



**MEBC SD News – February 2008**  
**Issued to MEBC members and close contacts**

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**1. Offer to fund work from Wolverhampton University**

From Wolverhampton University. *“We have a small pot of money for small consultancy jobs (= 4 days work) - its government funding through MAS. There is a little left over from 2007/8 that can be used in March + not any later, and it can only be used by SMEs in the manufacturing sector. Typically the work might be to analyse a product (production process or waste stream maybe) or carry out a focussed Web search on a topic (e.g. I did a feasibility study for BrumCam about introducing a wood pelleting process to increase their turnover).”*

If anyone is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity at no cost please contact Dr Clive Roberts.

*“Timescales are short and all work needs to be done in March, although there might be more funding next year (not certain yet)”.*

Dr Clive Roberts, Senior Lecturer, Geography and Environmental Science Group, School of Applied Sciences,  
University of Wolverhampton Email: [C.L.Roberts@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:C.L.Roberts@wlv.ac.uk) Tel: 01902 322192 (direct)

**2. Debate on the Carbon Economy – March 13<sup>th</sup> at ARUP, Solihull**

More than 50 people have already booked into this event to be hosted by ARUP at the ARUP Campus, Solihull where Hon. Prof. and ARUP Director Peter Braithwaite will lead a debate on the differences between zero carbon, climate change and sustainable development. See attached flyer. If you have not already registered and would like to do so please complete the bottom half of the flyer and return it to [jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk](mailto:jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk).

**3. LOCATION VISIT – Francis Court Zero Carbon Housing Development – March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Accord Housing Association has invited us to visit its Halesowen project designed for the over 45s and including super insulation, low energy design, passive ventilation, sunspaces, and so on. A morning visit through to lunch. Limited places available. More info via [jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk](mailto:jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk).

#### 4. LOCATION VISIT – Birmingham University Green Roof Garden – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thanks to Dr Adam Bates at Birmingham University who is overseeing the green roof projects at the University plus other sites across the City. Open to maximum of 30 delegates. Morning event through to lunch. Organised with help from WSP. Contact [jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk](mailto:jenniem@ebc-info.co.uk) for more details.

#### 5. EVENT REPORT - Location visit to anaerobic digester at Ludlow



Thanks to Michael Chesshire of Greenfinch for organising the site visit to the anaerobic digester demonstrator at Ludlow. Thanks too for his excellent presentation which explained the process but also demonstrated quite how far behind other parts of the world we are including China where millions of people cook their food off mini systems.

Slides from Michael's presentation can be obtained from [katieh@ebc-info.co.uk](mailto:katieh@ebc-info.co.uk) and copies of the graphic panels around the presentation room can be found in the Document Library of the website [www.mebconline.com](http://www.mebconline.com).

*"Michael Chesshire's depth of knowledge, his ability to convey clearly both the science and the economics of food-waste and farm-waste to energy CHP, and his sheer enthusiasm, are inspiring. The model deserves wider application. It adds to the necessary cautious optimism that renewable energy can and will make a major contribution in the UK to the stabilisation of climate change and promote more thoughtful and responsible consumption."*

- Paul Mountain, Martineau Johnson

*"The visit to the Greenfinch site proved to be incredibly informative and useful. It was good to see some good ideas put into practice. There are a lot of theorists and strategists in modern day commerce, but very few activists. I hope that other companies and organisations follow this leading example as a matter of urgency. It was a very well organised event and I got a great deal from it. As well as some interesting information, I managed to form some excellent networking contacts."*

- Scott Tamplin, ENER.G Combined Power

#### 6. EVENT REPORT – Delegates judge RTA a success.

There was a full house on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the MEBC supported Renewables Technology Audit staged at the Birmingham Council House, sponsored by Birmingham City Council and supported by AWM via the BREW fund, GOWM and others. Speakers included Deane Flint from Mitsubishi Electric Living Environmental Systems; Mike Froom from Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies; Garry Albutt from Worcester Bosch Group, and Dr Mike Ahearne who stood in at the very last minute for an absent speaker on biofuels. We are currently analysing the results and will report further.

## **7. DIARY DATE FOR MEBC AGM**

The 2008 MEBC AGM will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> and hosted by Eversheds LLP, Birmingham.

## **8. BUSINESS SUCCESS CELEBRATION DINNER**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date for your diary for the not-to-be-missed MEBC Business Success Celebration Dinner. Subject to finding a sponsor, based on the sell out of last year's event we are now inspired to try and fill the second part of the Banqueting Suite. More information as it develops.

David Middleton  
CEO  
MEBC