



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. It is the regional branch of the Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom

www.mebconline.com



MEBC Update - June 2009

In This Edition:

(Click headline for fast link to article)

Fresh blood on MEBC Board	Green News from Europe
MEBC welcomes Nanomagnetic Systems into membership	Good interest at visit to Summerfield Eco-village
Martineau to host future MEBC meetings	Carbon Guide
RACTA Busy at SustainabilityLive!	UK Carbon Cost Map from Carbon Trust
Thanks Ralph	AWM and EA Climate Change Questionnaire

Fresh blood on MEBC Board

We welcome two new Board Directors to the MEBC Board – Mark Clemson Director of New World Solar and Shameem Kazmi Managing Director of Danjim Marketing.



MEBC welcomes Nanomagnetic Systems into membership



Nanomagnetic Systems has recently joined MEBC. They have patented an energy saving product that pre-treats fuel supplied to the burners of a unit to enhance the combustion, and produces a cleaner burn and reduces carbon emissions.

They provide a complete range of in-line magnetic fuel treatment systems for installation on all types of industrial combustion plant (including boilers, dryers, furnaces, heaters, kilns and ovens).

Barry Singh, Nanomagnetic Managing Director, says that ‘customers enjoy fuel savings of at least 5%; assistance in receiving the maximum discount on the Climate Change Levy; help in achieving government targets for Phase 2 of the National Allocation Plan for Carbon Dioxide emissions (EU Emissions Trading Scheme); improved environmental performance, reduced fuel bills (and therefore increased profits) and all with a return on investment as low as three months.

“Our team have installed in-line magnetic fuel treatment systems across many industry sectors including automotive, food, beverage, chemicals, dairy, paper, packaging, textiles, the NHS, pharmaceuticals,

rubber, insulation, minerals, ceramics, bricks, glass, iron and steel, shipping, hotels, public authorities, paints etc.'

Martineau to host future MEBC meetings

MEBC is delighted to announce that Martineau will be hosting MEBC meetings for the rest of 2009. We are grateful to Paul Mountain for establishing the arrangement and look forward to utilising their splendid presentation facility in their Birmingham office.

On June 3rd MEBC has a Location Best Practice Visit to the District Energy Scheme in Birmingham delivered by the Birmingham District Energy Company Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Utilicom Group, the UK's leading developer in such schemes which feature sustainable and renewable forms of energy generation.

No more places available.

On June 25th MEBC members are welcome at a Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom Energy Group day-long meeting being staged at the new UK HQ of Lafarge close by Birmingham International Railway Station. Delegates can attend the morning or afternoon sessions or both. Still being finalised, the agenda for the morning includes:

- Review of the BCSD-UK Guide to Decentralised Energy
 - Debate to identify recommended improvements
- The next project for the Energy Group
 - E.ON's Senior Regulatory Analyst, Paul Bedford introduces and explains ROC's/CRC/FIT/RHI/others. Operational evidence from National Grid, Yorkshire Water and Scottish & Newcastle and a debate to identify forward BCSD-UK actions
- Pre-planning BCSD-UK's meeting with Shadow Minister for Energy, Charles Hendry, on June 15. Session to include video of the Shadow Minister at the BCSD-UK 10th Anniversary Summit in March.

The afternoon agenda covers:

- Developing the West Midlands links with the Centre of Renewable Energy in Gussing
- Report from AWM Gussing Follow up project undertaken by BCSD-UK in conjunction with Marches Energy Agency to help the West Midlands draw lessons from "The Gussing Model".

On July 1st we stage our first meeting at Martineau's offices in Birmingham when the subject featured will be help to SMEs.

Waste should be a key issue to SMEs. It costs money to get rid of it. It costs money to create it. Clever businesses eradicate it. But many still see it only as a diversion from the daily task of survival. What help is there to small and medium sized companies wishing to tackle the problem? Tim Robins from Envirowise tells all.

Government is keen to see small and medium sized businesses capitalise on opportunities created by public investment as we move to a low carbon, sustainable community. But increasingly tender processes involve consortium working, the OJEU and Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PPQs) – often seen as terrifyingly complex and massively time consuming processes to many small companies with no specialised internal expertise to help. Your chance to discuss your experience and influence the policy debate.

Reservations via jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk.

September and November meetings of the MEBC will be held at the Martineau offices in Birmingham. Subjects yet to be finalised.

On December 2nd the now well established, highly acclaimed MEBC Business Success Dinner will be staged in the Banqueting Suite, Birmingham City Council House preceded by a Champagne Reception in the Round Room of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Further details at a later date but reservations accepted now via jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk

RACTA Busy at SustainabilityLive!



Backed by the MEBC, RACTA 09 explored the world of hybrid cars - factory built buildings - flood defences - eco housing. Staged at the National Exhibition Centre as part of the SustainabilityLive! suite of events, the 2009 Renewable And Clean Technology Audit set out to independently “audit” new markets that are developing as we cope with the consequences of climate change and move towards a low carbon economy.

The event was sponsored by Advantage West Midlands with support sponsorship from Birmingham City Council and held in association with the Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom (BCSD-UK) and the Midlands Environmental Business Company (MEBC).

Speakers included Ralph Hepworth, Environmental Technologies Cluster Manager, Advantage West Midlands; Heather Pearce, Senior Procurement Officer, and Roy Stokes, FCRM Programme Manager of The Environment Agency; Keith Sexton, Group HSEQ Director, Amey; Alan Cooper, Product Development Manager, Malling Products, Laing O’Rourke; Mark Clemson, Director, New World Solar.

Delegates said of RACTA 09: *“Very informative, some ideas different to elsewhere”*. Glyn Holt - Birse Civils; *“Very good – enlightening and thought provoking”*. Simon Anderson – Quatroservice; *“If we don’t act now on what we know, our grandchildren will have a terrible problem. If we do act now we could export jobs, prosperity and happiness”*. Mark Edwards – GAP.

RACTA delegates and MEBC and BCSD-UK members can obtain audio files from RACTA on CD by telephoning 0121 693 8334.

Thanks Ralph



RACTA 09 is likely to be the last MEBC related event in which Ralph Hepworth of AWM will be involved as Ralph retires from his post in July.

We will be sad to see him go but suspect he won't disappear over the horizon never to be seen again! Putting the feet up and taking life easy somehow doesn't seem to fit.

This is an opportunity to publicly thank Ralph for all his involvement with us over quite a few years and which has involved such notable adventures as NISP and WindSupply.

His business background, subject knowledge, wise strategic thinking and counseling and his familiarity of the corridors of power in AWM has made him an invaluable ally.

We wish him well with whatever the future holds but have the sneaky feeling that one chapter is ending and another starting.

Green News from Europe

We are grateful to Xenia Tsitiridou, European Policy Adviser, West Midlands in Europe for information on a number of matters including:

Policy developments on Adaptation to Climate Change
Buildings Directive on energy in buildings
Eco labeling and eco design
Energy tax Directive

Funding updates include:

- Intelligent Energy Europe
- Eco-Innovation
- The LIFE+ programme was officially launched on 15th May.

Brussels Events and Meetings:

- Green Week 2009: Please note that registration for this year's Green Week is now open. Please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/> to register for the most popular EU event in environmental issues.
- ERRIN-Greenovate Event: ERRIN, in cooperation with Greenovate! Europe, is organising a high level seminar during Green Week (25th June) to inform about FP7 project opportunities for environmental technologies and familiarise delegates with tested commercialisation methodologies. The event will also enable ERRIN practitioners to discuss opportunities for their projects with commercialisation experts in moderated roundtable sessions. For more information and registration details please find attached the seminar's flyer.

MEBC members can access files accompanying Xenia's note via the members' section of the MEBC web site <http://www.mebconline.com/>.

Good interest at visit to Summerfield Eco-village

The MEBC site visit proved a popular event with attendees who found a project that was regenerating the area by providing a range of street improvements and which is drastically

improving the energy efficiency of homes through the application of good sustainable development methods. More details can be found on our website www.mebconline.com



Ian Heasman, Brownfield Remediation Manager, Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd; said: *“The Summerfield Eco-Village project highlighted the complex and inter-relating challenges of simultaneously addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting sustainable technologies, using a community first approach with local purchasing and the development of a local skill base. This provides a bottom up model for sustainability that points the way towards part of the solution to the climate change challenge. I found the day very rewarding”.*

David Wheeler, Design & Standards Manager, Homes & Communities Agency said: *“I'd been recommended to visit the Summerfield Eco Village as an example of good practice and was pleased by what I found. Family Housing and MEBC have worked hard with the local community to tailor energy efficiency measures to individual household's needs, as part of a general improvement plan for the area. The results are clear to see: once neglected but now good quality and well-insulated family-sized, Edwardian terraced houses brought back into the community and fitted with renewable energy sources that have dramatically cut running costs. Well done to all involved!”*

Those involved include Birmingham City Council; Family Housing Association (Birmingham) Limited; Urban Living; and MEBC member company New Solar Installations Limited.

Carbon Guide

Paul Turner, Head of Sustainable Development, Lloyds Banking Group, with whom we have contact via the BCSD-UK writes:

“David – I recently did a piece of work with BITC and CPSL on supply chains. The resource is freely downloadable and is widely being viewed as a solid resource. It would be great if you could find a way to promote it through your supply chain event and your network. The link is [Carbon Management Guide](#).”

Carbon management: a practical guide for suppliers is a step-by-step carbon management guide for companies who supply retailers and other major corporations. It helps them respond to increasing requests from their customers for information about carbon management. It also shows how effective carbon management can cut costs and bring other business benefits.

UK Carbon Cost Map from Carbon Trust

From Simon Helmer, Sector Manager, **The Carbon Trust - Making Business Sense of Climate Change**
See links below to map showing savings potential for businesses by region and local authority area;

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy/whysavecarbon/UKCostSavingMap>

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/News/presscentre/UK-Cost-Map-News.htm>

AWM and EA Climate Change Questionnaire

A new business-focused questionnaire has been created by AWM and the Environment Agency to look at

climate change adaptation. The responses will support the evidence base for a new programme of support for businesses being undertaken by Advantage West Midlands. Your involvement would be appreciated.

The downloadable file is located on the home page of the MEBC website. [Click here to access it.](#)

Midlands Environmental Business Company Limited
The Environmental Business Centre
Unit F3, The Arch • 48-52 Floodgate Street • Birmingham B5 5SL
Tel: 0121 693 8338 • Fax: 0121 693 8448
Email: jenni@ebc-info.co.uk • Internet: <http://www.mebconline.com>
Midlands Environmental Business Company Limited
Registered in England & Wales • Registered Company Number: 3186541