

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM
WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2007 @ YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD**

Present:

Ian McCubbin	AEA Energy & Environment
Dick Bradford	Barnsley MBC
Andrew Waller	City of York CC
John Delaney (for John Harris)	Coal Authority
Melanie Wedgbury	Drax Power Ltd
Gerard Morris	Environment Agency
Robert Clark	ESD
Mike Salomon	Federation of Small Businesses
Susannah Brown	Future Energy Yorkshire
Andrew Ellis	Harrogate BC
John Bell	Hull CC
Keith Pitcher	Leeds University
Tanya Christensen	Microgeneration Yorkshire
David Bowe (Chair)	UK Coal Task Force
Adrian McDonald	University of Leeds
Martyn Roberts	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Helen Todd	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
John Walsh	Yorkshire Coal Task Force
Richard Hall	Yorkshire Water

Apologies:

Cllr Newman	Barnsley MBC
John Harris	Coal Authority
Gideon Richards	Consulting with a Purpose
Mike Farley	Doosan Babcock Energy Limited
Richard Lee	Future Energy Yorkshire
Les Saunders	GOYH
Kay Beagley	Kirklees MC
Alan Jones	Leeds City Council
Barnaby Fryer	Microgeneration Yorkshire
Nigel Yaxley	Nigel Yaxley Ltd
Bill Adams	TUC
Malcolm Joslin	UK BP
Jim Swithenbank	University of Sheffield
Stephen Brown	Yorkshire Forward
Debbie Rosen	Yorkshire Forward
Sian Ferguson	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Andy Horrocks	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
Will Kemp	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No additional apologies were advised.
Richard Hall of Yorkshire Water was welcomed to the meeting as a new member.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Meeting held with John Healey MP in London on 18th June. Sian Ferguson, David Bowe, Sue Jeffrey and George Krawiec were present. Started to make some progress. Serious consideration given for further assistance for power and coal sector. Interested in comments on Energy White Paper. More information at a later stage.

DB

An update on low carbon buildings programme to be provided by Barnaby Fryer at the next meeting.

BF

3. Update on Coal in the Region

Nigel Yaxley had prepared an update on 'Vision for coal in the region'. It was considered important that action should be taken and progress this further with Ministers.

The following points were raised about the report and related matters:

- List of projects on new boilers – Blythe Power Station joining the list – RWE
- Inclusion – Eggborough Power Station is missing from the list (page 6) – presume there are no developments
- Supercritical boiler at Ferrybridge seems outside the terms of reference
- There had been a discussion at a recent Yorkshire Coal Task Force meeting about trying to get improvements in the region. This has been taken up with Yorkshire Forward.
- Received a letter from BP about engineering works at Ferrybridge - not aware of any implications.
- Concern over reliance of importing coal from one supplier - Russia

Unfortunately Nigel Yaxley was unable to attend the meeting due to a trip to Russia. It was suggested that we write to the Environment Minister.

Actions:

DB to check situation re blockage of money. If persistent, will write a letter.

DB

Speak to NY to ask him to be present at the next meeting to discuss above points further.

DB/NY

4. Biofuels Report

Ian McCubbin of AEA Energy & Technology gave a presentation on "The Status of Biofuels in Yorkshire and the Humber". Draft report circulated to members.

Ian invited questions, the following points were discussed:

- Sugar production – potential is there and could be tapped into
- Ethanol production – distinct market risks with the whole area, sustainability question and economics
- U.S. market is well established.
- Second generation biofuels – implication on scope and vision for the area
- Environmental implications of importing biofuels
- Is Teeside a competitor or working alongside Y&H? National markets, not just regional
- EU directive and targets
- Would like a report on crop required, 10% of fuel requirements? Also some feel of where it can be planted in rural economy process.

Actions:

Report to be circulated electronically to all REF members requesting comments. Replies to be sent to Helen Todd by Friday 13th July for compilation and passing to AEA for input into the final version.

DB invited Ian to provide an update at the next meeting.

HT

IM

5. Vision for Biomass

Ian McCubbin gave a presentation on "Vision for Biomass for Yorkshire and the Humber". Draft report circulated to members.

Ian stated that this is the area where we want regional action to be pursued and look at how to tackle this. Yorkshire Forward would like to draw up a suitable business plan on this.

Ian again invited questions and the following points were discussed:

- Woodchip – lifecycle – most economic saving of carbon
Waste wood not part of the study. May wish to reflect on these issues.
- Waste from virgin timber is OK, however timber that has been treated cannot be used.
- Definition of biomass and waste needs to be recognised and treated appropriately
- Refuse derived fuel – need to address issue of energy from waste. Consider waste incineration directive.
- Concern over the structure of the vision. The Action Plan in the lead body may cause confusion. Several priorities – need to pull out from main text. Would also like to see

background on them with actions.

- Biomass renewal – North Yorkshire Rivers Renaissance
- Distinguish between co-firing and local heat market
- Regional context – missing out impact on agriculture, don't create capacity problems

Actions for AEA:

- Boundaries of work – make more explicit
- Distinction between energy and waste, highlighting nature of heat market

IM

Actions:

Report to be circulated electronically to all REF members requesting comments. Replies to be sent to Helen Todd by Friday 13th July for compilation and passing to AEA for input into the final version.

HT

6. Energy White Paper

The report prepared on the Energy White Paper by Andy Horrocks was noted.

Sian Ferguson to provide feedback on comments made to John Healey MP following meeting on Monday 18th June.

SF

7. Feedback on Microgeneration Conference & Dinner

Martyn Roberts advised that this was a very successful event on 26th April with over 150 delegates attending.

The latest edition of the MANY newsletter containing an article about the event is available on the YHA website www.yhassembly.gov.uk. Feedback and photographs from both the Conference and the Dinner are also available on Microgeneration Yorkshire's website www.my-energy.org.uk.

8. Draft Climate Change Bill

The DEFRA consultation period ran from 13th March to 12th June. The report has been given for information regarding the YHA response.

9. Any Other Business

The Arup/SEI/Cambridge Econometrics Final Report and Executive Summary on "Evaluating the contribution that key regional strategies make towards addressing climate change" to be circulated to anyone interested in the REAP and REEIO models. Contact Helen Todd for a copy.

On Wednesday 4th July there will be a workshop focussing on regional strategies and climate change for the Draft Integrated Regional Framework. This will be held at Treacy Hall, Wakefield.

John Walsh mentioned that he would like to thank Sian Ferguson for a letter of support that she wrote a year ago allowing them to bid for a project to the EPSRC for £400m. This will influence water waste, modelling built form affects transport, energy, waste and water.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Proposed to hold this in September, date to be arranged.
Exec Meeting to be held over the Summer, date to be arranged.

HT
HT

Helen Todd
Service Administrator
Sustainable Development & Strategy Integration
5th July 2007