



Green North Tyneside Board Minutes

6th December 2012

Attendance:

Ian McKee (Chair)	North Tyneside Coalition of Disabled People
Phil Scott	NTC Head of Environmental Services
Cllr Edwin Hodson	NTC – Cabinet Member Transport and the Environment
Catherine Lyons	NTC Senior Manager, Waste & Environmental Sustainability
Colin MacDonald	Tadea
Ann Marie Crozier	Tyne Met College – Deputy Principal
Tony Baines	Northumbria Water Ltd
Michael Blades	Northumbria Health Care Trust
Graham Smith	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Clare Swift	Northumbria Police Vice-chair
Peter Hedley	Business Forum
In attendance:	
Paul Nelson	NTC Environmental Sustainability Manager
Michael Keenlyside	NTC Environmental Sustainability Officer
Julie Evans	NTC – Waste Strategy

Apologies:

Tony Turnbull	NTC Theme Coordinator
Ann Taylor	NTC Young Mayor Support Officer
Alfie Briggs	Young Cabinet Member
Susan Wear	Port of Tyne Authority
Jonathan Walker	North East Chamber of Commerce
Ken Wilson	NTC-Head of Regen., Dev. and Regulatory Services

1. Apologies, Welcome & Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Green North Tyneside Board meeting especially to all new visitors.

2. Presentation – NTC Waste Strategy and Future Targets

Julie Evans was seeking input from the Board as part of the consultation around the draft Waste Strategy. The focus of the Strategy is to change people's attitudes so that waste is seen as a resource. Julie then delivered a presentation summarising the achievements to date in minimising waste and increasing recycling in the Borough. The proposed new strategy will be up to 2030 so will include long term objectives for waste.

A number of specific items were discussed including:

- Potential of food waste collection, particularly in fuel generation
- Use of direct disposal of food waste into the sewerage system using 'garbage grinders'
- Changing the frequency of collections,
- Using small rubbish bins
- Link to businesses and potential for inward investment
- Focus on carbon in future targets

- Role of legislation.

The Chair thanked Julie for her presentation.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising from the last meeting 20th September 2012

The Young Mayor is keen to take part in initiatives and the Board was keen to support this. We are in a hand over period but will ensure that contact is maintained.

4. Work Plan – Baseline Work

Catherine Lyons reported that the direct approach for baseline information had not worked, and that the intention was to try a different strategy to gather this information. Suggestion was made that this could be part of the Carbon Award process.

5. Task and Finish Group – Carbon Award

An update was provided on the format and design of the Carbon Award. As reported at the last meeting the Bronze and Silver would be self-certified, using a checklist but that support would be available from the team. For the Gold award it would use member of the Board to assist in the validation process.

The self-certification process was based on the Positive About Disabled People award which was known to work well. The Carbon award won't be heavy in red tape. The companies will get positive publicity that will add value to their business. We would encourage businesses to be proud of it. It can be printed on stationary and printed annually. This will be linked in with North Tyneside Business Awards.

To date the group has spent £1,600 of the £5,000 budget so are well within budget. The Chair thought that the group had done a really good job. This was reinforced by Phil Scott as 'a fantastic job'

Actions Agreed:

- To have a full launch in the spring, using the remaining budget, so businesses will be ready for the next Business Awards in December.
- Board Members to champion the Awards
- Information to be posted on the NTSP website to enable benchmarking and develop a healthy sense of competition between organisations in terms of their carbon reduction.

Action: Clare Swift has spoken to Northumbria University; and has an offer of students to do a 2-3 week placement to help get organisations up and running. The placements will be part of their degree courses and they will work for free to gain experience. To follow up.

6. Task and Finish Group – Room Thermometer

A local business, Cobalt 3.1, asked for a thermometer for each of their managed office spaces are happy to be involved in the Business Awards and carbon awards. Your Homes Newcastle and a school in Newcastle requested thermometers and a link to the producers of the thermometers as they would like to do their own, so they have spread to neighbouring authorities.

Action: Board's Chair is to write to the NTSP Executive about the good reception the thermometers have had, and emphasise their role in reaching people at risk, highlighting the health implications of insufficient heat.

Other comments included that they were, "excellent and accurate which is remarkable" and "they show the integrity of the group; we believed in what we wanted to do and did it." It cost £18,000 to provide thermometers to 95,000 homes.

7. Future Projects

There is still money in the budget for future projects. We have already done quite a lot for very little. Agreed the need to change people's behaviour and improve our carbon footprint.

Paul Nelson went through an option to continue with a home energy efficiency scheme; similar to Warmzone which has historically delivered energy efficiency measures to 15,000 homes but the funding is ending. The Board agreed that to be successful actions should be Borough wide. The Council has £200,000 capital to be profiled over the next two years that can be used to source matched funding from ECO and Greed Deal, but the demand is in excess of this. The forecast is that for every pound included the project should attract £5-10 external funding. **Action:** PN to produce a bid for LAA funding to the NTSP Executive.

In response to a comment that is hard for some members of the public to come forward as it is difficult to clear lofts as it can be a huge amount of work Anne-Marie suggested that students could volunteer to help. They could clear out elderly people's lofts to make way for loft insulation as clearing out could be a barrier for a lot of elderly people. This could be part of developing campaigns in schools to publicise actions to reduce energy consumption.

Agreed that we should encourage schools to participate in the carbon awards.

8. Report to NTSP Executive

The Carbon Award was endorsed by the NTSP Executive.

NTSP Executive appreciated the work done towards re-registration, but thought that this was an issue more aligned to procurement. To be passed to Jacqueline Laughton for action. It was noted that lot of big organisations and supermarkets endorse Fairtrade. Churches and small community groups also endorse Fairtrade. It was noted that now with hundreds of items being labelled as Fairtrade it can be confusing.

The Chair also fed back on the State of the Area event. There was no particular focus on the environment or carbon, but a possible way in is the working with young people. This focus would be well received and opens doors. It was also noted that many of the young people have good ideas.

Any Other Business

Next Meetings 2013

Thursday 7th March – Northumbria Police, Conference Room, North Tyneside Area Command HQ, Middle Engine Lane, NE28 9NT

Thursday 6th June – Northumbrian Water, Northumberland Dock Road, Wallsend, NE28 0QD

Thursday 5th September, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue, North Tyneside Community East Fire Station, Preston Rd North, NE29 9PY

Thursday 5th December – Northumbria Healthcare Trust, Northumbria House, Cobalt Business Park, 7-8 Silver Fox Way, NE27 0QJ