



South West Biofuels Forum

NOTES OF MEETING

Wed 13 Aug 2008 10:30am–12:30pm
Eagle House Hotel, Launceston, Cornwall

Attendees

Guy Hitchcock	STS – <i>Chair</i>
Alastair Stevens	SWEA
Kierson Wise	SWEA
Christopher Maltin	Organic Power
Susan Moore	Organic Power
Andrew Butler	NFU
John Leith	Greenfleet
Ed Coleridge	Greenfleet
Paul Harris	Cornwall Farmers
Simon Dawes	Environment Agency
Tom Richardson	University of Exeter
Hilary Gooch	North Cornwall District Council

Apologies

Jody West	Devon Association of Renewable Energy
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Introduction, apologies and notes from last meeting

Guy Hitchcock opened the meeting and explained that he has taken up a new post at the University of Exeter. Introductions were given by all present.

No comments were made regarding the minutes from the last meeting.

Round table update

Organic Power updated on the EU MADAGASCAR project which is looking at promoting the use of gas fuelled cars across Europe. UK is still lagging behind other EU countries. Organic Power has the first new gas filling station and is selling gas at 20p lower than diesel. They are looking to work with local depot based van fleets.



NFU – expressed disappointment with the recently released Gallagher Review and the controversy over the conclusions not matching the body of the report. There is a push from the farming community for duty free limit to be raised from 2,500 litres to 5,000 litres.

Cornwall Farmers Cooperative – Interested in using cereal grains, in particular oats as they have a high calorific value, for renewable heating.

Greenfleet – Cornwall based distribution company using locally sourced bio-diesel in their fleet. Greenfleet have been making their own fuel from used cooking oil but as the price for UCO has risen they are now looking for alternative solutions.

SWEA – Severn Wye Energy Agency explained that the BioNett project was coming to an end on the 31st August and raised the issue of how to continue the SW Bio-fuels Forum beyond the end of the project.

SWEA also flagged up the best practice tools and pilot project case studies that would one of the outputs from the project.

North Cornwall District Council – Highlighted the SWEEG (South West Energy and Environment Group) and mentioned that Cornwall Councils would become unitary in April 2009.

Simon Dawes Environment Agency – presentation

Simon Dawes gave a presentation covering the Environment Agency 5 year carbon reduction strategy. The program includes assessment of energy and water use, waste, transport and carbon emissions and as part of the program they offer grants of up to 75% to carbon reduction projects nominated by staff.



The Agency is aiming for a national target of 30% carbon reduction by 2012 based on 2007 baseline.

In order to start addressing emissions from the vehicle fleet the Agency has trialled the use of B22 bio-diesel in some of their fleet. The fuel has been used in a wide range of vehicles that are topped up from bunkered fuel at three EA depots. Approx 130,000 litres of bio diesel has been used in the trial, the fuel is supplied by Rix.

The results of the trial have been promising with around 62 tonnes of CO₂ saved in year 1.

A visit was then undertaken to the Environment Agency Launceston Depot to see the biofuel tanks and vehicles. A 15kW wind turbine and a rainwater harvesting system have also been installed at the depot and were included in the site visit.

Action points

SWEA and Guy Hitchcock to collaborate in finding a way forward for the forum after the end of the BioNett project.

