Global to Local
WORKING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Newsletter
April 2006 No.016

www.globaltolocal.com

Launch of Web based eg magazine

Free throughout April

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Global to Local **is a partner in the EU Life funded SUN project, which has its final conference at the London Wetland Centre on 14th -16th June 2006. The conference aims to investigate the protection and enhancement of wildlife in the urban planning context by engaging stakeholders in innovative ways.**
Best practice experiences will be shared in the form of presentations and workshops with European municipalities, and the results of the project will be shared with participants.

For full details and a brochure for the conference please use this weblink:
www.sutton.gov.uk/environment/sunproject

For 12 years eg magazine has provided local authority officers and members, ngos, voluntary organisations and central government with analysis and news on a range of issues and highlighted the links between them:

- regeneration
- climate change
- community participation
- health
- housing
- environment
- biodiversity
- procurement
- social exclusion and so on.

We look at ways to inject local sustainability into community strategies, LSPs and LAAs, and how we actually deliver sustainable development locally.

We discuss the skills required, identify best practice, partnership working, facilitation, collaboration and leadership.

Many of you receiving this newsletter will already be familiar with **eg** magazine, but you may not yet have seen the NEW web version which was launched last week www.globaltolocal.com/egemagazine/

Do have a browse and experience at first-hand this invaluable source of material on sustainable development with live weblinks. eg is a unique tool providing news and analysis which is not readily available elsewhere.

Access to this web-based version is **free** throughout April and so please make the most of it – we need your views to develop **eg** further, so do please complete the online reader survey. For the time being we are continuing to produce the printed version of the magazine and this is being sent out to subscribers next week - if you would like a copy please email ege@globaltolocal.com

NB Subscription rates will be increased in the summer. Join now for as little as £30 to ensure that you keep up with the latest thinking and delivery on sustainable development and, increasingly, the sustainable communities agenda

LOCALISING THE FOOD CHAIN

Better value, better economy, better environment

The concluding round of Spring seminars, on **'supplying the public sector'**, sponsored through Defra's **Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative** (***PSFPI***) recently held in the South East, delivered some positive hits. Co-ordinated by Government Office for the South East (GOSE) in partnership with county-based food organisations, *'Hampshire Fare'*, and *'Produced in Kent'* (PinK), local growers, producers and suppliers were enticed into some innovative thinking and routes to market that benefit them, the local economy and the environment.

Ways to legally introduce more quantities of healthy, nutritious, fresh produce into the many diverse public sector contracts eg. for schools or hospital food, were facilitated by Global to Local as the Defra-appointed trainers for this 2005/06 programme.

***Produced in Kent*, Chief Executive, Adam Ellis-Jones (right) with David Pryce-Jones, Rural Team of GOSE and Jill Sargent, Membership Services of Produced in Kent, at Hadlow College, 29th March PSFPI session.**

Knowing where to look and how to pitch for tenders or network with the larger food service contractors is very much the name of the game. Helping the smaller enterprises become fitter for the future was picked up by Adam Ellis-Jones, CEO of *'Produced in Kent'* in Radio 4's *Farming Today* interview on 30th March, the day after the Kent session, in responding to the National Audit Office's report into procurement policies of public bodies: http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/procurement/nao-smarterfood.htm.

***Hampshire Fare,* through their 'meet the buyer' and supplier farm site visits, organised by Tim Brock demonstrates active commitment, sensitivity and support for local provenance at the 8th March PSFPI event.**

Global to Local's evaluation report being finalised for Defra, reviewing the 13 sessions held round England shows: good things are underway in all quarters, an awakening among the suppliers and a great willingness on all sides and a huge scope to share and do more.
For further details: fay.blair@globaltolocal.com Tel 01795 530154

HOTTING UP - THE SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT TASK FORCE

Over the coming weeks Sir Neville Simms (Chair) with project lead, Barbara Morton, will be finalising the Sustainable Procurement Task Force 'Action Plan'. Due to be launched sometime around mid to late May, the results of a highly intensive 10-month programme of work distilling and drawing evidence from what works well else where, tools and techniques that all can apply, will be divulged.
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmenvaud/740/74005.htm

Key recommendations on who, what and how the many diverse agencies and subsector organisations that make up the public sector - central and local government - can better lever their '£mega-billion' spend to deliver combined, economic, social and environmental outcomes, through public contracts, will be revealed.
Keep posted for outputs and outcomes on the following websites:
www.info4local.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

SUSTAINABILITY HITS THE DERBYSHIRE HILLS

Every child matters: next steps

In March, G2L completed its long-term sustainability training programme for Derbyshire County Council. Since January 2005, fifteen sustainability briefings have been provided for councillors, corporate and departmental management teams, while hundreds of service providers and members have attended thirty half-day awareness-raising events.

At these events, each participant produced a personal action plan to improve the sustainability performance of their own service area. Their results are being taken forward through the departmental teams that operate throughout the Council. Actions range from corporate level activities like ensuring sustainability principles are embedded into the new Council Plan and annual service plans down to specific measures for individual work areas.

Most of the half-day sessions were attended by a mix of staff from across the authority. However, a fifth were delivered to individual service teams, following the attendance of their senior managers at a briefing or main training event.

These included **customized events for staff from the Youth and the Adult Education services**, which were particularly interesting as they involved practitioners who tend to be infrequent participants in local authority sustainability training.

A key outcome from the youth worker sessions were the linkages they identified between sustainability principles and the five outcomes they have to deliver under 'Every Child Matters' - health & well-being, staying safe, enjoying/learning/achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well-being. Action plan measures focussed on these connections.

A common theme was that the training demonstrated that sustainability is not a burdensome add-on but lies squarely within their job description. Realizing and understanding this is the key step to delivering sustainability change.

One delegate underscored this by saying "Thanks for organising the training yesterday. It is probably the best training day I've ever attended and arguably the most important".

The adult education training hit similar buttons, though in more of a corporate sense. This formed around the consensus view that the service is positioned to deliver sustainability improvements in three areas.

Two are fairly obvious:

1. The service buys lots of goods, materials and services so sustainable procurement makes a lot of sense.
2. There is much scope for aligning operational procedures with sustainability goals.

But it is the third area that opens up interesting, and quite powerful, opportunities. Each term, in venues throughout the County, the service delivers courses to some 40,000 Derbyshire residents. It interfaces directly with people more than most other Council services.

Introducing sustainability principles into how its courses are taught, organized, delivered and resourced looks set to raise its potential for improving sustainability to a whole new level.

Behavioural Change at the Local Level

New funding for WRAP

Under Defra's Waste Implementation Programme, funding has been made available to WRAP for communications and awareness work directly focusing on increasing participation in recycling and waste minimisation initiatives in England.

For further information see: http://www.wrap.org.uk/local%5Fauthorities/

In the period 2004 – 2006, a total of 139 projects were funded under this programme; these projects have recently completed and the results will be available later in the year.

The funding for the next two years will run from June 2006 to 31st March 2008 and will be called the Behavioural Change Local Fund. A total of £16.1M has been allocated to increase participation in recycling and composting by householders by supporting communications and awareness raising activities carried out by local partners. Proposals may be aimed directly at increasing household participation, capture rates and quality of materials collected through existing schemes, and/or be designed to promote the introduction of new or improved collection infrastructure.

London Schools Take Up the Challenge

"Say It Loud!" Climate Change Project

The "Say It Loud!" project will be launched during London Sustainability Weeks.
This is an annual two-week campaign that coincides with World Environment Day, to raise awareness about sustainable development in London and how people can take local action towards this.
Hundreds of events take place all over the city and in 2006 we aim to encourage more young people to participate.
Activities will include:

a) Pledges to turn off lights, electrical appliances and water taps. Schools will be able to register their pledges on-line.
b) Individual Classroom activities eg workshops on global footprinting
c) Whole school initiatives on the theme of energy.
d) Development and implementation of School Travel Plans.

Say It Loud! Festival on 14th June 2006 at the Royal Geographical Society - a flagship launch event during London Sustainability Weeks to showcase school Climate Change projects with displays and stage presentations.
There will also be:

- workshops
- an interactive Climate Change Theatre show by *Global Action Plan* and *Moving Sounds*
- a visit to the Energy Gallery at the Science Museum.

There will be a follow-up festival in June 2007 to review school projects and share good practice.

During the school year 2006-07 we will provide advice, training and feedback to schools all over London on energy saving measures, renewable energy installations and school travel plans.
For a London schools information pack and registration form, please contact:anne.finnane@globaltolocal.com

A Poster Competition for schools across Europe

A new online competition for school children across Europe has been launched by the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport under the ManagEnergy initiative. The competition challenges young artists to create images of sustainable energy use in their local environment. It includes drawing and painting competition for children 7-11 and a photo competition for children aged 12-16. Entries by 30th June 2006.
http://www.managenergy.net/competition/competition_en.html

The European Structural Funds

A boring title, but with fascinating potential -: if you act now.

Europe: the background

The Structural and Cohesion Funds are the European Union's main instruments for supporting social and economic restructuring across the EU. They account for over one third of the European Union budget and are used to tackle regional disparities and support regional development through actions including developing infrastructure and telecommunications, developing human resources and supporting research and development.

In brief the Structural Funds programmes from 2007 to 2013 will have 3 objectives:

- Convergence, for regions with a GDP below 75% of the EU average: €252bn (82 %) of the fund will be spent on this objective, of which 20% on a ring-fenced Cohesion Fund (for the poorest Member States);
- Competitiveness, for other regions; €48bn or 15.7%;
- Co-operation, €7.5bn (2.4%), with separate cross-border (77%), trans-national (19%) and inter-regional (4%) components.

The European Commission has proposed a new three-tier strategic process. After the formal adoption of an EU budget and the Structural and Cohesion Funds Regulations the following have to be agreed in order: the Community Strategic Guidelines [done], a National Strategic Reference Framework for each Member State [now under consultation in UK] and then the Operational Programmes.

UK: next steps

The UK is expected to receive approximately €9.4 billion in Structural Funds (down from c€15bn in the present round). This includes €2.6 billion for Convergence (Cornwall, West Wales and the Valleys and the Highlands and Islands) and €6.2 billion for other areas (including special allowances for South Yorkshire and Merseyside). There is also €0.6 billion for Co-operation.

The DTI is co-ordinating the project for the UK's National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), which will also be used as a strategic guide for Operational Programmes. Their UK-wide consultation asks for comments on:

- The draft NSRF, to establish the broad priorities for Structural Funds spending across the UK for the period 2007-2013;
- the Government's proposals for distributing the UK's Structural Funds allocations under the Competitiveness Objective; and
- future arrangements for delivery of the Funds.

The new National Strategic Reference Framework will provide an overview of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the UK's devolved administrations and regions and will be used to identify the main priorities for future Structural Funds Programmes.

The Government will aim to publish a response to the consultation within three months of the close of the consultation on 22nd May. This will include a summary of responses, a statement of the Government's position on the issues raised, and the final National Strategic Reference Framework for the UK.

The consultation paper is available at www.dti.gov.uk/europe/structural.html

Responses by 22nd May

Who's in charge? Action is being led by DTI on behalf of government. In England, the Government Offices for the regions are taking the lead, supported by the RDAs. Local authorities are being consulted. Note that the final spending programmes will be decided at regional level, but the level of involvement of other stakeholders (eg municipalities) is likely to vary. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity, find out what is happening in your region.

Sustainability: how much?

For England, the Government is proposing that spending will be split equally between the ERDF and the ESF.

There will be four main priorities for ERDF spending under England's Competitiveness and Employment Programmes:

1. to promote innovation and knowledge transfer;
2. to stimulate enterprise;
3. to ensure sustainable development, production and consumption;
4. to build sustainable communities.

This is a once-for-all consultation, to identify priorities AND to pre-plan the Operational programmes which will set the budgets.
In London the regional office and the RDA are jointly undertaking the exercise, and a similar approach is likely to be taken in the other English Regions.
How much other organisations will be involved in the allocation of resources is unknown.
The ERDF component has sustainable consumption as one of four priorities, and there is a general presumption about sustainability as a 'cross-cutting theme'.

The best way to guarantee that the Structural-Funds-in-the-UK are truly sustainable is to ensure that the appropriate use is made of the present consultation exercise, and followed up with a well-argued package of proposals for inclusion in the Operational programmes.
Further help is available from *Global to Local*:
tim.cordy@globaltolocal.com
(Tel:01476 410904)

The draft NSDF states:

- "Across the UK, all future Structural Funds Programmes will include integrated strategies for addressing environmental concerns and respecting the principles of sustainable development. This is in keeping with the Government's *Sustainable Development Strategy* of March 2005, which emphasises the importance of taking an integrated approach to policy-making, recognising both the potential impact of economic policies on the environment and the potential economic benefits that environmental policies can bring.

  All Programmes that fall within its scope will comply with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, as adopted in the United Kingdom

- The priority "Ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption" will focus on promoting sustainable development, production and consumption. Examples of activities that may be supported include:

  – increasing innovation and adaptability in the use of natural resources (encouraging businesses to use the environment as an economic driver);

  – promoting take up and usage of low carbon sources of energy and greater efficiency in the use of energy;

  – making links between a better quality environment and tackling social and economic disadvantage and exclusion;

  – assisting businesses to become more profitable though resource efficiency savings, promoting eco-innovation and developing new technologies, products, process or services that reduce environmental impact and help businesses mitigate and adapt to climate change;

  – supporting businesses in establishing and, where they already exist, enhancing environmental management systems."

Networking with EMAS for Sustainable Development

The first newsletter from the NEST project is now available on line at www.emasnetwork.org. The newsletter provides up to date progress information on this exciting project working to implement EMAS in 10 EU municipalities. The newsletter includes best practise and case studies.