



## EMAS in Poland

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On 23rd April 2008, the Municipality of Trzebinia organised an event dedicated to the implemented EMAS system in the Department of Environment Protection.

EMAS was introduced in Trzebinia as a result of NEST project, coordinated by Global to Local. One of the Municipality's Departments was successfully registered under EMAS on 14th February 2008. To publicise this, Trzebinia organised a local event where the results of NEST and implementation of EMAS were presented.

The EMAS event brought together over 100 participants, including local councillors, representatives of the county district authority, the Polish Ministry of Environment, Voivodeship Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Krakow, local enterprises and local schools teachers.

The Mayor of Trzebinia read a letter of congratulations from the Minister of Environment in which he stressed that Trzebinia is the very first local authority in Poland which has implemented and registered EMAS.

There was a presentation about EMAS, by Aleksandra Sobecka, a Global to Local consultant and Municipality officer who was responsible for putting the EMAS system in place.

The event was a big success and gave participants an insight into EMAS and what can be achieved in an organisation which implements the system. There is an expectation that other organisations will take the opportunity to use Trzebinia's experience.

# Every Child's Future Matters

East of England Regional Conference in Cambridge 22 February 2008

The "Every Child Matters" and the "Sustainable Communities" agendas provide local authorities with the opportunity to work cross-departmentally to ensure that sustainability is a core concern of and for all children and young people.



The Government Office for the East of England, in conjunction with Global to Local, organised a regional conference with the aim of moving this agenda forward in a positive way.

This conference provided an occasion for local authority officers, teachers, heads and students to learn about good practice in the region, overcoming obstacles and recognising opportunities. In addition to the presentations, there were discussion/workshop sessions covering school travel plans, food and waste.

Outcomes from the conference fed into a National Conference, "Shaping the Future: From every child's voice to sustainable choice", held in Cambridge on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

## Conference Programme

The day's programme began with presentations on partnerships.

Rose Edwards, Head of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service gave the example of the "Energy Works" schools programme which has involved the co-operation between the Office of Children and Young People's Services (OCYPS) and the Office of Environment and Community Services. Private sector partners are The Co-operative and Scottish Power.

Susan Falch-Lovesey, Head Environmental and Outdoor Learning, from Suffolk County Council gave a presentation on the Energy Busters programme which has been successfully running with primary schools in Norfolk and Suffolk and is now being piloted with secondary schools. It has been developed in conjunction with the National Trust.

John O'Connor director of the Harlow Education Consortium argued that schools and communities working together on a common shared agenda is both practical and effective. Using existing expertise and resources saves time and money.

This was followed by presentations from two secondary and one special school on their journey to become an eco school and on increasing biodiversity in school grounds.

The afternoon workshops on school travel food procurement and waste were lively and informative and benefited from the active participation of school pupils. The workshops were facilitated by Lynda Clarke, School Travel Advisor for the East of England, Karen Brenchley, Food for Life Partnership East of England Coordinator and Jenny Cross from the Schools Waste Action Group in Norfolk.

For a full report on the conference presentations, outcomes from the workshops and key messages, click [here](#) to download PDF

# Sustainable Management of Parks

The ESPO catalogue is produced jointly by Global to Local with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) and the Pro4 consortium of public sector suppliers. Click for [more information](#)

## ***Why is the Sustainable Management of Parks Included in the Catalogue?***

The management of parks and open spaces is a major employer of people and a significant user of products in the United Kingdom. Yet it has traditionally been characterised by forms of landscape management which are at variance with the nature of the service. Chemicals are used to eradicate pests and to fertilise and condition the soil, resulting in the poisoning of beneficial insects and organisms. Large quantities of green waste are also generated which are very often taken to landfill. The catalogue provides a wide range of fertilisers and pesticides which use harmless natural products to work in harmony with the environment, and recycling equipment to produce usable composts and conditioners on site.

## ***Benefits***

There are many benefits which can accrue to users of sustainable products and equipment including:

- Improved soil fertility without detriment to natural organisms
- Reduction of carbon footprint
- Less reliance on non-renewable sources
- Fertile composts and soil conditioners
- Reduced costs

## ***What Does the Catalogue Include?***

The catalogue features a range of new products. These have been carefully chosen to combine the greatest possible environmental benefits with a good deal for the customer. Tenders were drawn from a range of suppliers who were carefully checked to ensure that they offered value for money, a high quality product, and had excellent

environmental management credentials. Products offered in the catalogue cover:

1. Soil biotechnology products
2. Sustainable building cleaning
3. Horticultural products
4. Machinery
5. Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS).

## ***Other Information in the Catalogue***

The sustainability catalogue offers a wealth of useful information. Each section includes a preamble indicating how products were specified. Wherever possible Clear Skies initiative criteria and relevant European BS standards were used. A description is given of how products are priced. Features and system contents are included where appropriate to inform the buying process. Wherever specific accreditation has been achieved by a supplier, this is shown on individual product pages. Finally, to provide a more informed choice, product pages are illustrated to indicate clearly what is on offer.

## ***Viewing and Buying these Products***

Download a PDF of a catalogue of all these products from our website at:

<http://www.globaltolocal.com/Sustainables%20parks%20&%20SUDS.pdf>

For details of how to order a free catalogue or obtain further information visit the ESPO website at:

[www.espo.org/pdfs/200804-sustainables.pdf](http://www.espo.org/pdfs/200804-sustainables.pdf)

To talk to us about any aspect of the catalogue call **Peter Joyce** on:

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## World Sustainable Energy Days in Wels, Austria and National Sustainable Procurement Conference in Stockholm

Helmut Lusser, Managing Director of Global to Local reports on two recent trips abroad



Those of us who have been in the business for a long while often feel that all our efforts to help introduce more sustainability into policy, homes and businesses are instantaneously wiped out by new

consumer wants and trends and that all we are doing is running ever faster but always behind.

Two trips abroad shortly after the budget announcements, to the World Sustainable Energy days in Wels, Austria and a week later a national green procurement conference in Stockholm, made me feel that we are perhaps starting to catch up after all.

*At a European level the Draft Renewables Directive is being pushed through at record speed, which by 2020 will require all new build to reduce energy consumption by 20% AND to generate at least 20% of all energy needs including heating and cooling on site.*

This is trumped by the Sustainable Homes Code in the UK which is aiming for zero-carbon (still to be defined) on site for housing by 2016 and now also for commercial buildings by 2019. These are formidable targets, which if taken seriously, and there will be all sorts of wriggling, will have a major impact on innovation and expansion of more sustainable construction, materials, technology across Europe.

Another ray of hope is the proposed Directive for Clean and Green Vehicles, which abandons the wishful thinking in Europe that voluntary agreements with industry are going to work.

An average target for CO2 emissions of 120g CO2/km was aimed for in a voluntary agreement between the Commission and the European car industry in the early 2000 to be implemented by 2008. In about 2005 the car industry gave notice that they could not achieve those targets. It is now going to be enshrined in a binding directive with an implementation date envisaged by 2013. That is subject to ferocious opposition especially from the German car manufacturers, who want to sell big vehicles.

Connecting the two – renewable fuels for vehicles, the Renewables directive, states that EU biofuels must be 'cross compliant' meeting for example environmental rules and achieve a 35% Green House Gas savings. Considerable additional work will be needed here to deal with food shortage issues.

*Policy is a great driver, but won't succeed without diligent implementation and I am delighted that we are now seeing some significant results.*

Take the energy labelling of white goods – it is today near impossible to find a fridge which is labelled worse than A or A+. In fact all European production lines only produce the A+. Who would want to produce second rate anyway?

The success in labelling shows the advantage of regulation and policy at the heart of Europe as a technology driver – and we can see it in detail in terms of the evolution of EU procurement directives and guidance down into model specification, development of the Eco Flower and its very impressive growth over the last couple of years. Here we have the seeds for simplified public procurement across Europe with a built-in improvement curve on energy efficiency and resource use.

We are indeed preparing for the future and that leads me on to the treasure troves I found both in Austria and Sweden:

*The large exhibition halls in Wels brimmed over with materials and products, that would be the envy of the average housing construction site in the UK.*

First the passive parts of the building envelop: clay bricks and insulation (from renewable sources) that easily can achieve the 2016 targets coupled with highly efficient building techniques.

Wooden doors and windows from sustainable forestry externally clad with aluminium (recycled?) – no more maintenance! Passive houses with or without heating. PV, solar thermal, heat pumps, pellet heating and these increasingly in various combinations.

Hundreds of firms majoring in these fields – some sustainably others probably less so. Large scale production and use of course provides the experience to improve and combine renewable technologies in such a way that the technology becomes foolproof and easily useable.

We are still only at the stage equivalent to the black and white TV – we need to get to the plasma screen stage and beyond. But we are on the way, helped by effective policies such as the German Feed in laws for renewables, the Solar Obligation incorporated into Austrian building laws or the requirement for 60% of all heating to be from solar power in Barcelona.

Talk about policy – the Stockholm experience showed me that there is much more to come. For example the Swedish policy target to eliminate all products on the markets that contain poisonous chemicals (gift fria) - a huge challenge and opportunity for European

production. Or the ambition to go 'oil free' as reported by the oil commission a year ago.

*The Stockholm conference again showed me that the Swedes (not unlike the Danes or Austrians) once they have decided on a target quietly go about implementing it.*

There seems less distraction, less noise, fewer policy papers, but more implementation – and hence more results. The National Plan on sustainable procurement, was written by 4 persons, contained a number of key changes and targets required by public sector procurers, was supported by industry and is well on its way of implementation. The UK equivalent took a year for a response from Government (and a further 9 months from the Local Government), with many promises of new studies and research and coordination – but very weak on implementation.

Looking for more sustainable furniture? Vastra Gotlands Region produces a catalogue of ecolabelled furniture.

Looking for PVC free procurement in the health service? Stockholms Län, the regional organisation responsible for health in the region does it. The argument is a health one – there are too many dangerous chemicals involved in producing PVC. The organisation also looks at influencing the chemical composition of textiles and tyres. A first stab at the Gift Fria policy?

*Two very successful trips, providing food for thought and new bench marks. All in all much inspiration and scope for learning from each other in a one market place Europe!*

*“What do you mean, Global to Local is virtual? And employee-owned? And EMAS-registered?”*



As we've done these things since the company started in 1996, we may have some helpful experience to share with others. But we wouldn't claim to be experts: the system works for us, and maybe would work for others. This article is written in that spirit.

Starting with the easiest; EMPLOYEE-OWNED. Actually Global to Local is two separate organisations. Global to Local Ltd is the commercial arm (“limited by shares”) and Global to Local Foundation is not-for-profit (“limited by guarantee”). The commercial operation is a for-profit operation (not a co-operative); all staff are shareholders, the number of shares reflecting the length of time they have worked for Global to Local. For the Foundation, all are members.

Now the more interesting; VIRTUAL. This is where almost everything becomes a mirror-image of the conventional organisation. Our core numbers (ie the employees) are 11: 9 based in the UK (and mainly full time), with 2 part-time colleagues in Hungary and Poland. In addition we have working relations with a number of individuals and companies. The 9 UK staff all work from home (the spread currently is from Chorley to Jersey), and there is no central office. This is the core difference, because it fundamentally affects management style... and thus most other things as well.

In a virtual organisation there is very little chance for management to be micro or hands-on (think about it). So our ‘Management Light’ means that direction and targets are set (of course); but the overwhelming approach is permissive, and initiative is positively encouraged. In turn, none of us are employed on a fixed salary; we are paid according to the fees that we earn. This is a crucial part of the business model, because

Tim Cordy, director of Global to Local, shares our experience of being a virtual company

it's one of two key ‘disciplines’, in two directions.

First, we can set our own ‘work-life’ balance (personally I try to work more in the winter so I've more time for gardening-duties in spring and autumn). Second, it encourages us to focus on fee-earning work. So compared to a conventional consultancy we're taking a higher personal risk, but getting a higher % of the fees. But we ARE employees, we have a Business Management System that sets out a host of procedures, we place emphasis on mutual-support, and we recognise the need for a certain self-discipline to ensure that we're all working in more-or-less the same way.

Another core difference that stems from the geography is our communications. We have devised a range of techniques to manage this. We all have Skype, and we use the message-window on our Skype-ID to indicate where we are during the week We have a weekly start-the-week conference call, and 6-weekly physical meetings which are 40% business and 60% social.

Naturally the internet is essential. We use a file-update application called FolderShare. This means that colleagues working on the same project can share the same files, and that we can have a library of common documents (copies of accounts, company template-files etc).

Which leads in turn to another crucial element in our make-up, the need for efficient computers and effective users. [alan.spiller@globaltolocal.com](mailto:alan.spiller@globaltolocal.com) not only installs equipment and fire-fights the breakdowns, he also visits us remotely (we use LogMeIn) to ensure that we're backing up, and give us tutorials and support when needed.

Finally, EMAS-REGISTRATION. We believe we are the only virtual organisation to have ISO 14001 certification (we'd be interested to know of others).