

RCE East Midlands Progress Update – June 2007

RCE East Midlands - Sustaining the region by learning - A regional partnership of organisations championing education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Welcome to our first progress update. This will also be available on the new RCE East Midlands website – www.rceem.org.uk.

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Collaboration

Our regional partnership has now grown to about 40 organisations who have formally declared their commitment to participating in the RCE East Midlands network. Six working groups have now met covering all levels of formal education (schools, further and higher education) as well as the non-formal/ informal education of youth, adults and business employees. Each group has identified two co-chairs, terms of reference and identified a range of potential projects and activities. Our new website www.rceem.org.uk now shows details of groups, activities and monthly newsletters. We are currently planning an Inaugural Conference – Education for Sustainable Development and Citizenship at regional level – on Thursday September 20th at Burleigh Court Conference Centre, Loughborough University, in association with the ESD Group of the UNESCO-UK Committee. The aim will be to explore the activities, opportunities and challenges of regional networks in promoting education for sustainable development and global citizenship, using the East Midlands as a case study. We have invited representatives of RCE Toronto and RCE Rhine-Meuse to preparatory meetings prior to becoming an RCE and we are now collaborating with RCE Barcelona on a TV series and with RCE Rhine-Meuse on an EU funding bid. Several groups want to develop a web-based learning platform for wider discussion, information and learning such as Moodle or using the Open Space Dialogue and Enquiry methodology.

Research and development

Most groups wish to start by mapping the needs and interests of learners, educators or managers in their sector across the region as a way of establishing a baseline upon which we can build and measure progress. The higher education and schools groups have already organised well attended conferences with workshops, presentations of regional case studies and wide ranging discussion on their future direction. The youth and further education groups are planning conferences and workshops which will showcase and gather details of current activity. The higher education group have developed a large funding bid with all the 10 regional universities to research and develop corporate social responsibility through their campus management, curriculum development and community links. The schools group have obtained Government funding to develop case studies that illustrate ways of approaching the Government's eight doorways for sustainable schools. The further education group have also obtained funding to map regional activity in the 28 further education colleges and the nine adult education services in the region, as well as help develop a model for regional support across the country.

Many of the groups also wish to start by focusing on the management of the educational campus or centre and relating this to behaviour change and learning that can be transferred to the home or work environment. The management of waste, energy, water, purchasing, travel and construction of the educational building as well as the consumer behaviour of the learner are key considerations for all the groups, especially alongside carbon footprinting. The higher education group are exploring how their institution's own research and development, especially about sustainable technologies, can be made available to neighbouring schools, colleges and centres.

Governance

We have confirmed that our working groups will lead our activities, with each of the co-chairs of the working groups on our Management Group. This will be informed by our annual Consultative meeting (planned for June 21st) of all the interested staff of our 40 member organisations. We are currently encouraging and helping other UK regions to apply for RCE status, especially the North East of England. We are also exploring independent charitable status as a way of being more accountable, having a clear standardised constitution and being able to obtain more funding as an accountable registered charity.

Transformative education

Within the region and nationally we are engaging with key regional and national decision-makers and agencies to promote the RCE East Midlands as a formal partnership and network that can add value to key economic, social and development strategies such as urban and rural regeneration, social cohesion, construction, waste and energy. In the last three months we have presented to the ESD Committee of UNESCO-UK, the Department for Education and Science and the other Government Regions. We have also contributed to the consultations on the Integrated Regional Strategy, the Voluntary Sector Manifesto and plans for development as well as the development of networks and activities on sustainable construction and energy. Lastly we are working with education government departments (such as DfES), agencies (such as the Learning and Skills Council and the Higher Education Academy), local authorities (such as Derbyshire County Council) and business networks (such as Business-in-the-Community) to introduce sustainable development and global citizenship as a vital route to improving the quality of education as well as the long-term durability of local communities and businesses.

Consultative Group

Representatives of all member organisations (currently about 40) are invited to the annual consultative group meeting of the RCE on Thursday 21st June to consider governance, structure, plans and reporting, as well as prepare for the inaugural conference. The draft agenda includes 1) Progress Reports 2) Preparation for Inaugural conference 3) View from the regional bodies 4) Governance, Structure and Strategy 5) Reporting to and communicating with the RCE Secretariat 6) Opportunities for regional engagement.

Higher Education Working Group

Last Meetings: Friday 30th March, Thursday May 17th

Next Meeting: Possibly July – to be confirmed

Co-Chairs

Dr Ed Brown, Dept of Geography, Loughborough University

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Professor Paul Phillips, SITA Centre for Sustainable Wastes Management, University of Northampton

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Current members

Ed Brown (Loughborough), Paul Warwick (Leicester), Mike Briggs (Derby), Paul Phillips (Northampton), Tracy Bhamra (Loughborough), Matthew Hall (Nottingham), Steve Heasell (Nottingham Trent), Simon Steiner (Engineering Subject Centre, Loughborough), Richard Blanchard (Loughborough), Andrew Stevenson, (Lincoln), Sheila Malone (Nottingham Trent), Saffa Riffat (Nottingham), Jillian Labadz (Nottingham Trent).

Terms of Reference

- To promote cross-institutional collaboration in the field of ESD.
- To promote the involvement of regional HEIs in cross-sectoral collaboration in ESD.
- To promote cutting-edge research in ESD, collaborating with others especially higher education members of other RCEs, and transferring that knowledge nationally and globally.
- To promote sustainability as a key management practice amongst regional HEIs.
- To disseminate information to members about relevant opportunities for funding, collaboration, conferences etc.

Regional networking on university collaboration and ESD

The working group helped the Higher Education Academy (HEA) organise the first regional ESD Networking Day in the UK on University collaboration and ESD in Nottingham on November 29th 2006, attended by about 40 university staff. The aim was to facilitate networking amongst those involved in embedding ESD within higher education in the region.

The aim was to gather together all the experts in sustainable development in higher education in the region and to promote sustainable development in university management, the curriculum and to prepare for the planned UN Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE). Jos Hermans of the RCE Rhine-Meuse explained the global learning space. He pointed out that learning for world citizens should include access to good quality education, individual cognitive and social processes and the physical as well as the virtual learning environment. Tracy Bhamra, of Loughborough University showed how sustainable development can be integrated in the curriculum exemplified by the curriculum of students of design and technology. She highlighted how students are becoming very enthusiastic about developing material to promote sustainable design and that they are realizing that sustainability gives them more work opportunities. Karl Walkinshaw of the Derwent Community Team presented the linking of the sustainable development agenda of higher education organizations with

communities. Illustrated by the Capital Build Programme, he pointed out how benefits for the environment, the local community and the individual employee can all be brought together. The full report of the Networking Day is on: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/curriculum/EMESD29nov06.pdf>

Broadening Corporate Social Responsibility in universities: A regional approach

Currently the main focus of the working group is planning a £300K bid, in collaboration with all 10 higher education institutions (HEIs), to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Broadening Corporate Social Responsibility in universities: A regional approach will focus on HEI governance and operational CSR relating HEIs to other sectors.

The working group are also considering a Sustainability Showcase - Conference for 16-19-year-olds to showcase sustainability across the curriculum, presented by regional HEIs – Mar 2008. They are also considering, with some of the other working groups, how their research and development by a pool of specialist HEIs staff, can help neighbouring further education colleges and schools to make their campus management more sustainable.

University of Leicester Learning for Life Project

The working group are supporting and promoting this university project as a case study across the region. The project, led by Dr. Paul Warwick, aims to incorporate the transformative potential of education for sustainable development into higher education. It will serve and support University of Leicester staff and students in their enthusiasm to respond to the ESD agenda across the 3 C's of university life: campus, curriculum and community. The project consists of two key strands – a research scoping exercise and a Community Leadership learning programme.

The research scoping exercise will ascertain firstly the extent and nature of existing ESD provision across the university and secondly gain a greater awareness of key developments in ESD both regionally and nationally. This will help identify interested stakeholders and facilitate the creation of a community of practice enabling interface between colleagues and across departments. This scoping exercise holds the objective of collecting 6 case studies of existing ESD provision to provide a knowledge base for beginning to generate a clear framework of the key concepts, values and skills for ESD within the Higher Education context. Such a scoping exercise it is anticipated is a key step in facilitating the University's co-ordinated response to the learning and teaching enhancement issues posed by the international ESD agenda.

The second strand of this project will seek to pilot innovative ESD practice through the creation of a 'Community Leadership Programme'. A central aspect of ESD is the recognition of its participatory pedagogy that transcends discipline boundaries and seeks to equip learners with the skills and attributes to cope with the uncertainty and complexity of an interdependent and rapidly changing world. Therefore there is a clear need for pedagogical innovation and development.

The Community Leaders initiative is a trans-disciplinary and service learning programme that seeks to recruit students from a range of different disciplines. Its objective is to critically and actively engage the students in aspects of ESD including raising their awareness of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The programme consists of the following four inter-connected elements.

ESD awareness raising workshop. This will be a joint venture between the School of Education and the University's Botanical Gardens, involving collaboration between Dr. Paul Warwick and Ruth Godfrey. The objective is for this workshop to not only be incorporated into the Community Leaders Programme but to also be piloted as a stand alone educational service for the University's students. Therefore this workshop will be piloted with three different groups of students.

Student consultation – Creating the space for the concerns (at local and global levels), values, knowledge and attitudes of students to be heard and responded to. Generating a personalised and participatory learning space.

Open space for dialogue and enquiry – Based upon a critical literacy approach students are engaged in considering SD issues of interest from different perspectives. Participants are thereby encouraged to critically examine their own points of view and create a community of enquiry through conducting their own investigative research in consultation with locally accessible service providers.

Community Action – Having identified a common issue of concern with ESD dimensions the students consider possible solutions/action responses and engage in an action research based approach to leading positive change. Participants then formally evaluate the learning gained from the programme.

School Education Working Group

Last meeting: Thursday 19th April

Next meeting: Friday 15th June 10.00-12.30 in Room B27, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA

Co-Chairs

Rohini Corfield, Coordinator, East Midlands Network on Global Perspectives in Schools
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Helen Trilling, International Links Co-ordinator, Leicestershire County Council
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Current Members

Charlotte Lewis (Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire), Rohini Corfield (East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools), Marcela Flores-Newburn (Global Education Derby), Raúl Pardiñas-Solís (Skillshare International), Brian Cavanagh (Derbyshire County Council), Clare Plumb (Leicester Masaya Link), Jane Featherstone (Derbyshire County Council), David Taylor (Global Education Derby), Bobbie Harvey (FACE), Paul Warwick (University of Leicester), Hugh McCahon (Nottinghamshire County Council), John Perry (Department for Education and Skills), Marie Shaw (Opun), Phil Keynes (Nottinghamshire County Council), Doug Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council), Paul Goodburn (Nottingham City Council)

Terms of Reference

- To promote collaboration on regional ESD and global citizenship activity - between schools, between schools and other educational sectors, and with other RCEs.
- To research and develop regional ESD and global citizenship activity in schools.
- To inform, share information and celebrate good practice about regional ESD and global citizenship activity in schools, events and opportunities for partnership, funding, research and development.
- To promote sustainable schools in the region in terms of campus, curriculum and community links, especially by collaborating with others, for example in in-service and teacher training.
- To make collaborative funding bids for projects.

DfES support for regional ESD school networks

The working group obtained £25K for 06/07 from DfES for “supporting the DfES Year of Action on sustainable development for schools and strengthen Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) activity in the region, with a particular requirement to stimulate good practice networks linking schools with regional demand for sustainable development skills.” This funded some coordination, a website and the development of three case studies. An additional £25K for 07/08 has been offered by DfES.

Sustainable Schools Conference

The East Midlands Sustainable Schools conference on March 7th attracted about 65 people including about 20 exhibitors. Presentations were given by Jake Reynolds, Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development at the DfES, Adam Cade, RCE East Midlands Coordinator as well as presentations by pupils and teachers on their approach to the eight doorways for sustainable schools – food and drink, energy and water, purchasing and waste, travel and traffic, buildings and grounds, inclusion and participation, local wellbeing, and global dimensions.

Regional case studies for the eight doorways to becoming a Sustainable School

Three extensive case studies have been developed by members of the School Education Working Group - Skillshare/Global Education Derby, Groundwork Leicester(shire),and LeicesterMasayaLink/Univ of Leicester Botanic Garden. These are now on the RCE website in the section on Working groups – Schools. The global dimension of textiles recycling case study is extensive and provides teacher’s background information on textiles; articles, resources and inspirations for global textiles work; ideas for teaching activities; and a teaching scheme for Key

Stage 1. Other case studies include the EMAS in Schools project which now works with half of the schools in Leicester, Growing ideas on Borrow Wood Infant and nursery school's allotment in Derby, and a birdbox project.

Review of regional networks for sustainable schools and update on the DfES Sustainable Schools Year of Action

Representatives from the RCE East Midlands presented their approach to regional networking for sustainable schools at a recent DfES meeting of the regional Government Offices on May 18th in Leeds which reviewed the promotion of sustainable Schools through regional networks.

The Schools Group will help to promote the DfES Sustainable Schools Year of Action. See: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/>. Details of a Carbon Detective Kit, based on five doorways, are currently on the website and will be launched in the autumn focusing on school carbon emissions. DEFRA have also funded the RSA to produce a personal carbon calculator for individual young people which will be launched through Tesco. It looks like a Carbon Reduction Strategy for Schools and eventually benchmarking for reducing school's carbon footprints is on the horizon, especially as 15% of the public sector carbon emissions are from schools.

Overall the meeting recognised several challenges for promoting Sustainable Schools 1) the problem of reaching normal busy teachers who are trying to respond to the wide range of new initiatives within the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, by aligning Sustainable Schools with other "school" initiatives (the Sustainable Development Commission are focusing on this with a report in mid-June, which may emphasise the environmental angle to ECM outcomes) 2) the need for evidence from pupils 3) the need for a convincing business case for ESD at school and other educational levels 4) the need to identify the sustainability skills that pupils will require for their future employment, lifestyle and citizenship 5) the problem of engaging local authority Directors of Children's Services and reaching other networks eg. Extended Schools 6) the need for indicators, perhaps eventually milestones, to indicate ESD success (the Sustainable Development Commission are exploring Indicators of ESD) 7) the need to consistently build on the considerable added value that regional ESD networks have provided in supporting Sustainable Schools and their local authorities.

Responsible Schools in Nottingham

The Schools Working Group want to see how Sustainable Schools can be promoted alongside other school initiatives such as Healthy Schools, Growing schools, International Schools etc. One of the members of the working group has developed a programme that combines all these initiatives under the banner of Responsible Schools. There are a number of pressures on both Nottingham City Children's Service and schools to satisfy the corporate target of completing the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) by April 2010. In order to ease the pressure on schools the Curriculum Service has developed the concept of 'Responsible School', which will be an extension of the current Healthy Schools Programme. The Programme will ensure that schools will meet the standards laid down by EMAS, while also satisfying the DfES targets set in the Sustainable Schools initiative. This approach has a number of advantages.

It will follow the Healthy Schools format that schools are already familiar with, as well as offering a further extension to the Healthy Schools Programme for schools which have completed it. It will tie together and make sense of a number of current initiatives such as the Outdoor Manifesto, International Schools Award and School Travel Plans, for example. It will also be able to accredited existing school achievements such as Eco-School Status and International School Status towards the award, thus reducing the work load for schools who have already made strides towards becoming a Sustainable School.

The programme will follow the same process that schools currently undertake in evidencing their progress towards the various elements of the Healthy Schools Programme. School's familiarity with this process should help sell EMAS. As part of this evidence gathering process schools will be able to 'accredit' existing work, such as Eco-schools, a School Travel Plan and International Schools award towards the EMAS standard. The Eco-Schools accreditation helps with all but two of the following themes, supplemented by others initiatives:

Energy and Water

Climate Heroes

Waste and recycling	School Waste Action Clubs (SWACs)
Transport and Travel	School Travel Plan
Healthy Living/Eating	Healthy Schools, Sportsmark
Outdoor learning/natural environment	Forest Schools Initiative
Participation	Primary Parliament
Being Safe	Personal, social and health education
Local well being	
Global Dimension	International School Award

The standard will have the DfES Sustainable Schools programme at it's heart and would compliment much of the new KS3 curriculum proposals. The standard will also be flexible enough to take into account any requirements of the City Council EMAS programme.

The Responsible Schools Award/ Programme is being launched at a conference on June 5th.

East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools

Rohini Corfield, co-chair of the Schools working Group, has just become the coordinator of this regional network that is closely linked to the Schools Working Group of the RCE East Midlands. See www.emngps.org.uk

Year of Food and Farming for Schools

The Year of Food and Farming in Schools will run from September 07 to July 08. It is supported by three government departments - DfES, DEFRA and DH. See: www.defra.gov.uk/schools/pdf/yff-factsheet.pdf. Adam Cade, as part of the Coordination contract, has now attended two meetings to identify opportunities for the Schools Working Group to work with others, obtain funding and promote sustainable schools, especially through the doorways of food and drink, buildings and grounds and local well-being. The Healthy Schools regional network is keen to consider working with the Schools Working Group to celebrate achievements in schools, possibly at a local authority level, linked to Sustainable, Healthy and Growing Schools initiatives. This could be an award for schools to submit pupil's work around growing and harvesting, cooking, eating and disposing of food.

Further Education Working Group

Last meeting: Wednesday 28th March

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th June, Leicester College, Leicester

Co-Chairs

Elain Crewe, Manager, Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester

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Rick Heslop, Professional Development Services Manager, East Midlands Further Education Council

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Current Members

John Thawley (Wyggeston and QE College), Simon Winch (StudentForce), Eddie Playfair (Regent College), James Higham, Joy Allman (Leicester College.), Roy Morgan-Wood (Leicester College), Simon Eaton (Castle College), Bob York (Northampton College), Tony Bates (Derby College), Chris Hole (Tresham Institute), David Drury (South Nottingham College), Sue Jacobs (Moulton College), Chris Moody (Moulton College)

LSC funds regional Sustainable Colleges Assistants Project

The Sustainable College Assistants Project, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), is a pilot project, managed by StudentForce for Sustainability, to review and promote education for sustainable development activity in the 28 regional further education colleges of the East Midlands.

It will also explore ways of developing and supporting college staff in relation to the LSC policy on sustainable development. The project will enable about 9 selected further education (FE) colleges to have the assistance of an EU graduate working in the college for a term. The Sustainable College Assistants will help key staff and the college community to make their campus, curriculum and community links more sustainable, in line with the LSC policy on sustainable development. A baseline survey of sustainable development in the region's further education colleges will review their current practices, needs and interests.

EMFEC and the CULN Network have been sub-contracted to carry out an East Midlands Baseline Survey of the sustainable development activity, interests and needs in the 28 further education colleges in the East Midlands.

Three Sustainable College (SC) Assistants will be based as outworkers in selected FE colleges to assist key staff to research and develop education for sustainable development (ESD) by the college. The FE Working Group of the RCE East Midlands will help to explore how the placement of SC Assistants could help develop 1) better leadership in sustainable development 2) wider awareness-raising and training of FE staff and 3) wider participation by FE students.

The needs and interests of FE students will be identified using a StudentForce online student survey. Students will be introduced to volunteering opportunities for the European Voluntary Service in other EU countries promoting and practicing sustainable development. A regional roadshow on sustainable colleges (The Sust Roadshow) will be developed with FE student participation promoting sustainable lifestyles and mini-enterprises. Students will also be trained as volunteers to audit and identify opportunities for resource efficiency in terms of energy, waste, water, travel and campus environmental management. Lastly the pilot project will be reviewed as a way of developing regional ESD networks and activity for the LSC sector across England.

Staff and students told "On yer bike"

A scheme designed to encourage staff and students to leave their cars at home and cycle to work has been launched at South Nottingham College. The 'On Yer Bike' project was devised from a successful Transport Innovation Fund bid and ten lucky staff and students have the free use of a mountain bike, secure storage locker, lock and helmet for the rest of the academic year.

The College secured £17,500 to pay for the bikes and lockers after bidding for the cash through the LSC's post-16 Transport Innovation Fund. A large proportion of the money was spent on purchasing 17 self contained and secure bike lockers. Potential users identified storage and security as the biggest barriers preventing them cycling to college prior to the scheme being approved. Project Co-ordinator, Graham Wood, said: "It's not often such a simple scheme ticks so many boxes – health and fitness for staff and students, doing something for the environment and helping to relieve traffic congestion."

Learning that doesn't go to waste

South Nottingham College have trialled an NVQ in Recycling course as part of the Train to Gain service. The College are initially training ten Nottingham City Council employees as part of a brand new NVQ level 2 in Recycling Operations, which if successful, will be rolled out across Nottinghamshire. The course covers developing a useable recycling practice through to monitoring and maintaining an effective service, health and safety and communication techniques. In addition, staff will also be trained on Basic Skills literacy which forms the underpinning knowledge of the course. The Train to Gain contract will enable the College to help around 1200 employees get a Level 2 qualification over the next two years as well as addressing over 200 Skills for Life needs.

Adult and Community Education Working Group

Last Meeting: Wednesday 23rd May at NIACE, Renaissance House, Leicester

Current Members

David Ewens (NIACE), Raksha Mistry (NIACE), Lesley Harry (Derbyshire County Council), Susan Hallsworth Regeneration East Midlands), James Luger (EMDA), Andy Hills (Derby City Council), Karen Lowthrop (Hill Holt Wood), Liz Ballard (Peak National Park)

The working group plan to initially work with the Further Education Working Group, as the Learning Skills Council supports and funds both sectors.

Mapping regional ESD activity in adult and continuing education.

The working group plan to map regional ESD activity in adult and continuing education using the current Further education survey on the RCE website aimed at the 28 FE colleges in the region. It will target the nine local authority adult and continuing education services in the region.

Support ESD activity in a case study Adult and continuing education service

The work group plan to support the Adult and Continuing Education service in Derbyshire County Council as a developing case study and in line with their Sustainable development action plan for 2007/08. The Head of the service is an active member of the working group. We will recruit and train adult education tutors, staff and learners as auditors and promoters of sustainable building management and sustainable consumption in the adult education and local community buildings in Derbyshire. We will also research case studies of curriculum development eg. for family learning, E2E, basic skills, English as a Foreign Language, that could be trialled by the Derbyshire service, in line with their action plan. Lastly we will use the Derbyshire County Council Action Plan and its ESD activities, including work with the College of the Peak, with its focus on heritage building skills and sustainable technologies, as a case study for the RCE website.

Sustainable development and global citizenship focus for Adult Learners Week 2008

The working group will support the National Institute for Adult and continuing Education (NIACE) in developing a sustainable development and global citizenship focus for Adult Learners Week 2008, which will then be promoted in the region with case studies.

Youth Education Working Group

Last Meeting: Tuesday May 15th

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Co-Chairs

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Current Members

Merlynn Francique (National Youth Agency), Margaret Fleming (ESD Consultant), Greg Woolley (Global Education Derby), Clare Meakin (East Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit), Janet Schofield (East Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit), Jed Francique, Alison Gimmingham (National Trust), Kim Gordon, Tony Graham, Chris Campbell (Derbyshire County Council), David Smith (Connexions Leicestershire), Joy Smith, Ian Richards (Lincolnshire County Council), Karen Lowthrop (Hill Holt Wood).

Terms of Reference

- To promote collaboration – within the East Midlands youth sector and between the regional youth sector and other educational sectors, and with other RCEs
- To research and develop
- To inform RCE members about ESD activities, events and opportunities for partnership, funding, research and development
- To lead the promotion of sustainable youth services in the region in terms of centre, curriculum and community links
- To make collaborative funding bids for projects

Mapping ESD regional activity in the youth sector

The working group plan to carry out a mapping exercise of local good practice by youth services and youth workers for ESD. They will research and promote case studies of ESD activity with youth group/ by youth workers in the region (eg. sustainable design of buildings) using an online questionnaire which could be added to the RCE website.

Roundtable to explore regional ESD activities for the youth sector

The National Youth Agency, as a key member of the working group, plan to host a Roundtable event for about 12 people to raise awareness of and explore ESD for the youth sector possibly in July or August.

Regional conference for youth workers

The working group are also planning a regional conference on Youth work, global citizenship and sustainable development in Feb 2008. It will target youth workers in the region from the local authority and voluntary sectors, esp. through the East Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit. Include workshops, displays, case studies, presentations. The conference will be used as a way to launch/ start mapping ESD activity/ case studies/needs/ interests. It will include presentations and workshops on Every Child Matters, green buildings, National Youth Agency's Climate of Change and self-evaluation toolkit, global linking, global citizenship, volunteering overseas, sustainable lifestyles, climate change, practical activities and linking with the EU and other countries, accountability to young people for sustainable development by local authorities, youth work and allotments, as well as case studies of ESD youth work eg. Hill Holt Wood, Lincolnshire.

Youth Conference and Charter for Sustainable Development

The working group will research the support of Youth Councils in the region in order to work with them. Plan and organize a regional event for 13 to 18 year olds in late 2008/09 that enable them to hold local authorities to account for their sustainable development plans, policies and practice, targeting the nine County and City local authorities in the region. Use this event to develop a Young Person's Charter for a Sustainable Region in themes where local authorities have some governance eg. highways, transport, housing, social services, waste, education, city and town centre management.

This project, involving a young people's conference and charter, would enable young people to have their say about sustaining the region's future, and making local authority decision-makers more accountable so that young people can lead more sustainable lifestyles. The project would 1) develop young people's knowledge and understanding about sustainable development and Agenda 21. 2) develop young people's understanding of the responsibilities of local government in the implementation of Agenda 21.3) engage young people in dialogue and debate about sustainable lifestyles and an exploration of values. 4) enable young people to produce a written statement of agreed targets to lead sustainable lifestyles and actions to promote sustainable development in their local communities (Youth Charter for Sustainable Development). 5) equip young people with the skills to promote sustainable lifestyles within their community and to be champions for sustainable development. 6) involve young people in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Youth Charter for Sustainable Development.

The project is based upon a regional conference for young people that will result in the development of a Youth Charter for Sustainable Development (objective 4). Prior to the conference, support would be given to youth councils / forums in developing a programme of ESD (objective 1+2). The agenda for the conference itself would be to a certain extent led and delivered by the young people from the youth councils (objective 3). Following the conference young people will be provided training in developing community projects such as the Community Champions training developed by Minorities of Europe (objective 5). After a year another conference would be organised, this time completely young people led. The purpose of this would be to evaluate the project, share learning experiences, discuss and debate key areas of sustainable development and the Charter as identified by the young people. The conference should also aim to attract key representatives from regional and local government to be engaged with the young people in this process (objective 5+6). Future plans would also be explored as part of this event.

ESD self-evaluation tool for the regional youth sector

The group plan to work with the National youth Agency to research, develop and promote an Evaluation of education for sustainable development (ESD) Toolkit for youth workers, similar to the DfES Sustainable Schools S3 Toolkit (downloadable on DfES Teachernet website http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/10390/s3.doc). The working group will help the NYA research, develop, trial or promote it in the region.

Funding bid on ESD and innovation and quality in the youth sector

The group also plan to draft a bid for EU Action 4.4 Youth in Action, led by NYA to EU Youth in Action team. To include activities on citizenship, social cohesion, mutual understanding, quality of support systems and European cooperation, based on projects ideas above, as well as draft bid on Sustainable lifestyles training material for youth workers, previously developed with other European RCEs. See:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2007/action44/documents/Call_EACEA_02_07_en.pdf

Business Sector Working Group

Last meeting: Thursday 24th May at the Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester, 6 University Road, Leicester

Co-Chair

Hugh Fenton, Chair of East Midlands Action Group on the Environment

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To be confirmed.

Current Members

Shona Welberry (Business in the Community), Linda Mee (Midlands Excellence Network), Russell Foster (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment), Malcolm Healey (Engineering Employers Federation), James Luger (EMDA), John Perry (Government Office for East Midlands)

Educating the medium-sized business workforce

The group will initially concentrate on educating the current East Midlands workforce in sustainable development. More specifically the group would focus on medium-sized companies, with over 250 employees. There are an estimated 400/500 such businesses in region.

The group will focus on a staged approach 1) identifying the business case for a) sustainable development b) staff education/training/awareness-raising 2) identifying the business case for educating the workforce about sustainable development with a variety of starting points (eg. Employee satisfaction, customer reputation, supply chain demand), supplemented with case-studies of success 3) using this to changing senior manager's attitudes 4) using this to expose middle managers responsible for personnel, training to different approaches, resources (eg. Posters, powerpoints, etc) for educating workforce about sustainable development. Starting by finding and utilising what information is presently available, a staged programme will be produced for developing additional information / aids needed. This is likely to be over several years.

The approach will be market tested with advice from appropriate key staff (e.g. CSR managers) of large corporates in the region, who have experience of working with medium sized businesses as suppliers.

The group plan to work with and through key regional agencies, organisations:

- Business in the Community – East Midlands – to gather case-studies, research the business case, act as a route to members who are senior managers of medium-sized businesses, link to any development of a regional Environmental Index.
- East Midlands Excellence Network – to act as a route to senior managers of about 50 member medium-sized businesses, offer events for members with a focus on quality and sustainable development.
- East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) – both Business Support and Sustainability policy staff.

- Chambers of Commerce – to build on the proposed Charter on Business Sustainable Development for local Chambers to adopt.
- Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development – to act as a route to members in county groups, building on their current focus on environment and climate change.
- Engineering Employers Federation – East Midlands – to act as a route to members, and relate to training courses.
- Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, based near Stamford – to act as a route to members, building on their focus on procurement and environmental management.

EMDA is currently planning to develop a contract on the business case for education for sustainable development. It would identify the current and future skills needs of businesses and developing business models, and which educational and other sectors might supply these needs in the region.

Voluntary Sector Working Group

Next meeting: 14th June at Skillshare International, Leicester

Led

Dr. Raul Pardíñaz-Solís, Development Awareness Officer, Skillshare International

Raul.Pardinaz-Solis@skillshare.org 0116 257 6629

Members

Raul Pardíñaz-Solís (Skillshare International), Jasvinder Dudial (Engage East Midlands), Catherine Gathercole (Practical Action)

Others to be confirmed.

Several potential activities have already been proposed by member voluntary organisations but will be discussed in more detail at the first meeting of the working group.

Engaging with Engage East Midlands

The RCE has already responded to the regional consultation by Engage on the East Midlands Third Sector Manifesto, encouraging the sector to take on a stronger social and environmental role in the region acting as a leader in local sustainable development and a champion of global citizenship. Other opportunities for wider engagement with the regional voluntary sector include awareness-raising and workshops relating sustainable development and global citizenship to areas such as healthcare, social work, care for the elderly, community transport etc.

Gold Star Community Partnerships

This project is being developed by UKOWLA (www.ukowla.org.uk), with some backing from the UNDP Hub for Innovative Partnerships. A Gold Star Community Partnership is an international partnership between two communities that look to four areas of work together – sustainable development, fair trade, social cohesion and child-friendly policies. Skillshare International are proposing that the working group pilots the project. It could include approaches developed by RCE member organisations, as well as volunteers returning to the East Midlands from international volunteering projects and gap year students.

Climate Change Collaboration

This initiative is being led nationally by WWF-UK. It is focussing on the most vulnerable communities and proposing that less northern-focussed and scientifically-led voices should be empowered to suggest appropriate actions. The working group could bring a southern perspective to regional climate change initiatives, especially by linking with RCEs in other more vulnerable parts of the world. The working group, as well as other working groups, have the opportunity to comment and contribute on the Regional Climate Change Action Plan that is currently being developed by the regional agencies.