



Sustainable Development Business News from MEBC

First established in 1992, MEBC is a business network run as a not-for-profit, limited liability company by Midlands regional business people to promote sustainable development as a sensible business proposition.

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MEBC becomes “Branch” of BCSD-UK



Business Council for
Sustainable Development
United Kingdom

MEBC has become the official Midlands “branch” of the Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom (BCSD-UK) which is the UK’s only affiliated branch in the UK of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development based in Geneva.

Both MEBC and BCSD-UK share the same secretariat, Birmingham based EBC Limited, and through those contracts both have David Middleton as CEO who said: “This simplifies the relationship in the Midlands and gives added value to MEBC members”.

Paul Mountain joins MEBC Board



Paul Mountain, Partner and Head of Construction Team at Martineau, has joined the Board of Directors of MEBC. Paul is the specialist partner in building construction and development: drafting and negotiation of development agreements, development joint ventures, building and engineering contracts of all types and associated documents; litigation and arbitration on construction matters; insurance; Alternative Dispute Resolution. Particularly active in the education (FE/HE) and regeneration sectors. Born 1960, Ormskirk Lancs. Education at schools in Liverpool, Birmingham and Preston. MA (Oxon)(1982), Solicitor 1988.

Paul writes: “Martineau have been members of MEBC for over 10 years and have regularly supported and contributed to its events and initiatives.

I am currently working for the University of Birmingham in helping developing the economic and social case for the wider application of its Hydrogen boat, developed by Prof Rex Harris. Through MEBC I am introducing the University to entrepreneurs who may have the means to develop commercial/industrial applications of H-technology to modes of transport.

I was delighted at the positive response to my presentation to MEBC of May 2008 on economic developments in India and the opportunities which India presents for Midlands businesses, educational and research bodies and public authorities in the environmental technologies sectors. I am keen to work

with MEBC in facilitating these sorts of opportunities and partnerships across the commercial, industrial and HE sectors. I have particularly strong contact in West Bengal/Kolkata, a region of India which is increasingly reaching out to form partnerships with UK businesses and agencies.

I believe that my membership of MEBC's board will be of direct benefit to our business and will see us facilitating R&D and effective business development in sectors which are critical to sustainable economic growth. Sectors include building design and construction, infrastructure, waste management and recycling, and energy production and distribution. We count among our clients major utilities and FTSE 100 companies, owner-managed businesses and micro businesses.

I am currently a member of the board of RegenWM, the West Midlands' (AWM) promoter of best practice in regeneration. I intend to remain in this role for the time being - my board membership was recently renewed to June 2011”.

The Black Country sponsors Annual Dinner



The 2007 Dinner

We are delighted to announce that the 2008 Business Success Dinner of the MEBC is secure – and hopefully even bigger - thanks to sponsorship from The Black Country, the sub-regional partnership for Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. It is the forum for the strategic co-ordination of public, private and voluntary sector partners and as the leading strategic co-ordinating body intends to set radical new aspirations leading to the renaissance of the Black Country urban sub-region over the next 30 years.

Jason Longhurst from The Black Country said; "Sustainable development and environmental efficiency are major drivers for The Black Country so we are particularly pleased to lend our support to the MEBC. Engaging with Business to underpin the challenges posed by sustainable development is becoming an increasingly important role for The Black Country and our partners. We aim to encourage Business to continually raise its game in this critical area of activity."

The Dinner will be on December 3rd again in the Banqueting Suite of Birmingham Council House. Guest Speaker is Dr Stewart Davies, formerly MD of Corus, Wales and Rugby Cement and now the Business Commissioner of the Sustainable Development Commission. BBC TV News personality, Kay Alexander, will again stage impromptu interviews with unsuspecting guests to highlight their successes in delivering sustainable development values during the year.

We Visit Wolseley's Terrific New Sustainable Building Center



MEBC members and guests recently visited the impressive new Sustainable Building Center at Royal Leamington Spa. Wolseley UK is the UK operating company of Wolseley plc, the world's number one distributor of heating and plumbing products and is a leading supplier of builders' products to the

professional market. Its new centre (spelt CENTER to mirror its outlets such as Plumb Center etc) provides substantial and practical evidence of what can be done to make buildings sustainable. Product Manager, Chris Booker, acted as guide and launched into the tour with a highly informative presentation that can be downloaded from the Document Library of www.mebconline.com.

Martineau drops Johnson and holds Dinner

Martineau Johnson is no more. Long live Martineau!



And under its shorter name and the leadership of MEBC's newly appointed Director (see above), this leading independent law firm with offices in [Birmingham](#) and [London](#), staged a Renewable Heat Roundtable/Dinner where MEBC's CEO David Middleton acted as rapporteur. Martineau partner Andrew Whitehead gave a very informative kick-off presentation leading to a non-stop and very lively debate over dinner. His presentation can be downloaded from the Document Library of www.mebconline.com.

Peter Braithwaite – Olympian!

After years of support dating back to the early 90s and the start of the MEBC, we have lost Peter Braithwaite as Deputy Chairman. After 20 plus years with ARUP, Peter has left to become Head of Sustainability for the London Olympics. Whilst wishing him every success (and perhaps free tickets to the opening!) in this highest of high profile roles, we express sincere regret at losing him from the MEBC and from the Midlands. He has been a tremendous supporter of the MEBC, a mentor to its CEO, a steadfast supporter of SD principles, and a friend to many of us in the organisation. Debbie Bunce (ARUP) is stepping into Peter's role as MEBC Director.

AGM Date

Eversheds LLP, Birmingham will be hosting the MEBC AGM on 12th November. Not having done so for many years, MEBC CEO David Middleton will be the guest speaker.

CEO Briefings

MEBC CEO has recently briefed the management team of GOWM on sustainable development as a business issue, and is scheduled to do the same with Birmingham City Council Deputy Leader, Councillor Paul Tilsley later this month.

David Middleton
CEO
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