



MEBC UPDATE – December 07

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1. Business Success Dinner A Success

BBC TV News personality **Kay Alexander** said this was the third MEBC Business Success Celebration Dinner she had attended and there was a noticeable new air of confidence and enthusiasm within the room. As is now tradition at this annual event staged in the fine setting of the Banqueting Hall of Birmingham Council House, Kay undertook impromptu interviews with MEBC members and their guests. Her 2007 “victims” included **Danny Lawrence** of Lafarge; **Mathew Rhodes** of Encraft; **Mark Clemson** from New World Solar Installations; **Mark Saunders** from E.ON; and **Charles Roach** with **Jason Longhurst** from the Black Country Consortium.

As ever, the theme of the dinner was business success in the delivery of sustainable development solutions. This year's Guest Speaker was **Louis Brimacombe**, Manager of the Environment Department at Corus R,D&T.

Photographs and quotes from the event can be seen on www.mebconline.com

2. Peter Braithwaite – MEBC Member of the Year

Read at the Dinner by MEBC Chairman, Ian Aspley of Marley Eternit, the citation for the MEBC Member of the Year read: *This MEBC member has been a Board member for as long as most of us can remember. He has been a staunch member of the Club and an upholder of what it has been trying – and still tries to do. His practical understanding of the values of sustainable development are second to none and in his professional day job that knowledge has been adopted by businesses not only across the UK but in many distanced areas of the planet. Despite his globe trotting – offset by the incredible success of what he preaches and others implement under his encouragement – he always responds when the MEBC's CEO needs guidance or technical input. During the year he became an Honorary Professor of Birmingham University. He is – Peter Braithwaite.*

3. Sponsor needed for bigger event in 08

The 2007 MEBC Business Success Celebration Dinner was the best yet with a sell out at the Banqueting Suite of Birmingham's Council house. It was also the biggest and cannot now get bigger without moving into the second half of the current venue or finding a new home. Our preference is to stay where we are. There is a style at the Council House which is very attractive and it is obviously popular with those who attend. To use the whole Banqueting Suite will need

technical input so everyone can see what is going on. There is a cost to that. Our expansive plans would need £6,000 sponsorship. Can you help? A sponsor would get:

- Name and logo on everything including all pre-event publicity
- Coverage on the MEBC website
- Media coverage
- Display material opportunity
- Chance to speak at the event
- Table of 8

Anyone who might be interested please contact Jennie on jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk

4. Visit to Güssing

MEBC is linking with its sister organisation, the BCSD-UK in a best practice visit to the town of Güssing in Austria in March 08. Güssing is the first community in the EU to cut carbon emissions by more than 90%. It has captured the attention of scientists, politicians, eco-tourists and the press due to its radical embracing of alternative energy. The International Herald Tribune headlined their article on Güssing's extraordinary achievements; 'Dead-end' Austrian town blossoms with green energy

MEBC in association with BCSD-UK, EBOP and UKTI, invites you to join us on a visit to Güssing, Austria. Flying out from Birmingham International Airport on the afternoon of 11th March and returning the afternoon of 13th March 2008.

Provisional visit programme (tbc):

- A seminar in the European Centre for Renewable Energy
- A visit to the flagship biomass plant which uses a special fluidised bed steam gasification technology
- A presentation on the fuel cell technology and the work being done at the Austrian Bioenergy Centre and the University of Trondheim, Norway
- An overview of Burgenland's small scale wind projects
- The vision of the community fifteen years ago and the existing vision for the next five or ten years
- The business model for energy generation and the enterprise structure running it
- An overview on other similar projects in the close vicinity of Güssing aiming at renewable energy generation and / or consumption.

This visit will also offer opportunities for companies to meet with local businesses interested in JV and sourcing components and technology from the UK at a Civic dinner with the Mayor of Güssing and the MD of both the Güssing Biomass Plant and the European Centre for Renewable Energy.

Delegate fee to be confirmed but is expected to be less than £600 inc VAT.

For companies in the West Midlands there may be assistance for this which would reduce the cost to below £350 inc VAT.

Limited spaces. Reserve yours now! Phone 0121 693 8334 or email katieh@ebc-info.co.uk.

5. Diary Date - Visit to Biogas Specialists Greenfinch in Ludlow.

February 14th 2008 @2.30pm. This visit will be held in the Visitor Centre which is in the Biodigester building and will include a presentation and a tour through the viewing gallery windows. Please contact jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk if you would like to reserve a place.

6. Update on our Think Tank about Birmingham's Zero Carbon Housing

There was a good turnout for the MEBC's recent Think Tank hosted by Faber Maunsell at their Birmingham offices where the aspiration of the City of Birmingham to achieve "zero carbon housing" was rigorously debated. We were grateful to David Summersgill who spoke for the City. A clear opportunity for the MEBC to help the City was identified and this has subsequently been the focus of a discussion between MEBC's CEO and Sandy Taylor, Birmingham's sustainability supremo who is considering our proposals. Thanks to those who attended who have subsequently submitted ideas. More hopefully as soon as the City responds.

David Middleton
CEO
MEBC