professional development materials for the land-based sector, based on the original Foundation Programme. The aim will be to make these materials available to the land-based colleges and LANTRA as well as the professional institutions in the land-based sector.

Consultation on emissions trading

The draft "National Allocation Plan", which sets out how greenhouse gas emission allowances will be allocated to the operators of UK installations, is out for consultation. The Plan covers the first phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which runs from 2005 to 2007. The draft plan is available at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/eu-etsnap/index.htm> and the consultation closes on 12 March 2004.

New Engineering Competencies recognise sustainable development

The Engineering Council published "The UK Standard for Engineering Competence" on 1 December 2003. Section "E" for Incorporated Engineers requires engineers to "*Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.*" While competence "E3" for Chartered Engineers states, "*Undertake engineering activity in a way that contributes to sustainable development.*"

The full document is available at:

http://www.uk-spec.org.uk/files/CE_IE.pdf

Strategy to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals

The Government is seeking views on revising the UK Chemicals Strategy originally published in 1999 and aimed at protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals. There is a document out for consultation, which is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/synthetic-chemicals/>

Industry, environmental groups, health and safety professionals, retailers and others are encouraged to comment on the document called "Protecting People and the Environment from Hazardous Chemicals". The consultation period ends on 4 May 2004.

The document sets out proposals to improve the effectiveness of measures aimed at protecting the environment and human health from negative impacts caused by some synthetic, or man-made, chemicals. The Government's 1999 Chemicals Strategy set out to plug the gap in knowledge about the hazards and associated risks of some of the chemicals that form part of our everyday lives.

Around 30,000 chemicals are produced in quantities of more than one tonne in the EU about which scientists know very little. The UK Chemicals Strategy was intended to engage industry to establish procedures to tackle some of this huge backlog of untested chemicals. It identified the need for a precautionary approach to addressing the risks posed by chemicals of particular concern

including those that are Persistent, Bio-accumulative, and Toxic.

Concern about toxic chemicals and human health was raised by a non-governmental organisation last year. As part of their Chemicals and Health Campaign, WWF-UK took blood samples from 155 volunteers and tested the samples for 49 toxic chemicals. The subsequent report "ContamiNATION" is downloadable as a pdf file from the following webpage:

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/chemicals/biotour.asp>

The survey found that all the individuals tested were contaminated by a cocktail of toxic chemicals that were banned in the UK in the 1970s, but which are still posing unknown health risks.

Dates for your diary Sustainability Week 15 -19 November 2004

The Institution of Electrical Engineers is proposing to lead this week long event on behalf of the Sustainability Alliance with presentations and workshops designed to encourage cross-professional debate and knowledge sharing leading to sustainable actions.

The event will be held at the Midlands Engineering Centre, Austin Court, Birmingham.

More details will appear in future editions of this newsletter.

Promoting renewables in the UK

In February DTI Minister Stephen Timms launched a new campaign entitled "It's Only Natural" at the first national Wave and Tidal Energy Conference in Bristol. The campaign will promote the potential benefits of renewable energy to key decision-makers such as investors and planners. This first stage will centre on the South West and provide additional support and information on renewable energy to planners in the region. It will also target the financial community by highlighting the investment potential of the renewable sector.

According to a report published earlier in February renewable energy could reap significant economic and social benefits for the UK. The "Renewables Supply Chain Gap Analysis" assesses the current status of the renewables industry in the UK and an assessment of its future potential for employment and the renewable energy industry. The gaps identified in the supply chain are presented as opportunities for increasing manufacturing capacity and employment.

Any comments on this newsletter or content for a future newsletter can be sent to Glenn Strachan at Glenn@gesearth.co.uk or call 01974 298058