

PP4SD Newsletter

October 2003

Welcome to this newsletter from the Chairman of PP4SD

PP4SD promotes sustainable development practice in professional activities. It assists professionals by organising interprofessional learning events and developing other learning opportunities with professional groups. In our experience, sustainable development activities have evolved out of environmental agendas and the emphasis on social factors has been somewhat neglected. Increasingly, sustainable development is now being linked into Corporate Social Responsibility Plans. This should provide a stronger social input and is to be welcomed as long as the CSR plans are integrated into the management of the whole business and not left alone in the corporate 'good works' activities.

Bob and Lynette Fuller who have managed the administration of PP4SD for the past 5 years for IES, mainly on a voluntary basis, retired at the end of June. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking them for administering PP4SD in such an efficient and friendly way. We will miss them. IES will continue to be the administering body for PP4SD.

John Baines

Department for Education and Skills Action Plan

A call for responses to the draft DfES Action Plan appeared in the last PP4SD newsletter. The DfES has now launched its Action Plan for Sustainable Development and it aims to cover four key objectives:

1. Education for sustainable development.
2. The environmental impact of the Department and its partner bodies.
3. The environmental impact of the education estate.
4. Local and global partnership activity.

Key objective 1 covers all sectors of education and contains actions that have particular relevance for PP4SD including the following.

- Integrate sustainable competences into the standards of various professional and accreditation schemes.
- Encourage professional bodies to integrate the development of sustainability competences for existing as well as new registrants through their Continuing Professional Development programmes.

Objective 3 will be of interest to many of the professional institutions involved with PP4SD, as it encourages all publicly-funded educational establishments to engage with sustainable management practices. There will be a need for a large amount of advice and support as well as training in this area.

The full Action Plan can be downloaded from www.dfes.gov.uk/sd/

University-Industry Conference

Copernicus Campus, the university network for sustainability, is organising a conference to increase cooperation between the university sector and industry in the field of sustainable development. The **European University-Industry Forum for Sustainable Development** will be held in Bonn on 26-27 February 2004. Programme & further information will be available on www.copernicus-campus.org/.

PP4SD Financial Sector Working Group

Following the cross-professional workshop on sustainable development and financial management held on 19 June, a working group meeting was held at the Institute of Financial Services on 2 September. The meeting included representatives from the Institute of Financial Services, the Financial Services Association, DEFRA, Forum for the Future and Barclays. The meeting focused on identifying the perceived needs in the financial sector for CPD in sustainable development, identifying the strengths of the PP4SD model and how it might be integrated into existing CPD structures.

The financial sector has a diverse range of professions and professional institutions with a correspondingly diverse range of needs. There are however well established CPD structures, which PP4SD hopes to engage with. As a result of this meeting PP4SD is working to promote its training model with the Forge Group, which includes a number of public and private bodies in the financial sector.

Further details on the Forge Group can be found at www.abi.org.uk/forge/

PP4SD Land-based Sector Activity

PP4SD is currently talking to a range of organisations to determine how it can contribute to CPD on sustainable development in the land-based sector. Discussions have already taken place with representatives from the Association of Land-based Colleges, the Environment Agency, the Institute of Horticulture and the RTPi. This consultation process is due for completion with a second meeting on 15 October.

New PP4SD website

PP4SD is in the process of developing its own website, independent of the IES website. It is hoped to have the new site on-line before the end of the year. Meanwhile, your ideas on content, services and how it should be structured are welcomed.

Partially joined-up government?

DEFRA and DTI have jointly produced "**Changing Patterns** – UK Government framework for sustainable production and consumption".

This document brings together the economic and environmental cases for action to tackle sustainable production and consumption. In setting out the vision and the policy objectives, *Changing Patterns* states;

"The government seeks to deliver continuous economic and social progress that respects the limits of the Earth's ecosystems, and meets the needs and aspirations of everyone for a better quality of life now and for future generations to come."

The document identifies four main ways in which the vision will be accomplished:

1. "decoupling" economic growth and environmental degradation;
2. focusing policy on the most important environmental impacts associated with the use of particular resources, rather than on the total level of resource use;
3. increasing the productivity of material and energy use, as part of the broader Government commitment to increase the productivity of the nation; and
4. encouraging and enabling active and informed individual and corporate consumers who practice more sustainable consumption.

Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation is seen as central to achieving the Government's aims. A consultation paper is being published alongside *Changing Patterns*, which presents a range of indicators that can show how this decoupling is taking place. These indicators include greenhouse gas emissions, water abstraction and emissions from electricity generation.

Meanwhile, the Sustainable Development Commission has published *Policies for Sustainable Consumption* which asks "why if consumerism fails to satisfy, do we continue to consume in the way we do?". Jonathon Porritt argues we need to move away from consuming and move towards better health, improve quality of life and environmental sustainability.

The *Changing Patterns* document can be downloaded at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/changing-patterns.pdf

Sustainable production and consumption

The Sustainability Alliance is currently responding to the *Changing Patterns* document and PP4SD is hoping to run a joint event with the Alliance on sustainable production and consumption in the near future. Further details will be circulated to all PP4SD contacts as soon as arrangements are in place.

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

As a result of a proposal from Japan at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg last year, 2005 to 2014 has been designated the Decade of Sustainable Development by the United Nations. UNESCO will be the lead body for the Decade and it has set out its plans in a draft document, which identifies four areas that will be addressed through the Decade.

- Basic education.
- Reorienting existing education programmes.
- Developing public awareness and understanding of sustainability.
- Training

Under the heading of "Training" the document states the following.

"All sectors of the workforce can contribute to local, regional and national sustainability. Business and industry are thus key sites for on-going vocational and professional training so that all sectors of the workforce have the knowledge and skills necessary to make decisions and perform their work in a sustainable manner."

A final version of the document will appear on the UNESCO website at www.unesco.org/

Society for the Environment

The Society for the Environment is an independent umbrella body for the environmental professions. It is currently constituted as a limited company and is seeking a Royal Charter, with a view to being able to award the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist, something that should benefit all professionals working with PP4SD. Further information on the progress of the Society for the Environment will be circulated in the New Year.

Another newsletter will be circulated before Christmas. 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