



GREEN JOBS BRIEFING

There are a number of strands of work that are being carried out following the report to the Council's Executive:

1. Research into the scale and prospects for green jobs in York

1.1 Research has been undertaken to establish a methodology for counting green jobs in the City. This estimates the number of green jobs presently in York as approximately 7,000, with the potential for this to grow by 25% over the next 10 years. Key specific sectors are considered to be home energy/insulation, biomass, research and links to regional supply chains. Part of this research has involved consultation with the local business community (attached).

1.2 Yorkshire Cities have commissioned some research funded by RIEP to examine the current scale of green job opportunities in the urban authorities of Yorkshire and the Humber, an informed assessment of employment prospects to 2020 and clear policy recommendations on the ways in which the Yorkshire Cities can maximise opportunities. This work is now well underway and a final report is expected in February. Some details of this commission are available on their website www.yorkshirecities.org.uk.

1.3 Any further research to await outcomes from the above 2 pieces of work.

2. Higher York

2.1 Higher York has engaged, through the Leader and officers of the Council, with the developer and main contractor of the new CYC HQ building. Two meetings have been held with Miller Construction and S Harrison Ltd to discuss local labour, training and learning opportunities using the model developed at Heslington East with Construction Skills. An event will be held on 14 February at York College for local companies who are interested in working at the West Offices site. Both companies have been very positive about working with local colleges, schools and universities to support skills development including in the 'green skills' area.

2.2 HY discussion held to look at skills development in relation to current and future "green" programmes/training, including construction, offered in the City. Awaiting outcome from above research together the renewable energy survey commissioned by the City of York Council. These two pieces of work, together with the LDF will support the direction of travel for future skills provision. This activity is likely to take place in the next months.



2.3 LDF with HY looking at planning policy to roll out the Construction Skills Academy - although not all about green jobs, it would in principle support those wishing to learn about green building techniques. There is also a possible link into Council procurement. This work is ongoing.

3. Sustainability Team

3.1 Promoting low carbon development and energy planning:

On going work to create a renewable energy viability study for the city. This will be reported via the LDF in February 2011. Initial results indicate potential for large scale standalone low carbon technologies including technologies such as wind and combined heat and power. The report also estimated a potential low carbon / renewable energy generation capacity for the City and how many jobs could be created through generating such low carbon energy.

In addition, funding for the Urban Eco Settlement on the British Sugar site is currently being used to undertake a detailed feasibility study into renewable energy.

Green Business Club and Sustainability4Yorkshire continuing to offer events for York businesses to support them to reduce their carbon emissions. An event is planned for 25th January and 23rd March 2011.

In conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) /Sustainability4Yorkshire, a renewable energy showcase was held in November in York.

Proposals for the development of an environment business support programme presented in outline to the York Economic partnership in November with further presentations to follow to the York Business Forum in March 2011. Regional programme designed to help local businesses tackle climate change & save money through resource efficiency tools, on-line portal/website and up - skilled local authority officers. Tools include:

- Support Website
- Resource efficiency voucher (Free consultancy advice)
- Events and training (including LA officers training)
- Diagnostic tools for businesses

Ongoing work on the LDFs Core Strategy's Vision and chapters to embed sustainable, low carbon development across York. (This will include a chapter(s) on Sustainable Resource Use, Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Carbon Reduction Targets).

Extensive work have been undertaken to determine how to achieve the city's various carbon reduction targets. Work will now be undertaken into the detailed feasibility of delivering such targets.



3.2. Exercise powerful leadership:

On-going work with CYCs Carbon Management Programme. To date we have saved an estimated 1995 tonnes of carbon. On-going work also includes detailed feasibility into wind turbines on appropriate CYC sites.

On- going work on CYCs 10:10 campaign (will save approx. 1200t of Co2 in 2010).

The Climate Change Framework and Action Plan have been approved by Executive and will be live from February 2011.

Ongoing work to understand and determine the requirements on York to deliver its Covenants of Mayors Commitments (CoM). As above, modeling has just been completed to support the creation of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This submission will be made to CoM in April 2011. A paper will firstly go to Executive in early April.

Ongoing work with EST to support residents to save energy, gain financial assistance with grants and install renewable energy.

Carbon modeling study – work completed to inform the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan in December 2010. This identifies how the City can potentially reach its various carbon commitments.

3.3 Recent funding updates:

Climate for Change CVS programme - A new series of workshops for the CVS in York and North Yorkshire on low carbon practices and operations (total £12,000).

Aims:

- explore how climate change and energy issues can impact on organisations in the short and medium term
- offer practical advice on how to reduce costs, to ensure that the organisation continues its purpose and meets its goals
- show how reducing waste can save money, strengthen community links, improve self esteem and the health and wellbeing of staff and service users.
- On-line Toolkit for organisations to use.

Climate change risk assessments for York and North Yorkshire -

A sub-regional programme including two seconded, part-time officers to work for a total of 6 months to (1) undertake a comprehensive risk assessment for climate change adaptation

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work in partnership across Councils in York & North Yorkshire and (2) disseminate the results of this work both within the Y&NY Authorities and their partners, to create an individual council adaptation action plan to continue the adaptation work post March 2011 in York and North Yorkshire Authorities and partners. (total £15,000) .

Climate Change Skills Fund

In the Yorkshire and Humber Region we have been given £860,000 by CLG to deliver climate change programmes by June 2011. The main thrust of the programme is around supporting the role that Planning can play in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation work. An initial set of project areas have been drawn up. The key areas of work are:

- Leadership and Skills - covering elected members and planning officers and related professions (accredited training).
- Planning Policy - work area to focus on policy development, e.g. further streamlining of permitted development rights, supporting LAs to deliver their planning policy targets (e.g. % of renewables in new developments), improve transparency of decision making and reducing appeals.
- Best Practice Hub - focus on built environment best practice mitigation / adaptation work and learning.
- Citizen Engagement - working with Energy Savings Trust to support householders in realising the benefits of renewables, how to get them installed, and being well adapted to a changing climate.
- Historical Assets - Improving planning policy to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in historical / listed buildings and conservation areas.

To date, CYC is leading on the Citizen Engagement fund for York and North Yorkshire, and in partnership with the SEI and Sustainability4Yorkshire, will be bidding for £70,000 to achieve the following in:

- Based on a successful pilot in York, and utilising the expertise of Sustainability4Yorkshire, a North Yorkshire Green Neighbourhood challenge will work with 7 community groups across the region (including a community in York). The challenge will involve 7 teams in North Yorkshire competing to reduce their carbon footprint for financial rewards that can then be used by the group to carry on further work in this area or to look at wider community improvement projects. The project aims to achieve a measurable reduction in household carbon emissions, raise public awareness of low carbon lifestyles and foster community cohesion.

Leeds City Region – Low Carbon Framework

This £3m (over 10 pilot areas) programme includes five key projects :

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- Low Carbon Economic Analysis – Mini-stern report looking at the costs and economic opportunities of policy responses to climate change.
- Low Carbon Innovation – Linking with the LCR's Innovation Programme – open innovation events leading to the development of an innovation competition for low carbon technologies.
- Domestic Energy & Efficiency Programme (DEEP) – Includes the delivery of a DEEP pilot area and cost benefit analysis.
- Commercial Property – A feasibility study looking at a potential revolving loan fund to incentivise energy efficiency retrofit on commercial properties.
- Renewable Energy Strategies – Piloting local renewable energy strategies in two of the Urban Eco Settlement locations, including the production of local investment prospectuses that to facilitate discussions with communities and business.

CYC is piloting some of this work via the Domestic Energy & Efficiency Programme (DEEP) and Renewable Energy Strategies strands of this programme.

4. Enterprise

4.1 Outline enterprise strategy, with potential to include a green jobs theme, presented to the York Economic Partnership in November. Further work underway to prepare a 3 year action plan.

4.2 Enterprise training, focussed on a green theme, supported by the Council, Science city York and NYBEP underway covering Year 9 pupils across secondary schools in the City.

5. North Selby Mine

5.1 An update will be provided at the meeting – currently awaiting further comments from Science City York.

6. Science City York –biorenewables demonstrator facility

6.1. Science City York are seeking to establish an international centre for excellence in biorenewables technology, to develop biorenewable feedstocks to replace a wide range of petroleum-based products. This is in partnership with a number of private sector partners, including Unilever, GSK and Croda. The project will be mainly delivered within the FERA site at Sand Hutton. An application to support this is being made to the first round of the Regional Growth Fund in January with endorsement from the York Economic Partnership and the Leeds City Region. Projected outputs from the proposal are the creation of 200 new jobs with 300 jobs safeguarded, 30 new businesses created, 135 level 2 and 3 skills and 135 level 4 skills.