



Sustainable Development News From MEBC

Midlands Environmental Business Company, the proprietor of the Midlands Environmental Business Club formed in 1991, is a not-for-profit business managed by public and private sector representatives to promote the business values of sustainable development.

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Good Attendance at ELV Breakfast Briefing that Wasn't



Why wasn't it? Well, this event, staged as an element of the MEBC's series of Business Breakfast Briefings being held across the West Midlands during 2004, sponsored by Advantage West Midlands and supported by organisations such as Business Links, was actually a half day conference ending in lunch held at the Metalforming Centre, West Bromwich.

Suggested as a topical topic by Black Country specialist company, Rozzone, focus of the event was the new End Of Vehicle Life Directive that has a major impact on any business involved with the dismantling of vehicles and the recycling of their components. Speakers were from the DTI, the Environment Agency, SMMT, City of Birmingham and Rozzone. Their slides can be found on the MEBC web sites on www.envirobiz.co.uk/BBBJan04onELV.pdf

Networking at the BBB

As ever, networking at the event was productive as the event itself with delegates in busy conversation over the buffet lunch. Left – Rozzone took the opportunity to display their technology. Right – Barbara Yates of the Environment Agency with Bob Dorman, Project Manager of the MEBC's Wind Supply project.



WEEE & RoHS Feature at March BBB in Kenilworth



All regional manufacturers and engineers should be aware of the consequences of the WEEE and RoHS Directives event though they are mainly aimed at the electronics industry. If you use electronics or if they are in your products, these new Directives are matters to concern you.

Sponsored by AWM and hosted by Warwickshire County Council, the event will be held at the Woodside Conference Centre, Kenilworth on Tuesday March 9th. To register, phone 0121 693 8331.

Speakers on the featured topic will be Dr Martin Goosey, Chief Scientist and Technology Fellow with Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials in Coventry, John Deegan, Director of Planning, Transport & Environmental Services, WCC, Glenn Fleet, Waste Minimisation Manager, WCC, and Howard Anderson, Development Manager, Business Links, Coventry and Warwickshire. Other speakers will report on the MEBC's industrial symbiosis programme and the WindSupply project which, having started the development of a supply chain to the wind energy industry, is now widening the agenda to other renewables.

Industrial Symbiosis Summit in Birmingham

MEBC is responsible in the West Midlands for the regional delivery of the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) run by the Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom. It is therefore delighted that the first NISP Annual Conference is to be staged in Birmingham in March to a specially invited audience.

Dr Alan Whitehead, MP for Southampton (Chair of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Waste Group and Chair of the Parliamentary Renewables and Sustainable Energy Group) and Jeff Tetlow (Managing Director of



ConocoPhillips European Power Limited and Chairman of the BCSD-UK) will lead the event that will demonstrate a "Year of Achievement" for the ground-breaking project. NISP is supported by the Onyx Environmental Trust and Advantage West Midlands and has already diverted tens of thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill, created new jobs and businesses.

MEBC in Hansard! We are grateful to John Firth of Severn Trent for pointing out that ST and the MEBC were mentioned in a recent House of Commons debate on climate change. The following link is to the Hansard record (see column 37WH) <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040127/halltext/40127h03.htm#4>

Education, Education, Education and a bit of skills development thrown in for good measure

MEBC is at the very start of investigating how it might contribute to the educational and skills development areas by transferring knowledge and experience gained from its project work. CEO, David Middleton, says “For a long time we have felt that there is a need to rekindle in youngsters a pride, culture and ethos in making things. We were at one time the “workshop of the world” and renowned for the quality of what we made. Surely we can stimulate youthful interest if the focus is on making things to help people live on a changing planet as distinct from making things that pollute.”

The WindSupply project has shown clearly that a modern wind power generator is basically made up of components the West Midlands has for decades made for other sectors, especially automotive. Middleton says “we define the global market for environmental products and services as being the need for wind turbines on-shore and off-shore, flood defence systems, recycling equipment, bio-energy, pvs, geo-energy, land clean-up – an endless shopping list. And as the WindSupply project so clearly demonstrates, all these things need equipment that has to be made somewhere. It needs design. It needs installation management, It needs project management – and finance and insurance. But if we are truly to develop a supply capability to meet this opportunity, we do need to attract youngsters and provide them with the skills these markets demand.



MEBC has launched investigatory discussions with a variety of organisations including Advantage West Midlands, the Learning & Skills Council and the SETPOINT initiative that provides an interface between business and places of education. Middleton says: “There is considerable interest in our ideas but we have yet to sit down and develop delivery ideas in detail. As with all other MEBC projects, we hope to establish a Project Advisory Group (PAG) and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who might wish to contribute to that or at least hear more about what we are trying to do.

Looking for a Job

Felicity Davies attained a high 2.1 BSc in Biological Sciences with Environmental Resources from the University of Warwick, 2002 and has just completed an MSc in Integrated Environmental Sciences, specialising in environmental engineering at the University of Southampton and is expected to achieve a distinction class. She has finished her course including her thesis, but will not formally graduate until June 2004. She is therefore currently available for work.

During the completion of her 20000-word MSc thesis on macroinvertebrate diversity, she utilised her sound time management and organisational skills and liaised with the Environment Agency. Academically, she has gained sound knowledge in such fields as contaminated land, environmental law, environmental economics, waste resource management and GIS. She also has experience in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, contaminated land legislation analysis and land-use surveys. Felicity is keen to apply her skills to new and challenging situations while developing practical experience. She is currently available for interview and free to start work. Contact details via MEBC on 0121 693 8331

Are You In The Network Yet?

Be informed – be able to exchange knowledge and information – talk to those who have already done what you may be about to do – understand business benefit opportunities – be forewarned about statutory requirements – learn and understand ahead of your competitors – enjoy discounts for Workshops and Conferences.

MEBC

At the forefront in promoting the business values of sustainable development

0121 693 8331

Got a Job

Birmingham based Environmental Business Communications (EBC) that manages and develops both the Midlands Environmental Business Club (MEBC) and the Business Council for Sustainable Development- United Kingdom (BCSD-UK), has recently counter-balanced its until now predominant aged team (says MD David Middleton) by appointing two youthful additions.

Will Clark has joined as a Project Manager but particularly to work on the industrial symbiosis programme. He graduated from the University of Leeds in 2000 with a class 2.1 BSc in Environmental Biogeoscience and undertook temporary employment in order to pay off debts and raise funds for travel. He was Environmental Manager at Harvey & Son (Lewes) Ltd. in 2001 and worked with Surrey-based consultancy Brewing Research International to develop and maintain an EMS for the company. He followed this working experience by undertaking an MSc in Environmental Technology at Imperial College London, with Business & the Environment as a second term specialism. Concentrated on Industrial Ecology as a tool for achieving sustainable business, working closely with Marks & Spencer on a scoping study and undertaking a research thesis entitled ‘Industrial Symbiosis – a framework analysis of inter-firm waste recycling’. This sought to identify opportunities for and barriers to IS and became involved with NISP as a result of this research. He lived in Hamburg between 1993 and 1996 so has a good grasp of the German language.

Jon Roberts has been appointed as an Assistant Project Manager. Born and still living in Redditch and educated at Alcester Grammar School prior to the University of Southampton where he gained an MSc. in Integrated Environmental Sciences. His studies covered Environmental Impact Assessment (ISO14001); Environmental Economics; Environmental Law; Water Engineering; Coastal and Maritime Engineering; Environmental Communication; Geographical Information Systems; Restoration Ecology. His MSc. project was undertaken in collaboration with Hampshire Environment Agency and was entitled ‘Factors affecting Local Biodiversity Action Plan take up in Hampshire and Isle of Wight & Creation of a Pilot Database to aid with Monitoring and Reporting’. He has a BSc. Biology (Hons).

Climate Change Update From UKCIP

Uncertainty and UKCIP02 climate change scenarios

'Handling uncertainties in the UKCIP02 scenarios of climate change' is a technical note from the Hadley Centre. It reviews the uncertainties in predictions of climate change and suggests ways in which they can be handled. It's available from the Hadley website at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/pubs/HCTN/index.html> and click on HCTN 44.

East of England – Living with climate change launch

The East of England report on adapting to the impacts of climate change in the region will be launched on Tuesday 9 March 2004 at Downing College, Cambridge, including a presentation by UKCIP Director, Chris West. After the launch, the full technical reports will be available on-line and there'll be print versions of a summary report and targeted information for local authorities and businesses. For information about the launch, contact vtilling.go-east@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk. There will be a dedicated website, and details will be circulated in the next e-news.

Those 2003 climate statistics

Record-breaking temperatures weren't the only new climate change fact-ettes from 2003. Despite those hottest recorded temperatures, overall 2003 was only the fifth warmest year for the UK: 1949, 1990, 1999 and 2002 were all warmer. Globally, 2003 was the third warmest year. 2003 was the sunniest year on record for England and Scotland, while England and Wales had their second driest year since 1766.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2003/pr20031216.html>

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2004/pr20040108.html>

<http://www.wmo.ch/index-en.html>

Half-day workshop "Save money - protect the environment"



Resource efficiency and waste minimisation are essential to good management practice. They are key components of environmental management which is now important to meet customer expectations in many supply chains. A half day workshop is to be held on Wednesday 24th March 2004 from 9.30 a.m to 13.00 p.m. at the Worcester Management Centre, 2nd Floor Unicorn Chambers, Crown Gate, Chapel

Walk, Worcester The free programme will cover Environmental management – the business case for resource efficiency and reducing environmental risks; using ISO14001 as a framework for systematically improving environmental management; examples of practical environmental management – Minimising waste maximising profit. Looking at "Envirowise" methods for design, packaging and resource efficiency to reduce costs; Managing legally, reducing risks. A brief look at environmental laws affecting wastes; Getting more help – how to get the best from the free help that is available such as the Environment and Energy Helpline and the Environment Agency's NetRegs initiative. Speakers: are Margaret Dobson, Bishops Wood Environmental Centre's business adviser, and Pauline Upsall, an Employment Solicitor with Amery Parkes.

To register on a workshop please contact Annette Matthews at Worcester Management Centre on 01905 619031

Climate change in the news

2004 has begun with a series of climate-related programmes and articles in the media. On BBC2's *Countryfile*, John Craven (SE Climate Change Partnership President) leads a discussion on what the UK is doing to prepare for climate change, including Environment Minister Elliot Morley on the panel.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/environment/programmes/countryfile/jan11.shtml>

Climate Wars is a two-part documentary on BBC Radio 4 looking at the politics behind the science of climate change. It's repeated on Sunday for those who missed the first broadcast.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/climatewars.shtml>

Forthcoming events

Planning and designing urban development to reflect the realities of climate change, **30 March 2004, London**. Speakers include Dr Richenda Connell - UKCIP, Prof. Nigel Arnell – Tyndall Centre/University of Southampton, Robert Wilby – Environment Agency, Dr Penny Bramwell – Government Office for London and Trevor Houghton – CAG Consultants.

http://www.landorconferences.co.uk/conference_files/co131.pdf

Facing up to climate change, together, **1 April 2004, NEC, Birmingham**. The Environment Agency, in collaboration with Sustainability West Midlands and the Climate Change Sub-Group of the East Midlands Regional Assembly, is running this half-day session alongside the Environmental Technology Exhibition (ET2004). It will provide an opportunity to explore options for building upon existing alliances in both the East and West Midlands. Speakers include Gerry Metcalf from UKCIP. For information, contact gerry.metcalf@ukcip.org.uk.

Engaging Business in Biodiversity

On Thursday 18th March 2004 at BMW's Hams Hall Engine Plant, Warwickshire, the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership is holding an afternoon workshop for biodiversity practitioners on engaging businesses in biodiversity, and an evening event for business people on how business can help wildlife. The afternoon event is from 1:00pm until 4:30pm, and will explore:

- What is meant by 'engagement'
- Ways in which companies approach biodiversity conservation
- Hot tips regarding engaging businesses

The workshop will be facilitated by Earthwatch and the wildlife interest at BMW's Hams Hall Engine Plant will be showcased. A buffet lunch will be provided.

The workshop will be followed by an evening reception for business people interested in biodiversity. Guest speaker is Professor Chris Baines. The wildlife interest at BMW's Hams Hall Engine Plant, and the Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark will be showcased.

For further information, or to book a place, please contact Helen Taylor on 0121 454 8018, or enquiries@wmbp.org

Getting Hotter in Japan as Japan Goes Offshore for Wind Energy

According to the climate statistics released by the Japan Meteorological Agency, the average temperatures last November were higher than those in normal years across Japan. The average November temperatures in major cities were 14.5 degrees Celsius in Nagoya, up 2.6 degrees compared to normal years, 15.5 degrees in Osaka, up 2.3 degrees, 14.6 degrees in Hiroshima, up 2.3 degrees, and 16.1 degrees in Fukuoka, up 2.7 degrees. http://www.japanfs.org/db/database.cgi?cmd=dp&num=526&UserNum=&Pass=&AdminPass=&dp=data_e.html

Japan's first offshore wind turbines have started trial operations in Setana, a small coastal town in southern Hokkaido on the Japan Sea. The two 600 kW turbines, installed at the Port of Setana, have enough generating capacity to meet the demand of about 1,000 households. The town plans to start selling the generated electricity to Hokkaido Electric Power Co. in April 2004.

http://www.japanfs.org/db/database.cgi?cmd=dp&num=527&UserNum=&Pass=&AdminPass=&dp=data_e.html

Big West Midlands Interest In Wind Energy Supply Opportunity

**MEBC
Focusing On
Business
Opportunity**

Two workshops staged by the MEBC for the WindSupply project saw in excess of 150 engineering and manufacturing companies from the region learn about the needs of the emerging UK wind generated energy industry. The clear understanding of what is needed, who is buying what and from where is the market intelligence now achieved by this project which is now striving to link region businesses to the opportunity. Speaker slides from the West Bromwich and Coventry events can be seen in the Project Reports section of the MEBC web site at

www.envirobiz.co.uk



Captions: Top right. MEBC CEO David Middleton launches the event in Coventry. Left: Dr Chris Morris (Wind Prospect Limited) Chairman of the Project Advisory Group at Coventry. Centre: Delegates at the packed Information Table. Right: Near maximum audience at West Bromwich.

SEXI Lives On!

SEXI – the Sustainable Exhibition Industry project first launched by the Midlands Environmental Business Club, is now moving into a new phase as a joint venture between the Business Council for Sustainable Development – United Kingdom, and Business in the Community. SEXI first looked at the UK exhibition industry in conjunction with its three major trade associations, AEO, BECA and EVA representing the exhibition organisers, contractors and hall owners. The extensive project, funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme by Biffaward, found that thousands of tonnes of waste were going straight from exhibitions to landfill and that awareness about environmental responsibilities in the industry was very poor. An Action Plan was recommended to the industry. Now the target is to be the exhibition users – and especially businesses that proclaim high standards of environmental management but do not seem to translate that into practice when it comes to their exhibition activity.

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