

## North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership

**30 June 2008**

**11am**

**Woodhill House, Room A**

**Present:** Cllr Martin Ford (chair), Iain Gabriel, Roddy Matheson, Anne Laird, Fiona Graham (all Aberdeenshire Council), Fraser Lovie (Aberdeen University), Mike Salter, Geoff Runcie (Chamber of Commerce), Alan Owen (Robert Gordon University), Ewen Cameron (SNH), Tom Anderson (SEPA), Moira Gash and Andy Willox (FSB), Cllr Ron Clark, Sinclair Laing (for Jan Falconer) (Aberdeen City), Alastair Graham, Deborah Akiode (Grampian Police) Via v/c: Emma Gordon (Moray Council), Alex Tait (NHS Grampian)

**Apologies:** Peter Murray (Grampian Fire & Rescue), Clair Wright (Scottish Enterprise), Christine Gore (Aberdeenshire Council), Bill Slee (Macaulay), Gavin Miles (Cairngorm National Park Authority)

	<b>Minutes DRAFT</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	Cllr Martin Ford welcomed attendees	
<b>2</b>	Apologies as above	
<b>3</b>	MF thanked those attending the launch at All-Energy. Despite the short notice, there had been a number of high level representatives able to come and publicly endorse the launch as well as sign the Partnership Declaration. Although there had not been wide publicity, each organisation has been able to use the opportunity to publicise internally. The other organisations were arranging separate signature.	
<b>4</b>	Election of chair: Martin Ford was proposed by Ewen Cameron, seconded by Alex Tait. He was elected unopposed to be chair of the Partnership 2008/09.	
<b>5</b>	Additional members: It was agreed that representatives of the farming and forestry sectors would be appropriate. Not many farmers are members of Chamber of Commerce but some are members of FSB. Issue of small scale wind turbines on farms. RM is to ask for a representative from the NES Agricultural Advisory Group at its meeting on Thursday. The conservator of Forestry in NES is keen to join NESCCP. RM is to send the documents and confirm the appropriate representative.	<b>RM</b>
	SSE: Ian Marchant has a high profile on climate change issues. Relevance of Peterhead power station and, for example, grid issues linking to small scale projects in NES. MF is to send an invitation letter to SSE corporate HQ in Perth.	<b>MF</b>
	AG raised the option of a rep from the waste sector, eg Taylors or Shanks. TA would be able to provide a contact in the trade group for waste. It was decided not to invite at this stage. FL raised the issue of including the college sector eg SAC, Aberdeen College. AO suggested that maybe the universities could form a link and feed in to the NESCCP.	<b>AO</b>
<b>6</b>	Briefings: <u>Aberdeen City</u> : Committed to become carbon neutral by 2020, including all new council buildings to be zero carbon by then. Carbon Trust/Daily Telegraph Innovation Award 2007. Carbon Trust LA carbon management programme in 2003 (had reduced CO2 emissions by 31% by 05/06) and global footprint project with Aberdeenshire in 2006/7. All energy for council offices and streetlighting is from	

renewable source. Ref to ESCo, Aberdeen Heat & Power; AREG wind array; wind turbine at Cults PS; solar thermal at Bridge of Don. Target of 2.5% pa reduction in energy usage over next 10 years. Recently appointed new energy manager. Have environment champions within Council. EcoCity/Green Times to raise awareness within area. Plan to plant a tree for every person in City but funding may be an issue. Waste: target of 40% recycling by 2011; will be project on food waste in autumn. Waste minimisation: reduction of packaging could be an action for NESCCP.

SEPA: 2006 'State of the Environment' Report highlighted the importance of climate change. Have prepared a 5 year Climate change Action Plan which is awaiting the approval of the Board and then will be published. Deal with flooding in Scotland: warning, advice etc. Now include climate change issues in the planning consultation responses. Internal 'Greening SEPA' programme which covers a number of topics, including energy and travel. Have reduced air travel by 50%, excluding island travel. Have 'green co-ordinators' in all offices but these officers probably need more support.

There was a discussion on, for example making a payment of first aid/fire officers. FL said that Aberdeen University has a point scheme. It was agreed that senior staff need to lead by example and that it was a disincentive if this did not happen. EC said that at SNH there was an element of competition between offices which is good. Money is sometimes not the best idea. It was felt that responsibility should be embedded in job descriptions.

FSB: Key is that actions need to save money. Had prepared an 'energy toolkit' in 2003/04. Scottish Executive had published and made available electronically. Covers energy, waste and water but not much on transport. Now used by eg housing associations. Waste is a big issue for members. Recently launched a small business bonus/rates rebate scheme which included putting money back into environmental projects eg energy efficiency, reducing car travel.

EC pointed out that SNH had done a lot because can cut costs. MS felt this was the core of what the NESCCP was about ie saving money by using energy wisely, and then would reduce carbon footprint. Dealing with effects of climate change, eg flooding also important. Others felt that saving money and carbon reduction were not mutually exclusive. Within such a diverse group there would be a different approach but we agreed on the principles.

Grampian Police: Have an Environmental Action Plan 2006-08 and an Environmental Working Group to take forward initiatives. Had replaced an oil boiler in Queen Street with gas boiler: estimated 4 year payback. Use Ecover cleaning products: more expensive but better for the environment. Paper sourced is environmentally friendly. Contract to conform with WEEE regulations for electrical appliances. Facilities for battery disposal. Installing water meters on 2 site had reduced water use and saved substantial amount of money. Have 63 v/c units. Held competition for ideas: results included carshare scheme and computer turn-off campaign which are being followed up. 82% of the fleet was diesel because of lower emissions and better mpg. Will be evaluating a Toyota Prius on free trial, based at Woodhill House. Have a cycle-to-work scheme (tax free). Have appointed Deborah Akiode in 3 month post to help calculate a carbon emissions baseline and suggest ways to reduce footprint.

7 Round the table update:

Aberdeenshire Council: had finalised new Sustainability Charter and approved Climate Change Action Plan; both mainly aimed at Council operations.

Chamber of Commerce: use the consumer magazine as awareness raising communication, using network of influence with a focussed message which can save money for business. Important to get people to realise that they can make a

difference.

SNH: Had managed to cut energy consumption by 40% in the Rubislaw office. New joint office in Torry scheduled for May 2009. Newburgh/Balmedie sharing office accommodation with Council ranger. Increase in v/c had reduced car mileage. Continuing to incorporate renewables where possible, eg GSHP, turbine.

NHS: CHP at Forresterhill is on the verge of decision. Now talking to university side of site. Likely reductions of £800,000-£1m and 8,000 tonnes CO2 pa. Fiscal year reduction of 14% in energy (needs to check this). Adopting 'BREEAM for health care' in June. Have found that volunteer carbon champions not a very effective as tool to reduce energy. Not gone down wind turbine route but there had been discussion on the Council imposing rates on local links; RM advised that pipework was regarded as infrastructure by the assessors and, although sympathetic, they were bound by the regulations.

Moray Council: Working on carbon management programme, which will feed into a climate change action plan. Working with local organisations and businesses, eg biomass scheme at local school. Advised that Highland Council had asked for information on the NESCCP.

RGU: New buildings are to be much lower CO2. Centre for Understanding (CUSP) project had just received funding. Over next 5 years should be providing an "encyclopaedia of sustainable development practice". There will be a formal launch in October/November.

Aberdeen University: Working on CHP with NHS. Trial on remote switching of computers; will share the findings with group; up front quite expensive but high savings. Reducing travel is very complicated. Waste: send IT equipment for re-use in Africa. Use Cyrenians for disposing of items for re-use.

FSB: advise use of Councils social work for clear-outs. MG: had found that use of dual fuel/electric cars made a big difference but Aberdeen City found the opposite.

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#### Projects:

Discussion on awareness raising: behavioural change needs to be led by example, with organisations working internally to demonstrate commitment. Need to get media in to help champion the issue. Good presentations by Macaulay at business breakfast and Energetica. Should try to turn effects of climate change to the advantage of local businesses. Look for local examples of good practice to provide an incentive for others.

Ref to SDRC at Forres, which has a small business assessment tool, ran a national conference and was linked with academic work. FL would check links.

1. Agreed to run awareness raising campaign; arrange details at later date but likely to be early in 2009. **FL**
2. Check with Carbon Trust re a presentation/workshop event; could be part of 1. FG to contact Carbon Trust. **All**
3. Need to 'de bunk' the issue of offsetting. This could be linked with 5. to identify a measurable 'carbon budget' for the north east. Ideally, this could be alongside economic measures used by ACSEF & quality of life survey. **FG**
4. Agreed that it would be useful to have a central information point on available materials. It was asked if this could be through the Aberdeenshire Council web site.
5. Agreed that AO would progress discussion between Macaulay and universities on carbon budget. **AO**
6. Others: ref to carshare schemes and all linking to one ie NESTRANS rather than separate ones. Ref to other initiatives, eg LEADER programme which listed one project as 'illumination'; should check whether projects are in line with emission reduction policies.

9	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Scottish Government had recently launched a consultation on its proposed Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Comments should be submitted by October. Also launched a Climate Challenge Fund of £18.8m over 3 years for carbon emission reduction projects led by community groups but also including partnerships with local authorities etc. FG to circulate the links.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning Sustainable Environment Theme Forum has an overlap with NESCCP with member organisations and possible projects. The Forum had raised the point that there was a need for clarification and avoidance of any duplication. The link between the NESCCP and the Public Sector Property Group was also raised. Both these matters were to be discussed and clarified at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>FG</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
10	<p>Options for the next two meetings were to be circulated.</p> <p>Regarding a possible presentation from the Carbon Trust, it was felt that the meeting tended to have full agendas and it would be better to have the Carbon Trust as part of the awareness raising campaign.</p>	<p><b>FG</b></p>