

RCE East Midlands E-Newsletter 5 – October 2007

Welcome to our fifth E-Newsletter. This will also be available on the new RCE East Midlands website – www.rceem.org.uk.

If you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing or formally join the RCE please contact the Coordinator.

For the next issue please send brief news, events, case studies or profiles of organizations and projects in the east midlands that promote and practice education for sustainable development.

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RCE East Midlands Working Groups

School Education Working Group

Last Meetings: Monday 25th June, Thursday 13th Sept

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th December

Co-Chairs:

Helen Trilling, International Links Co-ordinator, Leicestershire County Council

htrilling@leics.gov.uk

0116 265 8209

Vacant

Further Education Working Group

Last Meeting: Wednesday 27th June, Thursday 4th October

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th January at South Nottingham College

Co-Chairs:

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

ec73@leicester.ac.uk

0116 252 5920

Vacant

Youth Education Working Group

Last Meeting: Tuesday May 15th

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Co-Chairs:

Merlynne Francique, Development Officer - Sustainable Development, National Youth Agency

merlynnef@nya.org.uk 0116 242 7408

Margaret Fleming, Consultant

margaret.fleming@ntlworld.com 0116 273 9185

Higher Education Working Group

Last Meetings: 30th March, 17th May, 1st August

Next Meeting: Thursday 18th October 2.30 – 4.30 at Loughborough University

Co-Chairs:

Dr Ed Brown, Dept of Geography, Loughborough University

E.D.Brown@lboro.ac.uk 01509 222738

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

paul.phillips@northampton.ac.uk 01604 892385

Adult and Continuing Education Working Group

Last Meeting: Wednesday 23rd May

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Led:

David Ewens, East Midlands Regional Development Officer, National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education

David.Ewens@niace.org.uk 18002 0116 285 9707

Lesley Harry, Head of Service, Derbyshire Adult and Continuing Education Service, Derbyshire County Council

Lesley.Harry@Derbyshire.gov.uk 01629 580000 x6533

Voluntary Sector Working Group

Last Meeting: Thursday 14th June

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Co-chairs:

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

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

Jasvinder Dudial, Capacity Development Manager, Engage East Midlands

JDudial@engage-em.org.uk 0115 934 8493

Business Sector Working Group

Last Meeting: Thursday 24th May

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Co-chairs:

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

Hughfenton@aol.com 01604 786 235

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Teacher Training Working Group

Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th October 2.00 to 4.00 pm in Room 204, Ada Byron King Building, Clifton Campus, Nottingham Trent University

Co-Chairs:

Farhana Zaman, Senior Lecturer in Science Education, Nottingham Trent University

farhana.zaman@ntu.ac.uk

0115 848 3903

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Management Group

Last Meeting: Tuesday 11th September 1.00 to 3.30 pm

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Chair:

James Luger, Sustainable Development & Environmental Policy Advisor, East Midlands Development Agency

jamesluger@emd.org.uk

0115 988 8300

Website Task and Finish Group

Last Meeting: Thursday 4th October 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Chair:

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

ec73@leicester.ac.uk

0116 252 5920

Thank you and goodbye to Lucy

A big thank you to Lucy Arnold who has worked with Elain Crewe over the last year to help support and administer the RCE. She has now left the University of Leicester at the end of August and moved to the University of Nottingham as their Access and Vocational Manager. Tracy McGhie has now taken over as the new CULN Development Officer while Elain has moved on to be the Partnership Manager for the Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of Leicester. However, fortunately both Elain and Tracy will continue to help support and administer the RCE East Midlands.

Contact: Tracy McGhie tjm9@le.ac.uk

Skills for sustainable development contractor

The East Midlands Development Agency, on behalf of the esp - Employment, Skills and Productivity Partnership, have just appointed a contractor to recommend future sustainable development skills policies, programmes and investments within the East Midlands region. This will involve both action research and the development of recommendations as part of the Agency's role in improving the economy of the East Midlands.

Contact: James Luger jamesluger@emd.org.uk

Tender for the management of environmentally sustainable developments in ICT

The RCE East Midlands Management Group are currently considering a collaborative tender to JISC. JISC is commissioning a study of the management of environmentally sustainable developments in ICT (and associated practices) that take a realistic and strategic approach to the adoption, inclusion and promotion of environmental as well as fiscal requirements, and to produce case studies, supporting tools and a report of findings across the sector. The deadline for receipt of proposals is Thursday 25 October 2007. Funding of up to £100,000 (inclusive of VAT and related travel and subsistence) is available for the study. The expected start date for the study is 26 November 2007. The study should take place over a maximum period of twelve months.

See:

www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2007/09/environmentallysustainableICT.aspx

Invitation to quote for ESD consultancy

The Government Office East Midlands is inviting quotes for a consultancy assignment for education for sustainable development in schools in the region. Closing date is 12 October 2007. The assignment aims to provide continued support to the DCSF Year of Action on sustainable development for schools and strengthen Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) activity in the East Midlands, with a particular requirement to stimulate good practice networks linking schools with regional demand for sustainable development skills.

See: http://www.gos.gov.uk/497296/docs/236531/INVITATION_TO_QUOTE_-_Susta1.pdf

RCE East Midlands Inaugural Conference

The Inaugural conference launched the RCE East Midlands as the first UK Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD on Thursday 20th September 2007 at Burleigh Court Conference Centre, Loughborough University. The conference attracted about 160 delegates and formally launched the first Regional Centre of Expertise (ESD) in the UK. It also explored some of the activities, challenges and opportunities facing education for sustainable development practitioners regionally, nationally and internationally. The conference included several video messages, presentations by key education for sustainable development professionals, 14 workshops and 30 exhibitors. David Lammy MP, Minister for Skills, formally launch the RCE East Midlands. He helped to put the national skills agenda into the context of sustainable development. The whole conference had a strong skills and regional context which will provide a good basis from which to develop networking and activities in line with the regional skills priorities. The conference addressed Government policies and initiatives in support of education for sustainable development and global citizenship regionally, nationally and internationally; RCEs and United Nations activity; national and regional ESD activity in the UK, across the schools, FE, HE, youth, Adult and continuing education, voluntary and business sectors; and next steps for the ESD and global citizenship agenda regionally, nationally and internationally. The conference was organised in association with the UNESCO-UK Committee, with support from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) and Loughborough University's Sustainability Research School and Department of Geography.

The live video link with Heloise Buckland, Coordinator of the RCE Barcelona went very well with a chance for questions and answers from the floor. The use of four video messages – from Prof. Hans van Ginkel, Prof. Charles Hopkins, Prof. Zakri and David Lammy MP was also well received. The conference evaluation from delegates showed that they really appreciated our attempts to use electronic means of communicating as a way of reducing our carbon footprint.

The 30 exhibition stands from universities, colleges, schools, local authorities, voluntary organisations and businesses resulted in good information exchange and networking. Participants left the conference with renewed energy to pursue the ESD agenda through even greater creativity and collaborative working.

The second RCE in the UK has been confirmed as the North East Region, led by the University of Newcastle. There are others being developed in the South West Region, led by the University of

Plymouth, the Yorkshire and Humber Region, led by the University of Bradford and ESD Forum, and the West Midlands (South), led by the University of Gloucestershire. Others are being considered in the East of England and Wales. As a result of the conference we have offered support to the development of RCEs in other regions. We are now part of a worldwide group of 50 RCEs, potentially expanding to 100 over the next year or so, as a key element of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development.

See: www.mediamax.com/studentforcephotos as temporary site for the **Conference report** and papers which will be on www.rceem.org.uk before the end of October.

International Conference on Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

The RCE East Midlands Coordinator obtained funding from the UN University to attend this conference on 7 – 8 August 2007 at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, Malaysia. The conference has enabled us to establish stronger partnerships with other RCEs and collaboratively explore further funding.

See: www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=108&ddlID=187

A further meeting of the European RCEs will be held at Malmo University on December 13 and 14th to consider wider collaboration and potential funding, as well as to help plan the RCE International Conference in Barcelona in June. RCE East Midlands has been offered two places for this meeting.

Contact: Adam Cade

The search for the new East Midlands Climate Change Champion

Climate Change Minister Joan Ruddock has launched a search for the successor of the East Midlands' young climate change champion, 16-year-old Carri Swann. The new champion, one of nine across the UK, will help spread the message about the challenge of tackling climate change, as well as what people can do to play their part to reduce emissions. The initiative is part of the Government's 'Act on CO2' campaign which underlines the link between everyday human behaviour and its effect on the environment. It calls for young people aged 11 to 18 to demonstrate how they can encourage others to reduce their carbon footprint. The winners will spend a year 'in office' communicating their ideas and leading their own regional public awareness campaigns.

Joan Ruddock said "Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing us and it is young people who will be most affected by the decisions we make today. This is why it is essential that we empower them so they can spread the message that tackling climate change is urgent, but that by working together we can make a difference. It is fantastic that so many young people feel passionately about the environment and climate change and want to bring about change in others. The winners of this competition will become young ambassadors, playing a high profile role in changing public opinion and behaviour. Last year's champions did a wonderful job. Now we ask for new champions to come forward, enter our competition and take up the climate change challenge."

Winners of the competition will:

- * spend a busy year 'in office' communicating how people can reduce their carbon footprints by taking simple and effective action
- * take part in a European fact finding expedition to see the effects of climate change and how the issues are tackled by other communities
- * meet with senior Government Ministers to share their ideas on the problems we face and ways these issues and their solutions can be communicated to audiences of all ages
- * receive £1000 to organise a climate change themed event at their school, college or within their community.

Former climate change champion for the East Midlands, Carri Swann, 16, from Beeston, Nottingham, highly recommended the initiative saying "At every stage I've loved my work as a Climate Champion, spending time with professionals, politicians and people from all over the world who share my concerns about climate change. The huge range of opportunities that this initiative

has opened up for me -chances to visit Swiss glaciers, ecological conferences, and No. 10 Downing Street - have made the last 18 months some of the most exciting and enlightening of my life."

To enter, any young person who is a permanent resident of England and aged between 11-18 years needs to demonstrate how they can encourage their friends, family, school or community to make positive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Entries can take any format from a news report, documentary or case-study to website page, poster, the front page of a newspaper, video, radio feature or any other method of engagement. Deadline for entries is November 9, 2007.

See: www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

And www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/index.htm

Partners for Environmental Cooperation in Europe

We have now applied to join PECE for funding, projects and partners in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Project partners fund projects and Defra provides some matched-funding from its Environment for Europe Fund. Anyone interested in meeting DEFRA staff to discuss this please contact Adam Cade.

See: www.pece.co.uk

Events

Thursday 11th October EMFEC Annual Conference

Making the Difference: Will the 14 – 19 diplomas make a difference? Will the Leitch Review make a difference? Fee £100.

See: www.emfec.co.uk/events/coursedetails.asp?EventID=144

Contact: Michelle Chesterfield 0115 854 1626

Saturday 13th October Sustainable Community Workshop

This event will be of particular interest to those interested in setting up, facilitating or joining a sustainable community. This includes individuals or groups with an interest in sustainable living/lifestyles, self-builders, and landowners. 10.00am-4.30pm. Few places remaining.

See: www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk

16th October East Midlands EXPO

The East Midlands Expo 2007 includes about Construction Conference on Finding low carbon solutions, workshops on sustainable construction and sustainable energy such as Schools and home energy project, the solar Active education method. It also include the launch of the Food and Farming Schools competition, and the launch of Climate Friendly Communities in Northamptonshire, and launch of the regional Climate Change Programme. There are nearly 50 exhibitors and plenty of opportunity for network. RCE East midlands will have a display stand at the event.

We have confirmed a display stand for the RCE East Midlands at the annual sustainable development showcase in the East Midlands at Rockingham Speedway, Corby, Northamptonshire on Tuesday 16th October 8.30 to 16.00. Workshops and seminars will cover climate change including building for the future, sustainable procurement, local food and farming. Please contact Adam Cade if you would like to help staff the display stand or provide printed material about the activities of the Working Groups that could be displayed. A flyer and more information is available on the EMRA website.

Schools & Homes Energy Education Project

SOLAR-ACTIVE.COM has developed an education method and resources making learning enjoyable - focusing on gaining knowledge, teamwork and enterprise skills through real life application of scientific and mathematical concepts. Experience their inter-active renewable and energy efficiency resources: build a solar car & demonstrations, carbon-footprint and energy home & school surveys--trace an appliance running costs and determine how much energy each appliance is using.

Workshop places are limited so booking is essential.

Contact: bridget.redwood@emra.gov.uk

See: www.emra.gov.uk/news/events/east-midlands-expo

16th October Finding Low Carbon Solutions: Construction Conference

The Construction Conference, as part of the East Midlands Expo 2007, will provide information on the Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction; Environmental Solutions from the Region; Business Support. It is a free event featuring presentations from Constructing Excellence; BERR (formally Dti); Bee Bee Developments; The Housing Forum; Sustainability Forum

Contact: East Midlands Centre for constructing the Built Environment

01509 225800 info@emcbe.com

15th to 19th October Big Green Week at University of Leicester

The University of Leicester is putting on probably one of the biggest environmental festivals a UK University has ever staged and not only are they celebrating the arrival of the Environment Team and the formulation of the ESD Forum but also the launch of an environmental research centre (CERES). Greening campus, teaching and research!

See: www.le.ac.uk/biggreenweek

25th October 2007 Sustainable Communities Summit

This will be at the Church House Conference Centre in London. This conference and exhibition is an opportunity for people and organisations involved in sustainable communities to network with fellow professionals and leading individuals from the sustainable sector. We are expecting over 500 delegates.

Confirmed conference speakers to date include: Conference Chair, Sir Jeremy Beecham, President of Bura, Vice Chairman of Local Government Association, Ian Wright MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Sorrell, Chair, CABE, Gill Taylor, CEO, Academy of Sustainable Communities, Jordi Hereu, Mayor of Barcelona, Sir Jonathan Porritt CBE, Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission. £195.

Contact: 0161 832 6000

See: www.sustainablecommunities2007.co.uk

23rd/ 30th October Every Action Counts Community Champions Scheme

A free training course can be arranged in the East Midlands, if members of the RCE East Midlands are interested in free training on becoming Community champions. Alternatively, they could join one of the following scheduled two-day courses on 23 Oct & 30 Oct - NVAC, Nottingham or 2 Nov & 9 Nov - Skelton Grange Environment Centre, Leeds. Once trained they would also be entitled to free further training to assist them in their role.

Contact: Helen Woodward-Clarke, Administrator, Training Programmes Unit BTCV

0121 359 2113

Saturday 10th November Hockerton Housing Project Tour

These tours provide a good general introduction to the key sustainable principles of the Hockerton Housing Project without getting too technical. From 1.00-4.00pm. 15 places remaining.

See: www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk

13th November Launch of the Northamptonshire Development Education Centre

The new Northamptonshire Development Education Centre (The Ignatius Sanchos Centre) will be launched in the presence of his Worship the Mayor for Wellingborough at Grendon Hall, Grendon NN 7 1JW from 11.45 -1.15. The opening will be tied in with a Fairtrade exhibition and inserts aiming to encourage schools to use fairtrade protocols when purchasing and become Fairtrade schools. Ignatius Sanchos Centre is a development education Centre, the first of its kind in Northamptonshire aiming to provide an accessible resource centre for educationalist to use, run and provide enquiry services, informal support related to the Global Dimension, provide training and programme support to deliverers of education such as Schools, Community groups, Local authorities and youth workers. The Centre provides curriculum resources for schools, courses for young people and inset training for teachers. It co-ordinates information on external funding, resources, accreditation opportunities for schools and youth groups in the county. It also provides support for school linking encouraging friendships and learning opportunities for schools in the county.

Contact: Kwame Boakye or Dorcas Adusei, Global Dimension Curriculum Practitioners

01604 236517 kboakye@northamptonshire.gov.uk dadusei@northamptonshire.gov.uk

9th November Free training in Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry

OSDE, developed in the East Midlands, is a new methodology to enable an ethical engagement with difference. It was developed by an international group of educators, academics with a set of procedures and ground rules to enable learners to develop critical literacy and independent thinking. It provides a framework to teach global citizenship, sensitive and controversial issues and to explore issues of identity and diversity. There is now an opportunity for free training to become a Level 1 OSDE facilitator. The course will be on Friday 9th November at the Global Education Centre, Derby

See: <http://www.osdemethodology.org.uk>

Contact: Linda Barker 01332 298 185

10th – 11th November Immigrant Communities: Assimilation, Multiculturalism or Integration?

De Montfort University is hosting a conference on Europe and its Established & Emerging Immigrant Communities: Assimilation, Multiculturalism or Integration? This conference will focus on Europe and will draw on perspectives beyond Europe in an attempt to discuss, analyse and critique European policy response to post World War 11 established and emerging immigrant communities as well as share good practice in the areas of health, security, social cohesion and education amongst other things.

See: www.dmu.ac.uk/euimmigrationconf

13th-21st November Every Action Counts Free Training courses

The Federation for Community Development Learning are running a series of free courses for community development workers and trainers. The courses will help professionals train community groups to take simple actions towards a greener, cleaner, fairer and safer world.

13th November Sheffield

19th November York

21st November London

Contact: Emma Bennett info@fcdl.org.uk 0114 253 6770

See: www.fcdl.org.uk

15th November Bringing a Global Dimension to your school

Free course at Beaumanor Hall, Loughborough, funded by the British council and organised by the Regional Network for International Learning, working in collaboration with the Las in the East Midlands region.

Contact: Megan Thomas methomas@leics.gov.uk 0116 305 8335

24 – 28 November The 4th International Conference on Environmental Education

This will be held at Ahmedabad, India. The Conference is being organised by the Government of India, with UNESCO and UNEP as co-sponsors. Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is the host agency. CEE was set up in 1984 as a Centre for Excellence in Environmental Education (EE) as part of India's overall strategy towards Sustainable Development. The objectives of the Conference are to reformulate EE to support Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), help bridge gaps, and review the status of EE in the context of DESD. The Conference is therefore titled 'Environmental Education towards a Sustainable Future – Partners for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'. The Conference will bring together about 1500 participants from all over the world which include government officials, representatives of UN agencies, educators from the field of environment, health, water and sanitation, human rights, gender, peace, citizenship, social justice and others, civil society /NGOs, corporates, academics, and media.

See: <http://www.tbilisiplus30.org>

Loughborough University chosen to host £1 billion energy institute

The Midlands Consortium has been chosen to host a new £1 billion national institute to develop cleaner energies. It is comprised of the universities of Loughborough, Nottingham and Birmingham, three world-class partners, all with extensive and complementary energy related research activities.

The Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) is being established to speed up the deployment of new low-carbon energy technologies, including the efficient production and use of energy, in support of the UK's energy and climate change goals. It will also increase funding and provide a national strategic focus for research and development in this area and promote international technology collaboration.

Jointly funded by Government, EMDA, Advantage West Midlands and industry, the ETI brings together some of the world's biggest companies – BP, Caterpillar, EDF Energy, E.ON UK, Rolls-Royce and Shell. Their funding contribution, along with that of the Government, provides the Institute with a potential budget of more than £600 million over 10 years. The involvement of other private companies could boost the cash pot up to £1 billion.

See: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/service/publicity/news-releases/2007/120_eti.html

Learning to make change

Universities represent the highest level of education, yet they are notoriously slow in responding to a rapidly changing world. Deeply entrenched elitism and routines, a continued emphasis on reproductive learning, and the continued dominance of disciplinary thinking, have, in many instances, created bastions of educational conservatism, unable to contribute meaningfully to the development of people, businesses and communities within a finite global ecosystem.

This book focuses on an African university's efforts to become more innovative and responsive to community needs and the challenges posed by sustainability. A central concept is innovation competence as a pre-requisite for transforming learning, research and consultancy. Making change in society requires innovation competences over and above disciplinary expertise and these competences have to be learnt by both staff and students.

This book not only shows that it is imperative that universities re-orient their programmes to produce graduates capable of enhancing innovation and social change in the community, he also provides a number of solid stepping stones for capacity building and curriculum development that, in time, will result in an innovative university able to contribute to a world that is more sustainable than the one currently in prospect.

Learning to make change: Developing innovation competence for recreating the African university of the 21st century by Paul Kibwika. 2006, 207 pages, Paperback

See: www.wageningenacademic.com/learning

New publication on Social Learning towards a sustainable world

This comprehensive volume - containing 27 chapters and contributions from six continents - presents and discusses key principles, perspectives, and practices of social learning in the context of sustainability. Social learning is explored from a range of fields challenged by sustainability including: organizational learning, environmental management and corporate social responsibility; multi-stakeholder governance; education, learning and educational psychology; multiple land-use and integrated rural development; and consumerism and critical consumer education. An entire section of the book is devoted to a number of reflective case studies of people, organizations and communities using forms of social learning in moving towards sustainability.

See: www.wageningenacademic.com/_clientfiles/TOC/Sociallearning.pdf

and www.wageningenacademic.com/sociallearning

Support for Green Infrastructure by emda

Emda wishes to play an active role in supporting Green Infrastructure projects which enhances the sense of place in both urban and rural environments. These projects may involve opening up routes

to accessing green space, protect and enhance existing or degraded green space, securing Green Infrastructure in emerging regeneration schemes or feasibility works relating to any of the above. The Agency is already supporting a number of discrete projects, and we consider their contribution important towards the delivery of the RES Priority Action 6b 'Protect and enhance Green Infrastructure'. I would be happy to provide a more detailed overview of emda's contribution at some point if that is helpful.

Contact: Torsten Thurmman, Planning Advisor, Urban Policy and Planning Team, East Midlands Development Agency 0115 988 8420

Regional Housing Strategy

There is also an opportunity to comment at EM EXPO at Rockingham Speedway on 16th October 2007.

See: <http://www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/regional-communities-policy/sustainable-development/east-midlands-expo/east-midlands-expo-2007/programme-2007/regional-housing-strategy-review>

Awards for Sustainable Energy

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are seeking entries from inspirational and innovative schemes in the UK that use renewable energy, or reduce energy demand, at a local level. All Award-winning schemes must have been consistently successful for at least one year in delivering benefits to local communities and achieving carbon savings and must have plans for future growth. Successful schemes will be highly replicable to ensure maximum impact in the battle against climate change. Cash prizes will be used to assist plans for further expansion. In 2008 they will be offering the main UK awards in three categories with first prizes of £30,000 and second prizes of £15,000. The award categories are Energy business award; Local authority award; and Charity and community award. In addition, there is a Sustainable Energy in Schools Award with a first prize of £15,000 and a second prize of £5,000. Closing date for entries is 20th November 2007.

See: www.ashdenawards.org

Contact: Jane Howarth 020 7410 7023 info@ashdenawards.org

New Government Ministers

Several MPs in the region are new Government Ministers. Phil Hope, MP for Corby, is the new Minister for the Third Sector. The Regional Minister for the East Midlands is Gillian Merron.

Three new departments were set up by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007. They replace the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is responsible for improving the focus on all aspects of policy affecting children and young people, as part of the Government's aim to deliver educational excellence and is headed by Rt Hon Ed Balls MP. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills brings together functions from the former Department of Trade and Industry, including responsibilities for science and innovation, with further and higher education and skills, previously part of the Department for Education and Skills. The Department is headed by Rt John Denham MP, the first Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) is headed by John Hutton, the first Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Also Hilary Benn, former International Development Secretary, has taken over as Environment Secretary in Gordon Brown's new cabinet.

DBERR - <http://www.dti.gov.uk/>

DIUS - <http://www.dius.gov.uk/>

DCSF - <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.shtml>

See: www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page2988.asp

Launch of Year of Food and Farming in Schools in the East Midlands

The initial event to launch the Year of Food and Farming in the East Midlands is being held at the East Midlands Food and Drink Festival at Brooksby Hall, Melton Mowbray. The Children's Education Day was on the 4th Oct. On Saturday 6th Sir Don Curry and celebrity chef Rachel Green officially launched the Year of Food and Farming in the East Midlands. In the East Midlands there will be mini launches in every county. The website is now live with an interactive "Mega Map" showing all schools, farms and organisations participating in the Year. The website will be updated regularly with information on events and news in the region and how to access funding and contact details of activity partners. All participating schools in the East Midlands will receive a Certificate of Achievement and stickers.

Objectives in the East Midlands are based on the 8 aspirations set nationally for the year, they are:

Primary stage pupils

- Every pupil will have undertaken a growing activity during his or her primary school years.
- Every pupil will have had first hand experience of food being grown by visiting a farm or other countryside location (day or residential) during his or her primary school years
- Every pupil will have had the opportunity to prepare at least one food plate during his or her primary school years.

Secondary stage pupils

- Every pupil will have taken part in an activity within the countryside during his or her secondary school years
- Every pupil will have had the opportunity to undertake relevant work-related activities during his or her secondary school years

Schools and Teacher training institutions

- Every student and practising teacher will be aware of the curriculum opportunities offered through experience of food, farming and the countryside
- Every school will be participating in local food procurement initiatives
- Every school will be promoting healthy living through experience of food, farming and the countryside

"In recent times it has become increasingly clear that our young people have lost touch with food production and preparation. Re-connecting the nation with the countryside and the creation of a food culture is fundamental to tackling several issues that are dominating today's society: obesity, the impact of sedentary lifestyles, low trust and suspicion of food ingredients, the need to reduce food miles and, ultimately, protecting the environment." Sir Mike Thomlinson

See: www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk/eastmidlands

Contact: Sally Scantlebury sally@feastnet.net 07958 671380

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

The DTI's Low carbon buildings programme provides grants for microgeneration technologies for householders, community organisations, schools, the public sector and businesses. Phase 1 of the programme is managed by the Energy Saving Trust and Phase 2 of the programme is managed by BRE. Launched on 1 April 2006, the programme will run over three years and replaces DTI's Clear Skies and Solar PV programmes, which closed for applications on the 31 March 2006. The programme is UK-wide (apart from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and will demonstrate how energy efficiency and microgeneration will work hand in hand to create low carbon buildings. There will be two streams of grants available 1) these grants apply to smaller projects for home owners 2) these grants apply to medium and large scale microgeneration projects and are available to public, not for profit and commercial organisations. The technologies covered by the Low carbon buildings programme include Solar photovoltaics; Wind turbines; Small hydro; Solar thermal hot

water; Ground source heat pumps; Water/air source heat pumps; Bio-energy; Renewable CHP; MicroCHP (Combined heat and power); and Fuel cells.

Bright future for Microgeneration

Recently there has been considerable interest in micro generation technology. There are a number of attributes to thank for this; these include high profile politicians like Malcom Wicks and David Cameron having micro turbines installed on their homes. Home Condition Reports will provide advice on measures to increase energy efficiency, including installation of renewable technologies. Planning permission will soon be relaxed to install any micro generation technology onto a building. From January 2008 European legislation requires 8% of energy consumption from new buildings to come from renewable sources. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 aims to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty through a series of measures designed to encourage the uptake of micro-generation and other renewable energy technologies. The act will make it easier for householders who produce electricity from microgeneration technologies at their homes to sell unused power back to their supplier.

87 million pounds has been made available from central government to fund 30% of installation costs to applicants of The Low Carbon Buildings Funding Programme. The DTI and EST who manage the funding programme are currently implementing an accreditation framework which all registered installers must meet.

Currently there are 618 organisations and contractors registered as installers of micro-wind turbines; 504 registered photovoltaic installers and 1326 registered solar hot water installers on the Low Carbon Buildings Funding Programme. The industry background that most micro generation installers come from tend to be either electricians or plumbers.

One of the key features of the Government's Microgeneration Strategy and the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill is Sector Skills Council engagement – DBERR will explore with the Sector Skills Councils what more can be done to ensure the skills base develops to support increased demand for micropower technologies. In September 2006, BRE Certification was awarded a DBERR (Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) (old DTI) contract to develop a robust third party certification scheme for microgeneration products and installers to take over from the existing product and installer registration schemes (Clear Skies and PV programme). It is called the UK Microgeneration Certification Scheme. This new scheme will underpin the DBERR grant scheme, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. Grants will only be available to applicants using both products and installers certified under the UK Microgeneration Certification Scheme. The new scheme will evaluate products and installers against robust criteria for each of the microgeneration technologies, providing greater protection for consumers and ensuring that the Government's grant money is spent in an effective manner. The aim is to help build a rapidly growing microgeneration industry based on quality and reliability, which will make a substantial contribution to cutting the UK's dependency on fossil fuels and its carbon dioxide emissions.

Micro Generation Installer Courses

Empower offers microgeneration courses which provide candidates with the necessary skills to install and commission grid connected micro wind turbines, photovoltaic solar systems and solar hot water systems to either domestic or commercial properties. Courses include City & Guilds 2372 Photovoltaic Installer; BPEC Solar Hot Water Installer; and City & Guilds Micro Wind Turbine Installer. With media focus and the continued growth of the micro renewables sector, there are calls from government, trade bodies and manufactures to have in place an accreditation system to regulate installers of micro generation equipment.

Being the only CoVE for Electrical Power, it is Empower's remit to address and develop training programmes that involve electricity generation from either traditional methods or from renewable technology.

See: www.empower-training.com/images/pdf/course_schedule_02.pdf

Is ESD included in the draft Lifelong Learning UK Sector Skills Agreement?

Lifelong Learning UK are currently consulting on their Sector Skills Agreement (SSA). This is a powerful tool which gives employers and stakeholders (both national and regional) direction in workforce development for the education, training and community development sector. It is important that consultation is as wide as possible and that solutions from the SSA reflect what employers from all sectors are looking for on the ground.

See: http://www.lluk.org/ssa/ssa_online_consultations.html

Natural England developing new Education Strategy

Natural England are currently consulting with as many major stakeholders as possible to determine how environmental issues can be best raised through all aspects of education and learning. As a new government agency one year old they are responsible for securing 'the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment'.

Contact: Dr Roger Key, Senior Specialist, Education & Learning, Natural England

roger.key@naturalengland.org.uk 01733 455313

Education for sustainable living - Linking Food, Culture, Health, and the Environment

The Centre for Ecoliteracy have just produced a downloadable Visual Guide helping educators discover how an enriched school environment can enhance student understanding of personal well-being and the natural world. The 25-page visual guide, Linking Food, Culture, Health, and the Environment and the Rethinking School Lunch Guide are downloadable.

See: <http://ecoliteracy.org>

Loughborough University to create own power

Loughborough University plans to generate all of its own electricity in a bid to cut carbon dioxide emissions. A new combined heat and power (CHP) plant has just been completed on the main campus. This will work alongside a similar one set up in 2003 for the Holywell Park area of the campus. CHP saves energy as power is generated on-site and not lost during transmission on the national grid. It also uses the heat created as a byproduct of electricity generation for space heating in student accommodation. The university also claims to be the first UK university to buy 100% renewable energy and one of the first fairtrade universities in the UK.

CO2 Calculator from DEFRA

DEFRA have launched the beta version of their Act on CO2 Calculator. They are encouraging feedback on this version before producing the full version later in the year.

See: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/individual/actonco2/index.htm

Carbon Viewer

The University of Leicester, working with Goth Energy Management Ltd, has just submitted a proposal to the Carbon Trust Innovation programme to develop a Carbon Viewer, turning meter readings into graphical images that raise awareness of energy use (and misuse). Goth Energy are looking for any RCE East Midlands member organisations as further potential end users and suppliers.

Contact: Jamie Goth 01332 824 012 jamie.goth@gothenergy.co.uk

Online video sharing – students do!

Would video clips enrich our RCE East Midlands website? Would video clips enrich your teaching? Have you got any video clips of or for ESD that you want to show others? Have you got any video footage that needs editing? Have you stories to tell or projects related to ESD that you would like to introduce using video? Have you got other ideas on how to publish videos online eg. video podcasts?

Brendan Barrett, from the UN University, encouraged all the RCEs at the recent RCE international conference to consider enriching their website with images. He has given a few leads that may prove helpful. The answers to these prompts maybe using the growing number of video-sharing websites, as can be seen on:

See: <http://www.dvguru.com/2006/04/07/ten-video-sharing-services-compared/>

And http://www.masternewmedia.org/news/2006/11/25/video_publishing_online_where_to.htm

New UNEP CD-ROM for Universities on Sustainability Communications

The United Nations Environment Programme has just launched a CD-ROM "Sustainability Communications – A Toolkit for Marketing and Advertising Courses". This CD-ROM contains both English and French versions and it is fully downloadable from UNEP's website. This CD-ROM has been produced by UNEP in partnership with UNESCO, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Association of Universities, with financial support from Sweden.

The CD-ROM proposes resources for the educators training tomorrow's marketing and communication professionals as well as for marketing and advertising trainers in the corporate field. It is not a "turnkey" teaching syllabus but a flexible, interactive tool which provides a synthesis of theoretical and methodological knowledge illustrated by numerous specific case studies. In this regard, it offers all kinds of pedagogic resources – short presentations, campaign analyses, exercises, web links, bibliographies and more than 300 downloadable documents – to encourage students and communication experts to think about and involve themselves in one of the major issues facing society today.

The CD-ROM aims to 1) Demonstrate and analyze the business case and the marketing and communications potential of sustainable development in the framework of corporate social and environmental responsibility 2) Allow the current and future marketing and communication professionals to become fully aware of the key role they can and should play by responding to new consumer demand for sustainability through the promotion of sustainable products and services. 3) Provide the necessary tools to develop both effective corporate communications strategies that build confidence in greener brands and powerful marketing campaigns on sustainable goods. Contents include Sustainable development: ethics and social practices; The economic and social context for sustainability communications; The practice of sustainability communications: from innovation to risk; Practices and exercises in marketing and communication; Analysis of various public and private campaigns around the world; Resources: documents, web links, bibliographies, etc.

See: www.unep.fr/sustain

ESD conference reports

NIACE organised a successful conference in 2005 on education for sustainable development with the Development Education Association and WEA. **What lessons can we still learn from this conference?**

See: www.niace.org.uk/Research/ESD/conference.htm

The Higher Education Academy conference on ESD and the curriculum has just produced the report of their conference at Bradford University on July 10th/11th. This conference was attended by Dr Paul Warwick and Adam Cade who presented details about the RCE East Midlands.

See: www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/sust_curr

School Science and ESD courses

The East Midlands Science Learning Centre, based at Leicester University is planning some teacher training courses on Science and ESD.

See: www.le.ac.uk/slcem

Teacher Training

Farhana Zaman, the new co-chair of the RCE East Midlands Teacher Training Working Group has produced a recent paper - Education for Sustainability : is rhetoric more welcome than the reality? Some thoughts from Primary Initial Teacher Education in Middle England. This was presented at a recent conference. It is presented as a two fold case study, which serves to illustrate how a particular commitment to sustainability issues was realised in the practise of being a university tutor. The paper is a very personal perspective. The experiences presented will, it is suggested, resonate with those of the reader so that the 'thoughts' given here may act as spur to action for others. Through presentation of how both the author and her students (the next generation of English primary school teachers) came to incorporate ESD into their lives (both personal and professional), she aims to provide a vignette of hope.

Contact: Fahana Zaman

Science Tutors and ESD

The Association of Tutors in Science Education wants to receive some ideas from anyone involved with ITE in schools that might use digital video as part of their training programme for student teachers. The ideas from school might focus on ESD particularly of course but anything else in science would also be welcome.

Contact: Farhana Zaman, Admissions Tutor BAPE, Senior Lecturer in Science Education, Nottingham Trent University 0115 848 8978

School Survey 2007 by East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools

A survey of 5 to 16 East Midlands schools has provided a baseline for measuring changes in the quality and quantity of global dimension work in the region's schools. The survey carried out in May 2007 follows a more qualitative survey in 2002. It was carried out by Bob Hirst as Evaluation Adviser to EMNGPS.

Contact: Rohini Corfield

Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration Review

This policy review has considerable implications for ESD in the East Midlands. The Budget 2006 announced that the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review would be informed by a series of policy reviews, one of which was a review of sub-national economic development and regeneration to consider how to strengthen economic performance in regions, cities and localities throughout the country. The review has been led jointly by the Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and their predecessor departments. The review outlines the Government's plans to refocus both powers and responsibilities to support its objectives to encourage economic growth and tackle deprivation at every level.

See: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/subnational_econ_review.cfm

Sustainable Procurement Information Network – SPIN

SPIN is the first and only website dedicated to supporting local authorities in their efforts to procure sustainably, and provides a 'one-stop' website containing the very best information relating to the sustainable procurement agenda. The new website is extremely easy to navigate, with comprehensive information just one click away from the home page. Local authorities and public sector organisations are urged to contribute to the content of the website. SPIN was initially launched as part of an East Midlands Centre of Excellence sustainable procurement project. It has since received the backing of the East of England and North West Centres of Excellence and is well on the way to becoming a national resource for sustainable procurement information.

The site contains an excellent background to sustainable development delivered to Derbyshire County Council by Fay Blair

See: <http://www.s-p-i-n.co.uk/assets/documents/ukgovermentsusdev.pdf> for pdf file on sustainable development

See: www.s-p-i-n.co.uk

New free software for sustainable procurement

BEES software has just been released by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology as a tool for selecting environmentally preferred, cost-effective building products. It also seems to provide a useful and sophisticated educational tool. It updates data on more than 200 products and adds 30 new products for review. It also offers users the option of a new set of consensus weights for scoring the environmental impact of individual building products. With BEES a user can ascertain, for instance, the environmental impact of a product at any stage of its existence -raw material acquisition, manufacture, transportation, installation, use, and recycling and waste management. The environmental ramifications of the product at each of these stages is provided for each of 12 categories: global warming, acidification, eutrophication, fossil fuel depletion, indoor air quality, habitat alteration, human health, ecological toxicity, ozone depletion, smog, criteria air pollutants and water intake. The new consensus weight option, developed by a panel of building product manufacturers, green building designers and environmental assessment experts, allows users to evaluate environmental impacts considering short-, medium- and long-term effects.

See: www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/software/bees and www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/software/bees.html

Can education reduce the use of disposable plastic bags?

About 50 communities around the UK have now banished the plastic bag, following the lead by Modbury in Devon. Educators could play a role in changing our shopping behaviour so it is less wasteful - but how? Staff and volunteers in StudentForce are keen to get any ideas for how to approach this community education in one or two market towns in the region.

See: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/sep/22/recycling>

A petition to introduce a 10p tax on plastic bags, to be spent on environmental projects has been set up. Such a tax is already in use in a number of European countries, in particular in Ireland, where it resulted in a 90% drop in plastic bag usage, and raised 3.5million Euros for environmental causes. London's 33 boroughs are putting forward a proposal for the tax in November - the petition aims to show a basis for national support for the tax.

See: www.green-england.co.uk/plasticbagpetition

New publication on corporate sustainable development for management education

Case Studies in Sustainability Management and Strategy is designed as a course textbook at all levels of management education. The collection is based on the winning cases of an annual competition organised by oikos - the international Student Organization for Sustainable Economics and Management. They are all supported by teaching guidance and comprehensive teaching notes. The case studies explore both the opportunities and pitfalls companies and NGOs face in targeting sustainability issues and how their values and core assumptions impact their business strategies.

They deal with a many issues including supply chain management, stakeholder dialogue, social entrepreneurship, sustainable marketing, ethics, governance, the business case for sustainability, partnerships, purchasing and climate change.

With the rapidly growing importance of sustainability and corporate responsibility in a globalised world, management schools are increasingly integrating long-term economic, environmental and social issues into their teaching and research. Climate change, poverty, labour standards and human rights are among the many topics that future decision-makers will need to face in their careers. Business education needs to reflect this new reality and provide a broadened understanding of value creation in order to create economic capital while developing social and preserving natural capital. Many sustainability trends also offer interesting new business opportunities that are ripe for entrepreneurial thinking. Case studies can be important tools for creating learning processes on different levels - students are forced to struggle with exactly the kinds of decisions and dilemmas managers confront every day.

See: <http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com>

DFID Mini Grant Guidelines

Development Awareness Fund: Mini Grants Scheme Grants for development education in England of £1,000 to £10,000/ year are available from the Development Education Association. The deadline for receipt of applications under the 2008/09 funding round is 5 pm on Wednesday 31 October 2007

See: www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/dafminigrants.asp

Post 16 Citizenship Education

The Quality Improvement Agency have contracted the Learning and Skills Network to develop regional networks on post 16 citizenship. Alan Wilkins coordinates the East Midlands network which currently includes three FE colleges – Regents College, Lincoln College and

Contact: Alan Wilkins 0845 345 1438

See: www.post16citizenship.org

Green Colleges Survey Report

A quarter of further education colleges have solar panels or are in the process of installing them, a survey examining eco-awareness suggests. The Green Colleges survey shows that many buildings have been refurbished to incorporate features that are environmentally friendly. A fifth of those surveyed are using biomass boilers and 70% have carried out an energy audit. The survey was carried out on behalf of the Association of Colleges. The colleges' organisation says the survey shows a high level of environmental awareness - with a large proportion of colleges taking an interest in recycling and promoting green transport policies.

See: www.eauc.org.uk/green_colleges_survey_report

Green Curriculum Survey

Solar panel installation, organic gardening, wildlife surveying, recycling management and carbon-footprint studies are among the green courses uncovered by a new study. The study was undertaken as part of the Association of Colleges 'Green Colleges' initiative, which aims to showcase college best practice and help them become as green as possible.

See: www.eauc.org.uk/aoc_curriculum_survey_report

LSC Sustainable Development Action Plan 2007/08

The LSC has published its sustainable development action plan for 2007/08. The plan sets out priorities and actions for the current year and looks ahead to likely actions in future years.

See: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-lsc-sustainable-development-action-plan2007-08.pdf>
