

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM
MONDAY 17 MARCH 2008 @ BRADFORD CITY HALL**

Present:

Nigel Yaxley	Association of UK Coal Importers
Dick Bradford	Barnsley MBC
Gideon Richards	Consulting with a Purpose
Gerard Morris	Environment Agency
Mike Salamon	Federation of Small Businesses
Sue Brown	Future Energy Yorkshire
Paul Roberts	GOYH
Andrew Ellis	Harrogate BC
Alan Jones	Leeds City Council
Barnaby Fryer	Microgeneration Yorkshire
Nicola Pugh	Microgeneration Yorkshire
Tanya Christensen	Microgeneration Yorkshire
John Lewis	TUC
Malcolm Joslin	UK BP
David Bowe (Chair)	UK Coal Task Force
Adrian McDonald	University of Leeds
Helen Todd	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Jatinder Singh Mehmi	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Richard Hall	Yorkshire Water

Apologies:

Cllr Newman	Barnsley MBC
Cllr Andrew Waller	City of York CC
Mike Farley	Doosan Babcock Energy Limited
Melanie Wedgbury	Drax Power Ltd
Paul Williams	Energy & Resources Research Institute, University of Leeds
Adrian Millward	Energy Saving Trust
Christina Lee	Energy Saving Trust
Robert Clark	ESD
Richard Lee	Future Energy Yorkshire
Susannah Brown	Future Energy Yorkshire
John Bell	Hull CC
Bill Adams	TUC
Keith Pitcher (may be late)	University of Leeds
Jim Swithenbank	University of Sheffield
Andy Horrocks	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Martyn Roberts	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Stephen Brown	Yorkshire Forward

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting at Bradford City Hall.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a correct record.

No additional matters arising.

3. Review of Status of Biofuels Report Launch

Up to 60 delegates attended the launch event at Stallingborough, near Grimsby. Presentations were given by Ian McCubbin of AEA Energy & Environment, Andy Bulman of Vivergo Fuels, Ian Foster of the Environment Agency, Professor Simon McQueen-Mason of the Centre for Novel Agricultural Products at the University of York and Paul Roberts of Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber.

There was a range of media interest in the event from radio interviews to newspaper articles. The publicity received was mainly positive with the view that Humberside is the place for biofuels industry. Copies or links to articles have been circulated to members.

It was suggested that the radio interviews may be available to listen to via a web link. Action: HT to investigate and circulate any interview recording links to members.

HT

Members were asked to provide suggestions for progressing any work or actions from the Biofuels report.

ALL

It was mentioned that Vivergo Fuels will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the new bioethanol plant. Depending on planning approval, construction is expected to start around June/July. It was agreed that we would supply copies of the Biofuels Report and support the event where possible. Malcolm Joslin to liaise and advise further information.

MJ

4. Review of Vision for Biomass Report Launch

We had received huge interest in the Biomass Report Launch and over 80 delegates attended the morning's event. Councillor Anne Hawkesworth opened the event and speakers included Ian McCubbin from AEA Energy & Environment, Mark Steed from Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Mick Hoban from the Forestry Commission. The Biomass Report was launched by Rosie Winterton MP, the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber following her speech. Five tours visited the newly installed biomass boiler at Bradford City Hall.

Attention was drawn to the Action Plan and the timelines in the Biomass Report. Members were asked to note any actions for their organisations. A decision is to be made by the Exec Group to determine reporting procedure and frequency on progress to targets. Also look at Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy.

REF
Exec

The reports will be available on the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly website.

HT

During discussion the following points were raised:

- How do smaller users get involved?
- Contact could be through Future Energy Yorkshire and Recycling Action Yorkshire. Refer to Future Energy Yorkshire's Biomass Energy website <http://www.fey.org.uk/site/home/tabid/167/default.aspx>
- To gather groups together could possibly set up a Biomass Network similar to the Windy Network
- Supply chain and logistical issues – some work has been done by South Yorkshire Forest Partnership on a bioenergy infrastructure chain and currently looking for people to supply – Yorwoods are getting involved.
- It was considered that if focus is placed on demand, the market place will follow with supply.
- In order to develop the needs of the biomass industry ownership needs to be taken of the Action Plan and then facilitated.

5 Impact of Sub-National Review and the Future of the Regional Energy & Forum

6.

Jatinder Singh Mehmi advised the Forum about the Sub-National Review and how this will impact the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and the Regional Energy Forum. The announcement was made in July 2007 and considers how the regional structures and accountability will change in the region. The YHA will be phased out in 2010. The region would have a single integrated regional strategy that will encompass the Regional Economic, Housing, Spatial and Transport strategies. Funding for 2008/09 has been reduced. The YHA has been tasked to deliver core functions and continue developing the IRF.

The YHA currently hosts and undertakes the secretariat function for the Regional Energy Forum as well as providing event management and resources for overseeing and publishing research.

With the Y&H Assembly being phased out the REF needs to start looking at transitional issues, in terms of who will host and support the REF, who it should report to and what relationship it should have once the new regional structures are in place.

The Sub National Review was published on the 31 March.

Start looking at transition period to consider how we support and where we can carry out the duties for the REF. A discussion is needed with all REF members.

Action: JSM to put together a paper detailing the impacting of the Sub National Review for the REF so that informed discussion can place at the next meeting.

JSM

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Executive – should we try and enhance or stay as two separate identities? Currently appointing a Climate Change Co-ordinator, should the REF be involved in this? Could give the REF more weight, focus and energy intelligence within the region.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Concern that the focus would be on climate change and not specifically on energy
- Climate change work and energy work go closely together, but there is a role

for separate energy issues

- Security of energy supply – import of energy sources
- Risk that energy could be a branch of climate change
- There is a justification for the REF for coal, petrochemicals and renewables issues. Facilitating their development and new phases stands separately. Waste strategy has an impact as well. The REF can focus on energy issues in Yorkshire.
- Working on low carbon cities – REF could sit as sub group for climate change.
- Energy has close relationship with carbon and emissions but little with adaptation, which is dealt with separately.
- There are risks beyond climate change for the REF
- The current focus of the REF has moved from powerstations and coal. We need to decide what we need to do and focus on.
- Take reports and put into action, e.g. carbon storage, or sequestration or microgeneration.
- We should be seen to support climate change work. 100mw/ 200mw/300mw or biomass to contribute towards programme. Show working together and work as quantitative chunk.
- Align actions with RES and make case to RDA. Contribute towards emission reductions, new markets and new jobs.
- The Government consultation on heat call for evidence was mentioned as an opportunity for the Forum to respond. David Bowe asked for communications from members to put forward to BERR and the Regional Minister. Action: Pass comments to Helen for inclusion in REF letter. Deadline for submissions is 31st March 2008.
- The REF should be involved with relevant Government consultations. Action: Jatinder to advise Forum on upcoming consultations.
- The Green Alliance have put forward a manifesto to Government. Andrew Ellis and Dick Bradford are going on 1st April to the Houses of Parliament to present local evidence on biomass and ground source heat pump installations.
- We have a wide range of expertise within the REF that can be used.

All
DB/HT

JSM

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Friday 26th September 2008 at TUC, Leeds – details to be confirmed.
David Bowe has spoken to Hilary Benn MP who has agreed to attend as the main speaker.

HT

Meeting may require longer than 2 hours and may include a visit within Leeds.

8. Any other Business

Andrew Ellis advised that Harrogate are installing a target of 100 ground source heat pumps for council homes. Two large studies, one for the Energy Saving Trust and the other for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council are being undertaken to look and study these properties as well as how individuals interact with these systems.

Alan Jones pointed out that at the last meeting roles of Local Authorities in energy was discussed. He advised that there are 198 national indicators with 35 key performance indicators for each area. GOYH seeking to take in NI 186 on per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area. More outreach work is needed on those sectors and support of national indicator. Action: An article on "Local Area Agreements: A valuable tool for taking renewable energy projects forward" was

HT

given in the last issue of MANY (Issue 10), copy to be re-circulated for information. Please also use the following link to the CLG website for Performance Framework, Partnerships and Local Area Agreements.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/>

Tanya Christensen confirmed that Microgeneration Yorkshire will cease to exist in two weeks time after operating for five years. She mentioned that it was disappointing news in light of the importance of renewables in the built environment and the view of Yorkshire Forward. Barnaby Fryer has now taken up a role as consultant with WSP in Manchester. Tanya advised that herself and Nicola Pugh were joining Gideon Richards and Consulting with a Purpose.

In addition she advised that the results of the RSS consultation were overwhelming and the support for the 10% rule was encouraging.

David thanked Microgeneration Yorkshire for their support over the years and for their invaluable contribution in organising successful regional Microgeneration Conferences.

Helen Todd
Service Administrator, Sustainable Development & Strategy Integration
27th March 2008