

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2007
AT BARNSELY TOWN HALL**

Attendees

Dick Bradford	Barnsley MBC
John Harris	Coal Authority
Gideon Richards	Consulting with a Purpose
Chantal Thomas	Energy Wholesale, E.ON
Mike Salamon	Federation of Small Businesses
Richard Lee	Future Energy Yorkshire
Tim Godson	GOYH
Tanya Christensen	Microgeneration Yorkshire
Barnaby Fryer	Microgeneration Yorkshire
Nigel Yaxley	Nigel Yaxley Ltd
Lance Saxby	RECG
Jim Swithenbank	Sheffield University
David Bowe (Chair)	UK Coal Task Force
Andrew Cooper	YHA
Sian Ferguson	YHA
Chris Pilkington	YHA
Martyn Roberts	YHA
Helen Todd	YHA

Apologies

Chris McGlen	Barnsley MBC
Cllr Newman	BP Chemicals Ltd
Malcolm Joslin	City of York CC
Andrew Waller	Doosan Babcock Energy Ltd
Mike Farley	Drax Power Ltd
Melanie Wedgebury	E.On UK Renewables
Jonn Barnes	Environment Agency
Gerard Morris	ESD
Robert Clark	GOYH
Tim Godson	Harrogate BC
Andrew Ellis	Hull CC
John Bell	Leeds CC
George Munson	Leeds University
Keith Pitcher	TUC
Bill Adams	University of Leeds
Adrian McDonald	Yorkshire Forward
Stephen Brown	

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

David Bowe welcomed everyone to Barnsley Town Hall. A list of attendees and apologies had been circulated.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Item 8 – B&Q

Sian Ferguson advised that a letter had been written to B&Q raising concerns over their choice of a suitable wind turbine manufacturer for sale in their stores. B&Q have responded and had wanted to attend the meeting. Unfortunately they couldn't attend on this occasion. A separate meeting will be arranged. Members commented that it would be useful to develop a relationship with B&Q to help address issues of concern about microgenerators and promote greater take-up of energy efficiency products. A copy of their letter is available.

DB/SF

No other issues were raised from the previous minutes.

3. Vision for Coal Update

Stephen Brown prepared a progress update on this item, which The Chair read out in his absence. The update covered the following points:

- Discussions are continuing with DTI regarding the Carbon Abatement Technology (CAT) strategy funding to support clean coal demonstration projects. The capital support programme has yet to receive EU State Aid clearance.
- Yorkshire Forward has raised the prospect of providing additional funding into the CAT programme to support a demonstration project in the region.
- A major strand of the Biomass Action Plan will consider how the region can increase the capacity of our biomass supply infrastructure to meet co-firing targets.
- Discussions are taking place later this month between E.ON and Yorkshire Forward regarding their proposals for a carbon capture ready IGCC plant at Killingholme and what support, if any the region can offer for the project.

Any ideas on locating money in the region for the CAT programme would be appreciated. We remain optimistic for the carbon capture ready IGCC plant at Killingholme.

All

David welcomed any questions on the report. None received.

4. Indigenous Coal Production – market update

Nigel Yaxley gave a Powerpoint presentation to update REF members. Copies of the presentation will be circulated to members.

NY/HT

David Bowe stated that it was the most optimistic report on the British Coal industry that he had seen for a while and that it was positive news that Hatfield has moved on quite significantly. There needs to be

Government action to push for UK coal, however it will take a long time for projects to come to fruition.

Suggestions for progressing were:

- David/Sian to write letters to seek more commitment for Government action to John Healey, Peter Trustcott and copy to our "friends" in the region, e.g. Ed Balls, also include Bronwen Northmore at DTI Emerging Technologies, David Milliband and Alistair Darling.
- Hold a meeting with John Healey and invite to speak at the REF.

Action: San to prepare a letter. Nigel Yaxley to be consulted before sending.

SF/NY

Gideon Richards stated that Greenpeace have gone to Court over the Energy Review because they believe the nuclear side was pushed through without a proper debate.

John Harris gave the REF an update on the new Coal Forum. The main points were as follows:

- The Coal Forum was set up as part of the Coal Review. It has two main focuses; to explore clean coal technologies and how to secure the future of energy and falling production.
- The Coal Forum is meeting next week at Ferrybridge, where they will focus on clean coal technologies and a list of projects on the energy side where Government action is needed to reach targets and increase efficiency.
- John said he would be happy to provide a briefing after next week's meeting to bring the REF up to date. He suggested that there should be a target for indigenous coal production for the foreseeable future. This target could be reached 50/50 deep mine/open cast. In order to sustain current levels and over, they would be looking at investment of £350m.
- Currently in England it is very difficult to get planning consent for open cast mining. To maintain at present levels planning criteria would need to be considered again to facilitate more open cast mines as long as stringent community and environmental standards are met.

David requested that John and Nigel keep in contact and keep him informed of events.

JH/NY

David Bowe handed over Chair to John Harris while he left the room.

5 Vision for Biomass Update & Biofuels Study

The projects on Biomass and Biofuels have both been awarded to AEA. The work will be funded by YF and YHA, with matched DTI funding.

The work on the Vision for Biomass would be considering both large-scale use of biomass in coal-fired power stations and small scale, local market development. The Biofuels study will examine the opportunities/implications of developing biofuels in the region.

Around 15 stakeholders for each project will be involved at the initial stages. Proposed lists of stakeholders were circulated. Suggestions for others who should be involved should be sent to Sian by 24 January. A workshop for a wider group of stakeholders will be held at the end of March.

All

Other points discussed included:

MS

- Mike Salamon advised that he attends a regional meeting of small business people and that he could arrange for AEA to speak to these contacts.
- A comment was raised that the list was missing the end users perspective, particularly councils, also products and suppliers.
- Sustainable food and farming – Sian said that Tony Cook has been sent information
- Sian confirmed that waste issues would also be considered in the work on biomass and biofuels
- Biodiversity issues to be fed through Ben McCarthy at YHA.
- Equipment suppliers – may need to look outside of the region/internationally to engage with volume manufacturers.

David Bowe returned to the meeting.

6 Stern Review

Martyn Roberts handed out a brief giving an overview of the Stern Review and advised that climate change is not just an environmental issue but one that incorporates economic, energy, security and political issues. The review makes five main conclusions after considering policy responses, mitigation and adaptation. Martyn included a section on the Government response and the Regional response to the Review.

A discussion followed which raised the following points:

- Stern Review has become an important document around the globe and we should take it upon ourselves to plan how we can deliver it in the Y&H region regarding clean coal, microgeneration, etc.
- Review the impact of major events in the region to make them carbon neutral and address questions in terms of greenhouse gases.
- Sian mentioned the "Cooling the Planet" event happening in Sheffield on 7th February, arranged by DLA Piper. The speakers are Al Gore, Tom Riordan, Senator George Mitchell and Teresa Hitchcock. YHA Regional Executive Board members and David Bowe have been invited. There will be a Q&A session at the event. Those attending could raise any Forum questions.
- Tim Godson suggested that regions should input into the Climate Change Bill. Investigate by letter. David/Sian to find out to make an approach.
- It was suggested that the letter should recommend that there is a Department of Sustainable Development and Energy.

DB/SF

7 Schools Renewables Project

Chris Pilkington explained that we are looking to raise funding for a competition to assist schools renewable energy initiatives to ensure that money does not come out of school funds. We shall be writing to the top 100 companies in the region to raise ideally £700,000. Project to be launched in mid-February.

David asked if anyone had any comments to speak to Chris and advise if they know of any schools in the region that would like assistance.

Tanya confirmed that finding suitable schools was not a problem, but that sourcing the funds was.

Potential money from the DFES – most LEA's have indicated that they are not seeking the funding.

Companies could offset carbon by paying for projects in school. Low carbon buildings programme phase 1 & 2 and how they work with each other, as schemes are difficult to access. David asked Barnaby to provide a briefing document so that we can take this forward.

Tanya advised about the Sustainable Schools Fair on 21st March at the Sheffield Megacentre.

All

BF

8. Microgeneration Conference

Andrew Cooper updated the REF on the 2nd Microgeneration Conference and Awards to be held in Harrogate. The first Conference had attracted 130 delegates. Rachel Crisp from the DTI will be speaking in the afternoon at the Conference.

Andrew mentioned that he is seeking a sponsor of £3,000 for the toolkit to put into the delegate packs. Please advise Andrew if you are aware of a suitable sponsor.

There will be an Awards Ceremony in the evening at the Majestic Hotel. Paul Hudson, BBC's Look North weatherman is to host the evening. The trophy will be a model of the carbon dioxide molecule made from coal.

Yvette Cooper was asked to attend as a speaker, but unfortunately no response has yet been received. David will approach Yvette directly.

All

9. Launch of Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy

Sian announced that the plan is to launch the Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy on the 7th February at the "Cooling the Planet" event. Copies of the Energy Strategy will be available for delegates on the exhibition stand at the event. A proof copy for printing will be available shortly.

It was suggested to have a stand to distribute the Energy Strategy at the Microgeneration Conference.

Sian also mentioned that she is arranging a reprint of the "Vision for Coal" document.

10. Any Other Business

Tanya announced that there were 5 projects submitted in the latest round of Intelligent Energy Europe Funding. Microgeneration Yorkshire expect to hear how they go by the end of March.

Barnaby advised that YREN and Sunrise have now merged to form Microgeneration Yorkshire.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Proposed to hold the next meeting in April. All members please advise Helen of suitable dates.

The possibility of holding the next meeting in York was discussed.

All

Helen Todd
18th January 2007