



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



March 2009

In This Edition:

(Click headline for fast link to article)

Discounts for MEBC Members at BCSD-UK Summit

Sustainable Procurement at MEBC Event at ARUP

Location Visit – Birmingham's First Eco Village

RACTA – May 21st at Sustainability Live

CRC and Carbon Trading – Interactive Event

MEBC Welcomes New Members

EA Seeks New Blood for the REPAC

Environment Agency Seeks Answers

Discounts for MEBC Members at BCSD-UK Anniversary Summit

MEBC paid up members can enjoy a £50 discount off the £200 delegate fee for the BCSD-UK's 10th Anniversary Business Summit being held on March 26th in London. For more information on the event visit www.bcsd-uk.co.uk.



Business Council for Sustainable Development United Kingdom

10th Anniversary

BCSD-UK 10th Anniversary Business Summit

Summit Theme: In a world of turmoil and change we are joined by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to mark our 10th anniversary year by exploring what a future, low carbon world will look like by 2050, what new skills and new business models we need and what business opportunities are arising.

Thursday 26th March 2009 – 09.30-16.30
One Great George Street, Westminster
 Sponsored by:







Speakers

Paul Warwick, President, Europe and West Africa, ConocoPhillips
James Smith, Chairman, Shell UK
Ken Dalton, Group Chief Executive, AECOM Europe
Per Sandberg and members of the WBCSD
Jonathon Porritt, Chairman, Sustainable Development Commission
Isabel Dedring, Director of Environment, Mayor's Office, Mayor of London
Rt Hon Ed Milliband, Secretary of State, DECC (invited)



World First

WBCSD Consultative Workshop

























Vision 2050 is a project led by 26 member companies of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), with Alcoa Inc, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Storebrand ASA & Syngenta AG as co-chairs. This exciting and ambitious initiative aims to articulate what the role of business is in achieving a sustainable world in 2050 by looking at:

- The challenges we face today
- The pathways we need to follow to make the changes we need
- Possible solutions
- The role of business in this journey.

Join representatives of Vision 2050 member companies and Per Sandberg, Project Director of Vision 2050, to discuss some global views on challenges, changes and solutions to achieving a sustainable world. This will be a lively and interactive session which hopes to share some of the work-in-progress of the Vision 2050 project and to understand the perspectives of and the potential role the United Kingdom and its companies can play in creating a sustainable world.

coof d

Launch of BCSD-UK 10th Anniversary Progress Appraisal

Jonathon Porritt, Chairman, Sustainable Development Commission
 How we have progressed towards sustainability and what the essential next steps are.

BCSD-UK Progress Reports

The Low Carbon Economy

Richard John, AECOM

The BCSD-UK has staged consultation workshops around the UK to explore the level of knowledge and understanding within businesses about the carbon economy and to explore best practice going forward towards 2050. Richard has led this process and reports the results.

Carbon Trading Yorkshire

Richard Hall, Carbon Action Yorkshire

Carbon trading with the public and private sectors in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Decentralised Energy

Mark Saunders, E.ON

When the government's Business Taskforce on Sustainable Consumption and Production ended, BCSD-UK continued its work on decentralised energy. Knowledge and understanding were tested at workshops across the UK. The result - BCSD-UK's Guide to Decentralised Energy launched at this event.

New Business Model Think Tank

We report on a special Think Tank staged at BCSD's FutureScope facility in which we considered lessons learnt in the aftermath of the credit crunch and with the potential of us facing other 'crunches' such as on energy, climate change, pressure on vital resources, etc.

Food Security Think Tank

Richard Heathcote, Scottish & Newcastle

Northern Foods hosted this BCSD-UK investigation on the position of the UK food supply chain in the light of mounting pressures upon it. Richard chaired the event and reports on progress.

Young Business Leaders Group

Hugh Williams, Ecotech/Ecorys






Emulating the very successful model of the World Business Council, the BCSD-UK is seeking to develop its own initiative but designed especially for UK needs. The project is led by Hugh who outlines our aspirations and reports on progress.

Delegate fee £200.00 + VAT


BCSD-UK member companies will be entitled to one free delegate place. These will be allocated by the BCSD-UK secretariat based on date of receipt of registration forms.

To register to attend please complete the attached registration form and return to kateh@bcsc-info.co.uk, or contact Kate Hoare on 0121 693 8334.

Supported by:








BCSD-UK, c/o Environmental Business Communications Ltd, Unit 17, The Arch, 46-52 Foxglove Street, Birmingham, B5 6EL.
 Tel: 0121 693 8338 Fax: 0121 693 8448 e-mail: secretary@bcsc-info.co.uk web: www.bcsd-uk.co.uk

Co. Registration No. 372652 Affiliated branch in the UK  World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Procurement at MEBC Event at ARUP

An MEBC Workshop open to everyone.



Part of our regional role of advocating to regional businesses that sustainable development is a sound business proposition that can present new opportunities.

Wednesday 11th March 2009
18.00 – 20.00 including light refreshments and networking opportunities

Hosted by **ARUP** Solihull

Sustainable Procurement
Nick Mitchard
Associate, Sustainable Procurement and the Public Sector
Arup

The UK Government's 2006 Sustainable Development Strategy committed the public sector to leading by example in delivering sustainable development objectives. The public sector has a key role in furthering sustainable development through its procurement of buildings, goods and services.

A lot of environmental management deals with problems once they have happened. By carefully selecting the products bought and consumed it is possible to significantly reduce the source of many environmental problems. By taking a long-term approach and using whole life costing as a tool for analysing the true impacts of products and services it is possible to select environmentally preferable and sustainable goods and results in benefits for end users, tax payers and suppliers.

This briefing will look to identify 'what works, what doesn't work and what can be done to implement sustainable procurement into the public sector'. Key issues to be addressed include opportunities for improvement, constraints to delivery and tools to support implementation.

Increasing the sustainability of our activities
Steve Wallace
Global Head of Environment
National Grid

The presentation will identify the steps National Grid is taking to create a more sustainable future with a particular focus on our approach to stewardship of the environment. This will include examples from what we are doing to drive carbon out of the domestic heat market, reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and reduce and recycle waste in our street works and land contamination management activities. Examples will highlight how public policy decisions can either help or hinder National Grid on the road to a more sustainable future.

Who should attend?
Those in the public sector who procure and those in the private sector who supply and anyone with interests in either stage of the process. Anyone responsible for driving the sustainable development agenda in their organisations.

A free MEBC information, knowledge and networking opportunity

Midwest Environmental Business Congress,
c/o Environmental Business Communications Limited, The Environmental Business Centre,
Unit 13, The Arch, 40-52, Floodgate Street, Birmingham, B5 7SL.
Tel: 0121 693 4331 Fax: 0121 693 3448 e-mail: enquiries@mebc.info.co.uk web site: www.mbcostia.com

Sustainable procurement will feature as the main topic at the MEBC event to be held on March 11th at the ARUP Campus at Solihull. Guest speaker on the subject will be ARUP's own Nick Mitchard, Associate, Sustainable Procurement and the Public Sector.

Second keynote speaker, Steve Wallace, Global Head of Environment, National Grid, will talk about "increasing the sustainability of our activities".

Delegates will be invited to complete an MEBC survey about procurement which hopefully will indicate whether or not the Government has got it right in terms of helping SMEs respond to government tender opportunities.

Location Visit - Birmingham's First Eco Village – April 2nd

The Summerfield Eco-Village Partnership is an initiative started by local residents. It was the winner of the Public Sector category of The National Energy Efficiency Awards 2008.

The Eco Village includes eco homes with recycled denim and wool insulation; air source heat pumps; high frequency lighting; kitchens of 100% recycled materials; sun-pipes; solar panels. Over 300 homes have solar panels and energy saving devices. The scheme includes a new eco office; a community facility; eco web site; eco radio station; school scheme.

From 14.00 to 16.00, limited numbers only – registration on first in basis. £15 plus VAT. **50% discount for MEBC and BCSD-UK members.**

For more information or to register, email jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk

RACTA – MAY 21st at Sustainability Live

MEBC will be supporting the Advantage West Midlands sponsored Renewable And Clean Technology Audit workshop being held at the NEC, Birmingham on the final day of the Sustainability Live show. The event will take a business look at progress and barriers in the development of emerging new markets.

CRC and Carbon Trading – an Interactive Event on April 28th

The mysteries of Carbon Reduction Commitments and carbon trading will hopefully be blown asunder at an MEBC supported event on April 28th in Birmingham. The second BCSD-UK General Meeting of the year will be held in conjunction with the Local Government Information Unit and will feature challenging delegates to manage a fictitious organisation facing demands of carbon reduction and will introduce marginal abatement cost curves to those who have never encountered them before.

The event is sponsored by Advantage West Midlands and support sponsored by Birmingham City Council.

Free event. For more information and to register, contact jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk

MEBC Welcomes New Members

We are delighted to welcome into membership Enpure Ltd.

EA Seeks New Blood for The REPAC

A communication from the Environment Agency reads: “We are recruiting new members for our two statutory advisory committees, Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (REPAC) and Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC).

We are looking for people from the Midlands who can apply their knowledge and experience to identify ways to protect and preserve the environment; particularly around regulated industries, conservation and riparian owner issues, angling, recreation and navigation.

Committee members influence our policies and ways of working; have an opportunity to work collaboratively with us and our broad network of committee members to make things happen.

Our Midlands committees meet three times a year at our Solihull office. REPAC specifically concentrates on pollution control, water resources, air quality and control of complex industrial processes as well as the disposal of controlled waste. RFERAC focuses on fisheries, recreation, navigation and conservation. Committee members are not paid but all expenses are reimbursed.

I do hope you will be able to submit a nomination. Completed application forms must be received by 31st March 2009. Further information on the committees, the current committee members and meeting minutes are on our Midlands Committee internet pages – visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk then select About Us > Our Organisations > Our Boards and Committees. If you have any questions regarding committee recruitment, please contact Harriet Templar on 0121 711 5995 or via harriet.templar@environment-agency.gov.uk”.

Environment Agency Seeks Answers

The Environment Agency is seeking responses to its consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan for the Severn. Using a new river basin planning approach it has a new opportunity to plan for and deliver, with the help of others, a better water environment.

They aim to achieve:

- cleaner inland and coastal waters
- wiser, sustainable use of water
- healthy ecosystems for wildlife that live in and around water
- rivers and lakes that are valued features of our urban and rural landscape.

The consultation process allows anyone with an interest in the water environment or the river basin planning process the opportunity to comment.

The Severn River Basin District is home to over 5.3 million people and covers an area of 21,590 square kilometres, with around one third of the district in Wales. As well the River Severn and its main tributaries the district includes the rivers of South East Wales and those of the counties of Avon and Somerset that drain into the Severn Estuary. There are a large number of habitat and wildlife areas, many of national and international importance. Although mostly rural in character, the district also has several major urban centres including Bristol, Cardiff and Coventry.

The Agency will improve the water environment by using cost-effective and innovative solutions. Where possible they will deal with pollution at source and make sure everyone plays their part.

The consultation runs until 22nd June 2009. Any person may make representations to the Agency regarding the contents of the draft plan by completing the online response form on the Environment Agency's web site www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd which also contains details of the Severn River Basin District and liaison panel memberships.

Alternatively, representations can be made via email to severnRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk, or in writing to: Harriet Templar, Environment Agency, Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1QT

Copies of the draft River Basin Management Plan consultation are available from their website, or can be provided in other forms including inspection at their offices. For details or any other questions, please contact Harriet Templar at the Solihull address or on 0121 711 5995.

David Middleton
CEO
MEBC

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: jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk • Internet: <http://www.mebconline.com>
Midlands Environmental Business Company Limited
Registered in England & Wales • Registered Company Number: 3186541