

**REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26th JUNE 2006
YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD**

Attendees

Cllr Bill Newman
Melanie Wedgbury
Jonathan Barnes
Laura Collins
Simon Tao
Ian Foster
Mike Salamon
Richard Lee
Les Saunders
Andrew Ellis
John Bell
Mike Farley
Nigel Yaxley
John Lewis
David Bowe (Chair)
John Walsh
Keith Pitcher
Graham Precious
Stephen Brown
Sian Ferguson
Helen Todd
Tanya Christensen
Barnaby Fryer

Barnsley MBC
Drax
E.ON UK Renewables
Energy Efficiency Advice Centres
Energy Efficiency Advice Centres
Environment Agency
FSB Rep
Future Energy Yorkshire
GOYH
Harrogate BC
Hull City Council
Matsui Babcock
Nigel Yaxley Ltd
TUC
UK Coal Task Force
UK Coal Task Force
University of Leeds
Y&H Carbon Trust
YF
YHA
YHA
Yorkshire Forward
YREN

Apologies

Malcolm Joslin
Chantal Thomas
Lance Saxby
Gerard Morris
Alan Jones

BP
E.ON UK Renewables
Energy Efficiency Advice Centres
Environment Agency
Leeds City Council

Robert Warren
Prof Jim Swithenbank
John Harris
Bill Adams
Prof Rob Knight
Cllr Denise Jeffrey
Andrew Cooper
Will Kemp

NPower Renewables
Sheffield University
The Coal Authority
TUC
University of Leeds
Wakefield MDC
YHA
YHA

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The Chair stated that item 14 was incorrect. The consultants were still to be appointed.
3. There was an error regarding the list of attendees – Nigel Yaxley was not representing UK Coal, this should have stated Nigel Yaxley Ltd.

Matters Arising

4. The Government response to the Review of the Energy White Paper is outstanding. It is expected during July.

DTI Funding

5. Les Saunders updated the Forum on this issue. Funding has been withheld but it is anticipated there will be £100,000. News on this is likely on 6th September. As a result there are some concerns:
 - No means to get extra staff support to handle Energy Forum's activities
 - Not possible to rely on DTI for funding for future years.
 - Need to rethink our spending to be more selective and to keep focused on key actions in the Energy Strategy.
6. Ideas and proposals were sought from members to formulate a plan to DTI how we are going to go forward. Action: Stephen Brown and Sian Ferguson to discuss. When the Government response to the Energy White Paper review is released, Sian and Stephen will prepare a reply to DTI. It is hoped that this will influence DTI's proposals for regional working and funding on energy.

Vision for Coal Update

7. Stephen Brown gave an update on the Vision for Coal action plan. The two main areas of progress on the waste heat project and the proposals for a super-critical retrofit at Ferrybridge power station. Stephen reported that a brief has been developed for the project to investigate opportunities for utilising waste heat. The brief has been circulated to members. Comments should be sent to Stephen.
8. Stephen also reported that Ferrybridge Power Station and Matsui Babcock are developing a plan to install a super-critical carbon-captive ready boiler at Ferrybridge. Funding from Yorkshire Forward and the DTI will be sought for this project.

Governance Arrangements and Communication

9. Sian gave an overview on this item. Due to time constraints the presentation could not be given as planned, but the slides are attached at Annex A. The key issue for the Forum is how it should continue following the DTI guidance on regional working and funding that is expected in September. This will be discussed at the next meeting

Energy Plan Consultation Response

10. The deadline for responses was 16th June, and 30 responses were received. A summary of these responses has been circulated. The key themes were:
 - Some responses were disappointed within the scope of the brief, as it didn't cover energy efficiency.
 - Respondents also thought that there should be a view on nuclear energy.
 - There should be greater support for indigenous coal production.
11. The Forum discussed these and agreed that:-
 - 1) We would clarify the process of the strategy as being about energy infrastructure.
 - 2) That they would not elaborate further on Nuclear Energy as this has been considered in the responses to the Energy White Paper review.
 - 3) The strategy would create greater support for indigenous coal production if it supports the energy strategy objectives to secure low carbon control.

12. It was also agreed that there would be an action included to investigate the implementation and opportunity for biofuels in the region.
13. If possible, Sian said she would look at how the matter on the balance of payments would be investigated.

Energy Plan Launch

14. Next step – Yorkshire Forward need amended action plan and structure for next week for Yorkshire Forward Board Meeting. It was agreed the strategy would be completed during July 2006.
15. Business Energy Week in October, 9th-13th, could include as part of this. Go for Monday 9th October for EP launch. Venue to be resolved.

Skills for Microgeneration

16. Tanya Christensen of Yorkshire Forward (Sunrise) advised the Forum that she had a meeting with key stakeholders regarding developing skills on this issue. Some points mentioned included:
 - Training provider has some cash available.
 - Discussions with Sector Skills Council on renewable energy have been investigated.

Biomass Action in the Region

17. Andrew's note was circulated. This outlined Government's response to Sir Ben Gill's report. In terms of next steps, Yorkshire Forward to comment on supply chains by October. This will include biomass and potential biomass in the region will mature.

Any Other Business

18. Celebrate successes – There were 2 successful innovative projects entered for the Ashden Awards for sustainable energy. Barnsley Council won the National Award on renewable energy generation for biomass heating from waste scheme and Kirklees Council came joint second for work on sun cities solar villages. We congratulate these winners and will promote, encourage and support their work across the region.
19. Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill is now an Act. It includes dynamic demand technologies and encourages house holders to invest in energy conservation, particularly with the national grid to buy back power produced.

Stephen will investigate if there are opportunities to develop a regional project to support this Bill.

Date of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Friday 29th September 2006 from 10am – 12noon (followed by lunch). The venue for this meeting will be the YHA, 18 King Street, Wakefield.

Helen Todd
26th June 2006

Attachments

Slides at Annex A