

## Update

JULY 2004

The Eco-Region NW started in November 2003 with 90% funding from the Biffaward Landfill Tax Credit scheme.

Other 3<sup>rd</sup> party sponsors included the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, Environment Agency, McGrath Environmental Consultants, and Research Methods Consultancy.

Around that time, a larger project for the national level was also in development. This 'Eco-Budget UK' is developing a new methodology for material flow and eco-footprint accounting, including both direct and indirect effects. It is also building a comprehensive material flow database and scenario model for all the UK regions / administrations.

As a result, it was decided to attach the Eco-Region NW to the Eco-Budget UK. This would then benefit from a larger system, a working software product, and the benefits of comparability between the regions.

The Eco-Region NW has proceeded slowly until the commencement of the Eco-Budget UK in mid- 2004. This was itself delayed due to the formation of a larger partnership. The timescale for completion for both projects is now being extended to late 2005.

The Eco-Region NW has also shifted its focus from gathering basic data, towards providing added value to the national database / scenario model. This is likely to include:

- More detailed focus on a pilot region, the NW.
- Policy applications, especially in analysing the impacts of economic, spatial & environmental strategies and scenarios at the regional level.
- Business applications, especially in benchmarking for sustainable production & consumption.
- More detailed investigation of waste management options.
- Focus on the demonstration example sectors including construction.

## Related projects

The Eco-Region NW is linked into an active portfolio of parallel projects in CURE and partners. Many of these projects overlap so we have to be careful on which one is which.

### Eco-Budget UK

This is compiling material flow and eco-footprint data from resource flow projects from each of the regions of the UK, to an integrated software system, REAP - 'Resource Environment Analysis Programme'.

## **INSURE**

This EU-funded research project is building a regional development modelling software on the 'system dynamics' method. This is suited to complex situations with many inter-dependencies, and to situations where most factors cannot be measured or modelled – political, cultural, psychological and so on. The INSURE model will be usable for any region in the EU25 and is due for completion in December 2006.

## **Footprint NW**

This contains some early results from the EcoRegion NW project, geared towards the review of the AFS (Action For Sustainability) framework for the North West Regional Association.

## **Assess**

This is a forerunner of the Eco-Region NW business performance benchmarking system for environment & waste minimization. A prototype is now being tested with companies in the South East region and Merseyside

## **Inter-modal waste transport:**

Assessment of options for more effective and integrated transport of waste & materials management. This is a leading national project involving Highways Agency, DEFRA, Railtrack and others.

## **REWARD**

The Environment Agency and a consortium of RDAs have developed the 'Regional & Welsh Appraisal for Resources & Development' programme. This includes a detailed environment-economy model suitable for SEA at the regional scale. One of the trial applications involved a collaboration with Eco-Region NW on a detailed study of 'resource efficiency / waste minimization for the NWDA.

# *Project management*

## **New researchers**

We are pleased to welcome Alastair Moore and Dominica Babicki to the CURE team. They are bringing international experience of industrial environmental management and information systems to the Eco-Region NW.

## **Project team**

The project consultancy team has been assembled as follows:

- SEI (Stockholm Environment Institute at York University): database construction and eco-footprint applications
- BRE (Building Research Establishment) construction and waste management sectors:
- WYG (White Young Green): business benchmarking system.
- Envision Sustainability Tools: spatial development model.

## **Steering group**

The first two steering groups met in full prior to the approval of the project. Following the lengthy setting up of the Eco- Budget UK collaboration, we aim to hold meetings at approx 6 monthly intervals. The main aim is to realize the benefits of the project, and share intelligence between all the many parties with an interest in Sustainable Consumption and Production.

The Steering Group meetings then include:

- No.3) September 28<sup>th</sup> 2004
- No.4) April 2005: to be arranged
- No.5) November 2005: project launch, to be arranged.

The full steering group includes each of the project partners, plus other regional bodies, other statutory agencies, and other information providers.