

Solihull Visioning Sustainability Group

1.00pm Friday 6th December 2014
Civic Suite, Solihull Council

Action Points

Attendees

- John Baldwin (JB) – CNG Services
- Andrew Cole (AC) – Touchwood
- John Cave (JC) – EH Smith
- Mark Clemson (MC) – New World Solar
- Alexander Heath (AH) – SMBC Economic Development
- Nick Hewett (NW) – RWE npower
- James Higgins (JH) – Ecuity
- Paul Jenkins (PJe) – NEC Group
- Katie Judge (KJ) – SMBC Economic Development
- Joe McNamara (JMc) – Jaguar Land Rover (Chair)
- Robin Rison (RR) – Winning Moves
- Rachel Smith (RS) – Royal Haskoning DHV
- Laura Watson (LW) – Hardyman Group

Apologies

- Dave Biss (DB) – SMBC Sustainable Development
- Jonathan Bryan (JB) – Aero Engine Control
- Philip Johnson (PJo) – NISP
- Ken Mantock (KM) – Hardyman Group
- Beth Emberton (BE) – Arup
- Lynda Guest (LG) – Environment Agency

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of the Sustainability Visioning Group meeting of 19th September 2013 were agreed.

ACTIONS

- None

2. CNG Services – Low carbon innovation in the gas industry

John Baldwin from CNG Services presented an overview CNG Services www.cngservices.co.uk and low carbon innovation in the gas industry (see attached) including:

- Biomethane
- CNG for trucks
- Green Gas Certificates
- Shale gas developments

Biomethane injection to grid, growing dynamic market - first commercial project in UK 2012, 20 projects by end 2014. Biomethane is ideal way for hauliers to reduce their carbon footprint ~60%. CNG can offer significant costs savings for commercial truck operators.

UK Biomethane Day 2014 on 9th April 2014 at The National Motorcycle Museum - www.r-e-a.net/events/uk-biomethane-day-2014

ACTIONS

- AH - to promote UK Biomethane Day to the wider Sustainability Visioning Network

3. Business Development Programme

Robin Rison from Winning Moves presented an overview of the Business Development Programme and the additional support which available for Solihull businesses to access the grant funding programme - see attached.

Grant funding of £10,000 - £15,000, representing 45% of the total project costs. Jobs must be created/safeguarded as a direct result of the project implementation. Eligible costs include:

- Rent and rates associated with new premises
- Installation (heating, lighting and cabling) as part of relocation/expansion
- Marketing and branding
- Signage

Open to SMEs within eligible sectors, within the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership area – for further information visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/bdp

Solihull Council are offering free business advisor support with the application process – for further details contact Alexander Heath tel: 0121704 6529 e-mail: ah Heath@solihull.gov.uk

Also part of the programme is a coaching and mentoring programme, **Great 200 Leaders** - www.winningmoves.com/G200L. 200 business owners and directors have the opportunity to enroll on the 12 month programme, delivering 100 hours of support including:

- Leadership development plan
- 10 peer group workshops led by industry specialists
- One-to-one executive development
- Access to board level experts
- Benchmark Index – metrics for your company against competitors

JH reported that Ecuity had received support through the BDP for relocating to their new business premises and would recommend the programme to other businesses.

ACTIONS

- AH / JH – to develop a case study to promote the BDP programme
- AH – to promote the BDP programme to the wider Sustainability Visioning Network

4. Solihull Council's Economic Development Strategy / UK Central

Katie Judge from Solihull Council's Economic Development Team presented an overview of Solihull Council's Economic Development Strategy and UK Central – see attached.

UK Central is the unique concentration of strategic economic assets in Solihull that includes Jaguar Land Rover, Birmingham Airport and the NEC - offers an opportunity for growth on a scale that is of national significance. A strategic Masterplan provides a clear roadmap for realising this potential in a managed way building on the qualities and assets that make UKC a location of choice - creating employment as well as economic growth - www.uk-c.com

Key low carbon sectors for Solihull:

- Low emissions vehicles
- Remanufacturing
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Green buildings
- Environmental consultancy

How to achieve Green Growth:

- Business support / engagement
- Low carbon infrastructure investment
- Investment marketing
- Developing innovation capacity

ACTIONS

- ALL – welcome comments and feedback via AH

5. Progress Updates

Sustainability Visioning E- Newsletter

AH circulated a copy of December's 2013 Sustainability Visioning E- Newsletter –

- Jaguar Land Rover Sustainability Business Visit 17/12/13
- Plugged-In Midlands Grants for Electric Car Charging Points
- Plugged-in Fleets Initiative
- Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme Grants £20k - £1million
- Case Study: Automatic Shutdown Controls

Environmental Volunteering Event

AH reported that the proposed environmental volunteering event at Hillfield Park on Friday 18th October 2013 had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Business pressures and timing of the event were identified as particular factors.

The Group agreed we should focus on one large annual event in late spring / early summer.

Jaguar Land Rover Sustainability Business Visit – 17th December 2013

JMc reported that a Jaguar Land Rover Sustainability Business Visit has been arranged for the morning of 17th December 2013.

Delegates will have a tour of the plant, following vehicle production from start to finish. Hear real life sustainability case studies from the shop floor - including how improvements have been made to the existing manufacturing processes and facilities as well as how sustainable design is being incorporated within new build projects. Topics covered will include energy efficiency and waste management.

AH noted that the event had once again proved very popular and was already fully booked.

Energy & Resource Efficiency Workshop – 28th January 2014

AH reported that an 'Energy & Resource Efficiency' Workshop has been arranged in partnership with Smarter Working West Midlands and Solihull Chamber of Commerce for 4.00pm on Tuesday 28th January 2014 at Hogarths Hotel in Dorridge.

Delegates will hear 'top tips' on energy and resource efficiency from industry experts, case studies from local businesses and find out more about the support available through the Smarter Working West Midlands and the Green Bridge Supply Chain Programmes.

LW reported that Hardyman Group had received a free 'Energy Efficiency Survey' through Smarter Working West Midlands will be supporting the event as a local case study.

To register visit - www.eventsforce.net/ere

The event will be promoted via a Sustainability Visioning E-Newsletter and press release early in the New Year.

ACTIONS

- AH / DB – identify options for the next environmental volunteering event
- ALL – to promote the Energy & Resource Efficiency Workshop to their supply chain

5. Action Planning / Forward Programme

The Group reviewed and updated the SSVG Action Plan for 2013/14 – see attached.

The Group reviewed the 'Events Calendar' highlighting forthcoming events supported by the Group – see attached.

ACTIONS

- AH – 'Action Plan' and 'Events Calendar' to be updated and circulated for each meeting

6. Any Other Business

None.

Future Meeting Dates

- 1.00pm on Friday 31st January 2014 – Solihull Civic Suite
- 1.00pm on Friday 28th March 2014 – Solihull Civic Suite
- 1.00pm on Friday 30th May 2014 – Solihull Civic Suite
- 1.00pm on Friday 18th July 2014 – Solihull Civic Suite