

**REGIONAL ENERGY FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th September 2006
YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD**

Attendees

Malcolm Joslin	BP
Dick Bradford	Barnsley MBC
Gideon Richards	Consulting with a Purpose
Laura Collins	Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
Lance Saxby	Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
Jeremy Boyd	Environment Agency
Gerard Morris	Environment Agency
Jonathan Barnes	E.ON UK Renewables
Robert Clark	ESD
Richard Lee	Future Energy Yorkshire
Les Saunders	GOYH
Andrew Ellis	Harrogate BC
John Bell	Hull City Council
Alan Jones	Leeds City Council
David Bowe (Chair)	UK Coal Task Force
Stephen Brown	Yorkshire Forward
Tanya Christensen	Yorkshire Forward
Barnaby Fryer	YREN
Andrew Cooper	YHA
Sian Ferguson	YHA
Martyn Roberts	YHA
Helen Todd	YHA

Apologies

Cllr Bill Newman	Barnsley MBC
Melanie Wedgbury	Drax
Mike Salamon	FSB Rep
Nigel Yaxley	Nigel Yaxley Ltd
Mike Farley	Mitsui Babcock Energy Ltd
Jim Swithenbank	Sheffield University

Adrian McDonald

University of Leeds – Earth & Biosphere
Institute

Keith Pitcher

University of Leeds

Andrew Waller

York City Council

ACTION

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Amendments:

Andrew Waller of York City Council, should be listed as attending

Barnaby Fryer did not attend the previous meeting

Les Saunders raised some technical clarifications. It was agreed that Sian Ferguson would consider these directly with Les.

Les/Sian

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Regional Energy Strategy

Sian would like to receive comments on the Regional Energy Strategy as the strategy will be presented to the Regional Executive Board on 16th November.

All

Sian has spoken with Keith Pitcher, University of Leeds, who had passed on his comments mainly about the tone to change to "deliver this". Tanya Christensen feels the strategy should be aspirational and could be more forthright such as "strive to achieve".

David Bowe said he had no problem with the odd change in word to have a text which is firm and clear and to show leadership. Any relevant issues that any members have should be emailed to Sian.

Barnaby Fryer raised an issue that the renewable energy toolkit references had been removed. Sian replied that it had been taken out in error and would be put back into the document.

Sian

Jeremy Boyd raised an issue on waste, page 18, "undermining the regional stance" suggested we use "undermining regional planning policy".

5. Vision for Coal Update

Stephen reported that the call for carbon abatement projects by DTI will take place next September. In the mean time it was agreed it would be worthwhile to send a delegation to Brussels to make contact with relevant officials, gain support for projects in the region and gain clarity on funding issues. Sian is to talk to Benito in the Brussels office about this.

Sian

Copies of "Vision for Coal" have been distributed at the recent Climate Camp.

6. Vision for Biomass - Proposal

Sian outlined the proposal for the contract brief. Comments provided by members will be taken on board to develop the final version of the brief.

The issues of refuse derived fuel was raised. It was agreed that this should be included in the brief, although it is currently covered by IPPC regulations this could change if the EU definition of waste is amended.

Stephen Brown said that WRAG have a grant for looking at RDF and this should be referred to in the brief in order to avoid duplicating work.

Stephen/Sian

Barnaby questioned how long the vision is for. It was suggested at least until 2020 with signposts to 2050 and 2010 2015 as progressive stepping stones.

7. Biofuels Study

Sian presented a brief on a project to examine the potential for biofuels in the region that could inform future investment in the biofuels sector. Comments included; that the study should examine local marketing opportunities and small scale schemes, domestic and transport fuels and the impact on agriculture and the landscape.

Sian

8. Skills for Microgeneration

Andrew Cooper advised that a regional steering group on microgeneration has been formed to look at the potential impact of micro policy and to drive the micro agenda. A report "Maximising the Micro" has been prepared by ESD, a copy of which has been circulated. A newsletter "MANY" has been widely circulated.

A microgeneration conference is to be held on the 26th April 2007 in Harrogate followed by an awards ceremony.

There are national issues about sector skills. Andrew Cooper and Tanya Christensen are in touch with the Sector Skills Development Agency looking at energy utilities skills. RES in the region 26th October. Tanya is looking at the strategy side.

A national accreditation scheme is being developed for products and services to go with the low carbon building programme.

It was announced that B&Q are going to start selling solar panels and wind turbines in their stores. Concern was raised about sourcing of these, quality and support for consumers. Sian to draft a letter to question B&Q on the delivery of benefits of these products, e.g. the carbon and output benefits and to promote local products and support. Barnaby to speak to B&Q to promote the tool kit.

Sian

Barnaby

9. Developing the Forum

David Bowe confirmed that he would like to continue to build membership of the forum. He suggested that perhaps ASDA and Morrisons could be invited as they are showing an increased interest in energy issues.

David

It was noted that there were many good things happening in the region and that it may be favourable to hold the forum meetings in different areas of the region to see what is happening first hand.

The forum discussed going to Barnsley for the next Regional Energy Forum Meeting and to visit a variety of renewable energy sites. Dick Bradford confirmed that our visit would be welcome.

Dick / Helen

10. Energy White Paper Update

A new white paper is expected to appear at turn of year ("Spring 2007"). This is likely to set out the responsibilities of region's to deliver national energy priorities.

DTI funding to region's for energy strategy work will cease next financial year but £100,000 will be available for this financial year. A paper suggesting the projects that this money should support was presented. Partners' comments on this should be sent to Les who will draw up a bid for submission to DTI.

Les

11. Integrated Regional Framework

This was not discussed – any comments please contact Sian.

12. Any Other Business

EU Directive on heating due out shortly. Tanya will circulate details of this.

TC

Malcolm Joslin announced that the BP Chemicals site in Saltend, near Hull, has reduced CO² emissions by 50% since the early 90's when they started calculating and publishing their emissions data. Capacity has stayed the same.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 January 2007 from 10.00 – 12.00 (followed by lunch) to be held in Barnsley Town Hall, followed by a tour of several sites in the Barnsley area.

Helen Todd
October 2006