

Steering Group No 3, 28th September 2004, Manchester University MINUTES

JR 12-10-04

Project team meeting: Cllr Neil Swannick, Alastair Moore, Clair Visco, Glyn Edwards, Innes Deans, Jayne Ashley, Julian Ridal, Nigel Lawson, Rachel Birch, David Wathey, Etienne Butruille, Joe Ravetz,

Steering Group Forum: as above plus Nick Storer, John Handley, Phil Roberts, Dominica Babicki,

Apologies: Mark Atherton, Peter Jones, Henry Leveson Gower, Sally Randles, Jonathan Nobbs, Simon Shackley, Todd Holden, Chris Shearlock

PROJECT TEAM MEETING

1. Report on progress

- The project programme had been put back with completion in Sept 2005, in order to coordinate with the national REAP development programme.
- Preliminary results were available in the AFS (Action for Sustainability) Ecological Footprint study for NWRA in early 2004, however the methods have now seen major improvements.

2. MFA – EF method and REAP system

For the REAP data / model system under development, key issues were discussed for further action and research:

- Questions of accounting / regional boundaries, e.g. for power generation
- Allocation of air travel & foreign tourism
- Possibility of breakdown and applicability to city / local authority level.
- Need to see some real example results in order to test the system & its potential applications.

SEI /CURE

Waste management applications

- Policy applications – MSW up to now driven by recycling targets: this may change.
- Need specific technology details in the info system – e.g. GMWDA strategy based on mechanical biological treatment (MBT) & refuse-derived fuel (RDF). Lancashire has innovative MBT system.
- Possible links to cluster development, resource efficiency initiatives etc, to be followed up with NWDA.
- GMWDA is procuring the largest single disposal contract in the UK, and would benefit from the best possible analysis: if Eco-region NW is useful for this it would focus on the contribution of the mass balance / footprint analysis to waste info systems.

CURE / BRE

Construction sector applications

- Construction was acting as the demonstration sector: applying the MBA-EF information system to a large industrial sector. This would highlight the issues, options and benchmark systems: for development policy, for construction firms, and for building designers.
- A first baseline set of data was presented on the resource flows in construction.
- Further work would involve linkages with NWRA, MWDA and industry bodies.

BRE / CURE

Business benchmarking applications

- Revised benchmarking proposals were presented, in the light of experience from existing schemes ASSESS and ENWORKS.
- Any new scheme should be designed around availability of data & possible incentives to business.
- Possible links with Env Agency – compliance based risk reduction for business.
- Benchmarking template to be further designed in the light of the above.

CURE

Regional policy applications

- The first major application of the Eco-region / REAP system would be to appraise the Regional Spatial Strategy & Regional Economic Strategy.

CURE

Management issues

- CURE will set up a further consultants team meeting in early Jan 2005, and this will set the next milestone. Interim reports will be circulated at this point.
- Consultants will coordinate via phone conferences to be set up at 4-weekly intervals.
- Technical outputs will be completed by end June, in order for the final reports & website to be compiled by end 2005.
- There is likely to be continuation of spin-off from the national REAP model & Eco-Budget UK project, to early 2006.

AOB & next meeting

- The next full Steering Group meeting is proposed on **29th March 2005**. (location to be advised)

STEERING GROUP FORUM

APPLICATIONS

- Applications to waste & resource management:
- Applications to business-environment & construction sector:
- Applications to regional policy:

GENERAL ISSUES (to be reported in next update)

- Connecting information to action: challenge of getting the right level of complexity / detail.
 - Environmental accounting: is carbon a universal medium for environmental impact?
 - Ecological footprinting: can the method be applied usefully to industrial production, product design & public procurement?
 - Sustainable consumption & production: is there a political commitment & mandate for taking this forward?
 - Business-environment & ethical consumption – is there an action network principle which goes beyond conventional forms of management & governance?
 - Could there be an ideal information system which would inform and facilitate sustainable consumption & production?
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