



Smart Growth
Sustainable Development in the
English Regions

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Richard Ellis

Chairman,
East of England Development Agency

Sustainable development – a widely used phrase. But what does it really mean, and are Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) pulling their weight?

It's easy to get caught up in today's jargon, but sustainable development doesn't have to be complicated. It's about creating the future we want for our children and generations to come, rather than allowing the future simply to happen to us.

Sustainable development is a huge subject, encompassing almost everything in our daily lives and the economy around us.

That's why it is at the heart of the RDAs' mission statement to 'transform England's regions through sustainable economic development'.

So how are we doing?

As the lead RDA on sustainable development, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) asked each of its partner RDAs in the English regions to put forward some examples of sustainable development in action based around both modest and large interventions.

The result is this publication, which has been compiled for RDAs to share best

practice with each other and with their partners – many of whom RDAs rely on to deliver real change in communities across the regions.

There are things to learn from a wide range of initiatives – many of them long-term – which have already delivered, or will deliver significant outcomes for people across the English regions.

And there is more to learn from the RDA approach to testing projects for sustainability – whether to do with physical construction, business support, skills development or a range of other aspects – to help ensure that long-term impacts on the future have been taken into account.

These case studies highlight the creative thinking, long-term planning and hard work which are taking place to make a difference to our quality of life today and tomorrow.

They are grouped around the four main headings of the government's UK Sustainable Development Strategy Review, and their outcomes are measured according to the framework agreed between government and the RDAs. In many cases they were hard to categorise, which just goes to show that



sustainable development is all-encompassing.

With RDAs' ever-increasing agenda, which now includes business support, tourism and the government's growth areas, it becomes even more important that sustainability is at the heart of our actions.

For example, if we consider the huge opportunity that the Olympics could bring to the whole country if the London 2012 bid is successful, it's encouraging that the London Development Agency is partnering the bid team on a sustainable approach to this massive project.

This publication brings me to conclude that there's no doubt that RDAs have a long journey ahead to ensure a real step-change in long-term sustainable economic development. But I am convinced that we are travelling in the right direction.

Foreword

Rt Hon Alun Michael MP
Minister of State for Rural Affairs
and Local Environmental Quality



“In this publication we can see vivid examples of development which takes conscientious account of how the decisions we take today on the economy, society and the environment affect us now and will affect us in the future.”

It is 25 years of involvement in economic regeneration that leads me to argue that sustainable development is not an optional extra for Regional Development Agencies – it has to be at the heart of everything they do. Look at my home city of Cardiff; when the closure of the East Moors steelworks and the decline in coal exports devastated a once-thriving city. It was the clean-up of the city linked to economic and social regeneration that combined to create a thriving modern European capital. Many major English cities show the same lessons.

“Where there’s muck there’s brass?” Not any more! In the 21st century it is essential to balance and integrate economic, social and environmental considerations in order to succeed. This means that businesses need to come out of the economic corner of the virtuous triangle of sustainable development and recognise the importance of the environment and the community. Environmentalists, too, need to care about economic success. Sustainable development only works

if you care about all three elements. Simplistic? I don’t think so – but certainly straightforward. And we’re all involved. That’s why we have instigated a consultation period when we are seeking to reassess and improve on the UK Government’s 1999 sustainable development strategy *A better quality of life*. The emerging overarching strategy will demonstrate the government’s commitment to deliver sustainable development in all areas of society. The extensive consultation process shows that we want everyone to have a say in this issue which has a bearing on the very fabric of our lives – now and in the future.

Every year since 1999 we have produced an annual report on our country’s progress in sustainable development. Broadly it can be said that there has been progress. We have kept track of changes since, with 147 indicators and 15 headline quality of life indicators. The RDAs have contributed by monitoring their own regional indicators. These show that advances are being made, for example in tackling

poverty and social exclusion. But there are some areas, such as waste and road transport, where bigger improvements are needed.

When it comes to delivering sustainable development, the primary mechanism is the regional sustainable development framework within which the RDAs play a vital role.

The adoption of Public Service Agreement 1, Delivering Sustainable Development, will make the RDAs more accountable in this area, a move which has been welcomed by the RDAs themselves.

The government is giving devolved, regional and local government greater responsibilities for sustainable development. Government’s role is to outline policy and strategy but it needs grass-roots commitment and support to ensure that things happen on the ground.

The RDAs provide leadership as well as the funding which acts as the catalyst to get programmes underway. These agencies in turn have recognised the value of partnerships and we can see in

this encouraging publication how links have been made between the private and public sectors, to bring projects to fruition. It is a picture of people working together to make a difference and deliver sustainable development.

We can see vivid examples of development which takes conscientious account of how the decisions we take today on the economy, society and the environment affect us now and will affect us in the future.

Foreword

Jonathon Porritt

Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission
and Programme Director of Forum for the Future



“In very different ways, each RDA has sought to interpret its sustainable development remit to secure environmental and social benefits for people and their communities, as well as the more conventional economic benefits.”

As a Board Member of the South West Regional Development Agency, I'm bound to be biased, but it seems to me that the establishment of the RDAs is one of this government's real success stories. And as Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, I'm even more biased in suggesting that part of that success was the incorporation of a formal sustainable development obligation in the RDAs' remit.

As you read through these 36 case studies, you'll see why I'm making that claim. In very different ways, each RDA has sought to interpret its sustainable development remit to secure environmental and social benefits for people and their communities, as well as the more conventional economic benefits.

A lot of this has been pretty experimental. At their inception, you'd have to say that the executives and the boards of most RDAs were more than a little baffled at the prospect of having to operationalise something as fuzzy and

even alien to conventional economic development organisations.

It's the fact that there's such a robust business case for sustainable development that's helped to mainstream it within RDAs. In today's economy, the fact that something might be both necessary and desirable (as creating wealth in more sustainable ways undoubtedly is!) doesn't necessarily make it viable in business terms. There might be increased costs up-front; a need to invest in new skills; a reallocation of management time; a commitment to better consultation and stakeholder engagement, and so on. Articulated in the wrong way, sustainable development looks like increased cost and extra hassle.

So it's good that the RDAs are getting more confident in fronting up on their sustainable development challenge – in both rural and urban contexts. And definitely getting better at optimising economic, social and environmental benefits, simultaneously, rather than maximising short-term economic benefit

at the expense of the environment and real quality of life.

Better, but still a long way to go. A lot of what is done by RDAs under the heading of sustainable development is still bolted on rather than fully integrated. Appraisal processes are often rudimentary and in some cases tokenistic, although there is some best practice here to be shared. And nothing like enough effort has been devoted to transforming mediocre, environmentally-insensitive development proposals into quality schemes that enhance the environment even as they generate new jobs and economic growth.

I would argue that the principal responsibility for this still lies with central government. It's always struck me as bizarre that any government could simultaneously promote a comprehensive sustainable development strategy, and then authorise the expenditure of tens of billions of pounds on public services, regeneration and new infrastructure in ways that automatically undermine that strategy!

At long last, I believe that's now starting to change and RDAs are necessarily at the forefront of this transition. Everything we do has to be 'fit for purpose' for a very different world, in which our physical environment needs to be cherished, energy consumption dramatically reduced, volumes of waste minimised and economic development as much about real quality of life as growth for growth's sake. The good news is that this is a world full of entrepreneurial opportunity and improved business performance – in other words, natural RDA territory.

www.sd-commission.gov.uk
www.forumforthefuture.org.uk



“It has allowed us to expand. We now have a team of six, all living locally.”

RDA contribution – £4.7 million over 6 years

Outcome – increasing productivity and quality of life in rural areas

Farm Diversity Northwest Development Agency

The Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) helped Lake District livestock farmer Robin Edmondson turn his old stables in the conservation area of Matterdale into office space. Robin lost his dairy herd during the foot and mouth disease. “After that we couldn’t put all our eggs in one basket,” he says. NWDA’s rural planning facilitation service helped Robin obtain Rural Enterprise Scheme funding for the conversion. “Whereas the buildings had virtually no value before, now they provide an income and an asset,” says Robin.

The stables are occupied by a thriving renewable energy technology company, Sundog Energy, run by Martin Cotterell. He says: “It has allowed us to expand. We now have a team of six, all living locally.”

Cumbria is a major focus of the Government’s Rural Renaissance Strategy and the Northwest Development Agency has led the way in supporting integrated solutions to help farmers like Robin Edmondson who wish to move their business onto a more sustainable footing. “We have tried to establish a framework which

gets people thinking about sustainable development,” says David Hunter, Senior Rural Policy Officer at NWDA.

Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA), based in Penrith, administers the rural planning facilitation service on behalf of NWDA and also offers a broad range of business support to farmers seeking to diversify. As well as the conversion of redundant farm buildings, CREA is helping to develop farm tourism and food businesses from ice-cream makers to meat processors. Later this year CREA will help up to 1,600 individual farms create their own sustainable development plans which will address key environmental and economic issues such as farm waste.

“We’ve encouraged lateral thinking,” says Nancy Tweddell, Cumbria Farm Link Manager at CREA and herself an upland farmer. “Change can be quite slow in a traditional industry so we make sure the momentum is kept going.”

Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency
www.crea.co.uk 01768 891555

RDA contribution – £1.9 million over 3 years

Outcome – helping improve productivity of small firms

Supply Chains East Midlands Development Agency

In the next three years, 325 East Midlands businesses will receive support to improve their environmental performance within a commercial environment. This will be a result of collaboration between the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), Nottingham Trent University (NTU), credit company Experian and software company Loreus. “Our prime aim is to help small and medium-sized businesses supplying the region’s larger companies make economic and commercial improvements by understanding their environmental impact,” says emda Sustainable Development Advisor Andy Barron. A team funded by the partnership and based at NTU will help companies work towards British Standard BS8555, using software to undertake a review of their environmental impact. It will then help develop action plans, an environmental policy for use in tendering for business, key performance indicators and staff training. The project will also result in 26 new jobs being created, training for 400 people in the businesses and 30 collaborative and four science and technology projects.

Nottingham Trent University
www.best-network.co.uk
0115 848 3050

RDA contribution – £950,000

Outcome – promoting excellence in design, utilising science base to develop sustainable solutions

Rural Business Centre East of England Development Agency

Writtle College’s Centre for Environment and Rural Affairs (CERA) was formed in 2002 to link policy to implementation in the fields of environmental technology, sustainable development and rural affairs.

Following a feasibility study funded by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), work is underway at the College to attract sustainable development businesses to a new environment village being built in its grounds.

The first stage was the Rural Business Centre, also funded with £750,000 from EEDA. This houses the CERA team, the Community Renewables Initiative, which helps communities develop renewable energy solutions, and the team which administers the Essex Rural Renaissance Fund for EEDA.

The Rural Business Centre was constructed using recycled concrete and aggregates and demonstrates best practice in solar energy. Phase 2 of the development, an environment village, will be a showcase site for social, economic and environmental regeneration and sustainable building principles.

Writtle College
www.writtle.ac.uk
01245 424266

RDA contribution – £12,000 to date

Outcome – increasing productivity and accessibility of services in rural areas

RDA contribution – £312,000 to

March 2005

Outcome – innovatively improving productivity and waste reduction

RDA contribution – £80,000

Outcome – improving the region's sustainable economic performance

Rural Charter

East Midlands
Development Agency

The Rural Charter is a unique tool to help businesses and service providers 'think rural' and meet the Rural White Paper's requirements. Initiated by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), working with the Countryside Agency, Business in the Community, and the Government Office of the East Midlands, the charter is now being actively promoted across the region through the East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum. "It is a real first," says Melanie Fischer, emda's Rural Policy Manager. "Forty per cent of people in the East Midlands live in rural areas and small market towns. The charter will help these people receive equal opportunities and access to services." A wide range of organisations including Business Links, sub-regional partnerships, the Arts Council, Derbyshire Building Society and even a local health centre have already signed up to the Charter, pledging to carry out their activities in a way that benefits rural communities. The target is to recruit at least 50 businesses to membership of the Charter in 2004/05.

East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum
www.ruralaffairs.org.uk
01623 727600

NEEBS

One NorthEast

North East Environment Business Support (NEEBS) with funding from One NorthEast, helps businesses in the region improve their environmental performance and save money.

A NEEBS survey helped Tees Valley Leisure, which operates five leisure centres, save £20,000. Its heating bills were reduced by up to 21% and its water waste by 10%. Director of Operations, Fred Bynoe, says: "Leisure centres are energy-hungry. We now have better control of how we use electricity, from encouraging individuals to turn off light switches to exploring the use of solar panels for heating pools."

NEEBS, which has 25 consultants, subsidises up to 70% of the cost of surveys, and will offer advice on waste issues, mentoring and legal matters to 74 small businesses this year. It recently arranged free seminars for electronics companies on the implications of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE). Further seminars for the food and drink industry are planned.

Environment Industries Federation
www.eif.org.uk
0191 2291824

SEEDA Sustainable Business Awards

South East England Development Agency

Aylesbury electrical systems company Barduct has twice secured a place in the finals of the Sustainable Business Awards, run by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). Barduct was the overall Small Company winner in 2002 and also won a Social Responsibility award for its English language training and its programme to empower employees by forging a dialogue between senior management and the workforce.

Nikki Shafren, Human Resources Manager at Barduct, says: "We have a multi-cultural workforce and offer free language training to all non-English speakers."

For the past four years, SEEDA has used its Sustainable Business Awards to vigorously challenge businesses in the region to embrace sustainability. This pioneering initiative is unique among the RDAs, providing high-profile recognition of businesses that are harnessing the powerful benefits of sustainability in their strategic planning. Head of Sustainable Development at SEEDA, Graham Tubb, believes: "The competitive advantage for businesses in the region is intrinsically linked to seizing the benefits of sustainability and the full integration of economic, social and environmental

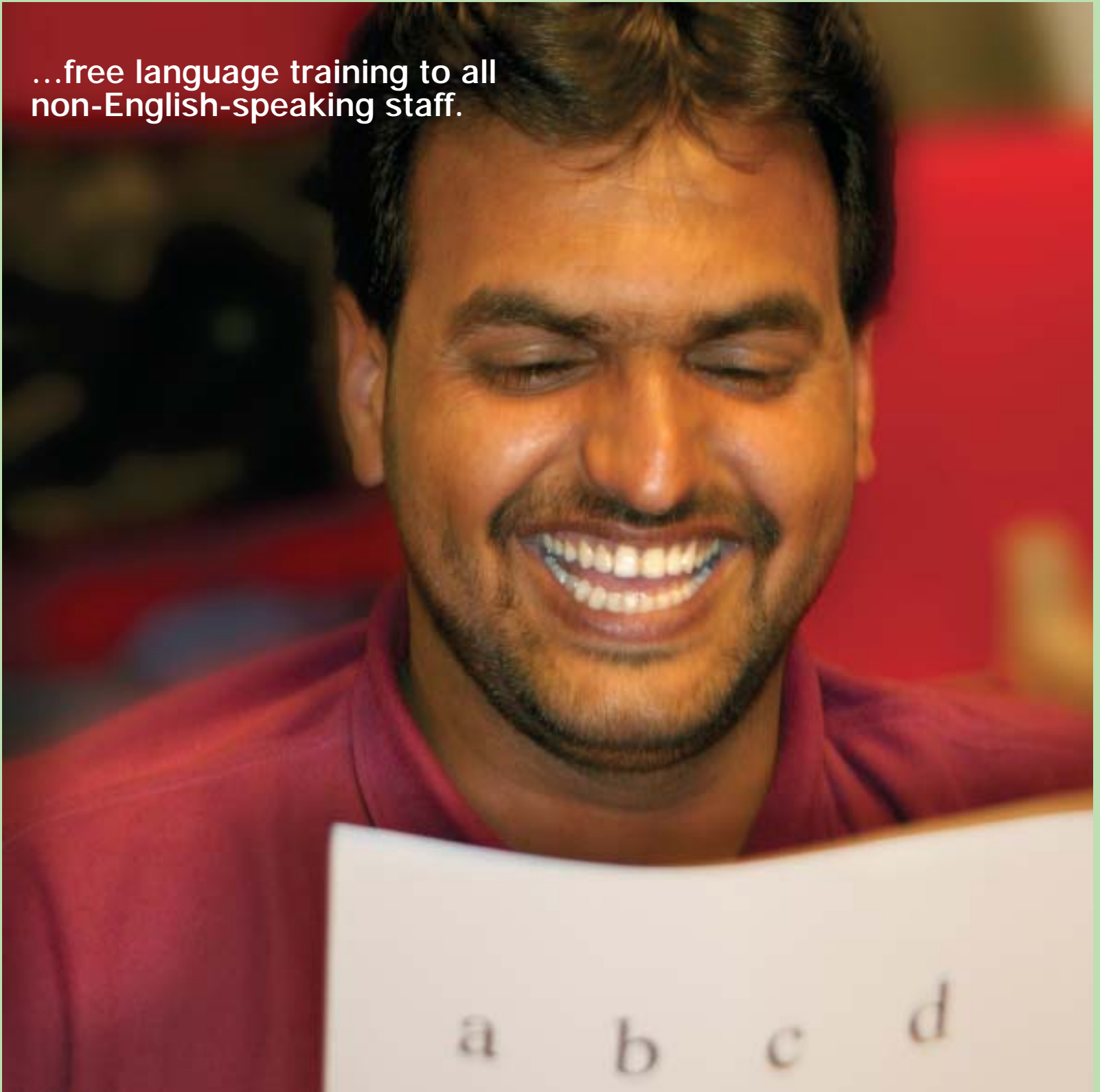
objectives. Fundamentally, it makes good commercial sense."

The Awards offer an opportunity for businesses in three categories (large, medium and small) to be judged against a range of criteria including environmental management, energy efficiency, waste minimisation, social responsibility, supply chain management, transport and innovation. SEEDA works collaboratively with the seven Sustainable Business Partnerships in the region to help generate nominations and to elevate the profile of sustainable business at the highest levels within organisations. The Sustainable Business Awards have grown in impact since 1999 when 100 companies attended the final ceremony. In 2003, that figure was 450.

Feedback indicates that promotion of Award winners has inspired other organisations to integrate sustainable business practices into their daily operations. SEEDA's engagement at company board level has been instrumental in encouraging business leaders to champion sustainability themselves.

SEEDA www.SEEDA.co.uk
01483 484200

...free language training to all
non-English-speaking staff.





“Northumbria Larder organised our participation in the Food & Drink Expo in a highly professional way.”

RDA contribution – £150,000 to date

Outcome – encouraging employment and sustainable economic growth in rural areas

Northumbria Larder One NorthEast

Artisan cheese maker Mark Robertson's latest project is New Chevington, a semi-soft cheese made from Jersey milk which he has revived from a recipe of 1890. Now his new cheese may be sold in the US, thanks to his membership of Northumbria Larder. The regional food and drink group receives support from One NorthEast to develop its longer-term business plan and help it contribute to the Sustainable Food and Farming plan for the region. Only two years ago, Northumbria Larder had a mere six members. Now there are 64, mainly small rural producers like Mark making a mouth-watering variety of foods including ice-cream, bread, cakes, sausages, organic butter and milk, beer and fruit juices.

Some of One NorthEast's £150,000 contribution helps Northumbria Larder to set quality standards and secure a higher profile within Farmers' Markets which, in turn, allows the Agency to link more strongly with tourism in the region. "It is early days, and some of the process is gauging how One NorthEast and Northumbria Larder can

work together as public and private bodies respectively," says Rural Development Officer Jo Laverick.

One NorthEast is also working with regional partners to consult with the procurement arms of the National Health Service and Local Education Authorities to encourage them to source locally-produced food.

Meanwhile, Northumbria Larder helped Mark Robertson reach more customers at the national Food and Drink Expo at the NEC in Birmingham. "The Larder organised our participation in the Expo in a highly professional way," he says. Mark picked up some useful leads, including a leading delicatessen in New York interested in introducing Northumberland cheese. Until now, 85% of his repertoire of goat, sheep and cow cheeses has been sold north of Manchester.

Northumbria Larder
www.northumbria-larder.co.uk
0845 465 2340

RDA contribution – up to £250,000 for next 3 years

Outcome – innovating to improve enterprise and sustainability

egeneration South East England Development Agency

Egeneration is a unique interactive web-based centre of excellence, demonstrating leadership to small and medium-sized businesses to help them become more sustainable. The site promotes replicable best practice programmes and a wide range of sustainability initiatives. Services available include a resource bank, linking companies producing unwanted resources with those that can utilise them. There is also an employment exchange for people with environmental skills. Seven sub-regional Sustainable Business Partnerships (SBPs) are involved, managing Local Action Centres which link to the central egeneration hub. Last year, SBPs helped over 17,000 companies to enhance their bottom line by accelerating their sustainability performance through resource management and environmental impact reduction.

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has supplied bridging funding and Graham Tubb, Head of Sustainable Development at SEEDA says: "We will help egeneration's development over the next three years and the site should then be self-supporting through e-commerce."

Egeneration
www.egeneration.co.uk
07740 185376

RDA contribution – £91,000

Outcome – exploiting technological knowledge to benefit business and environment

Supplier Support Scheme East of England Development Agency

With more than 8,000 suppliers and an annual spend of over £500 million, Norfolk County Council (NCC) recognised it could make an impact on sustainability within its supply chain.

The independent Supplier Support Scheme was set up in February 2003 with funding from the East of England Development Agency to offer free, confidential and impartial assistance to suppliers and potential suppliers to NCC. A team of three helps identify opportunities for cost savings and resource efficiencies. Simon Best, Project Manager for the Scheme says: "We focus on simple, effective activities. In a single energy review at a care home we facilitated savings of £5,000." His team helps improve staff awareness and working practices, and introduces low-cost and easily-achievable measures such as energy-saving light bulbs and water-saving devices. The project is on target to achieve a reduction of CO₂ emissions of 10,000 tonnes, the diversion of 3,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and company investment of £100,000 in environmental efficiency measures.

Supplier Support Scheme
www.ecotech.org.uk/sss
01760 726743

RDA contribution – £50,000 pa for 3 years

Outcome – building an environmental enterprise society

Essex ReMaDe

East of England
Development Agency

Recyclable Market Development Essex (ReMaDe) was established with the help of three-year funding from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). It aims to create new markets and secondary uses for nearly 70,000 tonnes of recycled materials in Essex by the end of 2004 – a 140% increase in the county's recycling rate over a six-year period.

The project helps businesses exploit the opportunities arising from the re-use of materials, encouraging investment in reprocessing capacity, developing new markets for secondary materials and expanding the environmental technologies sector. ReMaDe worked with nurseries in Essex to create a range of peat-free compost. Animal bedding products and housing insulation made from newspaper are also being developed. The organisation helped to establish a recycling scheme for small businesses in Basildon, now being rolled out in Southend and Norfolk.

"ReMaDe achieves a closer convergence between national and local waste and sustainable development strategies and local economic development," says EEDA board member Stephen Castle.

Essex ReMaDe
www.essexremade.org.uk
01245 492858

RDA contribution – £500,000

Outcome – improving the sustainable economic performance and quality of life in the region

Sustainable Tourism

South West Regional
Development Agency

Regional Development Agencies were given strategic responsibility for tourism in April 2003. Each region is developing a sustainable tourism strategy to provide long-term direction. South West England is a major tourism destination, attracting nearly 150 million day visitors in 2001, and the South West RDA's emerging tourism strategy for the South West, *Towards 2015*, sets out a new framework for the region. A consultation exercise with over 12,000 tourism businesses, public, private and voluntary sector representatives and local communities has recently ended. Thirteen priority actions emerged.

What is sustainable tourism? Sue Piper, Head of Strategic Marketing at the South West RDA says: "It's about understanding the relationship between visitors, tourism businesses, the host community and their environment, and devising strategies that create a balance to benefit them all. Our objectives are quality, sustainability and effective destination management." The next steps may involve a toolkit for evaluating sustainability.

South West Regional Development
Agency
www.southwestrda.org.uk
01392 214747

RDA contribution – £80,000

Outcome – promoting sustainable design excellence to enhance building quality

Sustainable Construction

South East England Development Agency

Ropetackle in Shoreham-by-Sea, East Sussex, is a mixed-use development with both residential and business space. It incorporates a range of sustainability measures including renewable energy technology, wildlife features such as swift boxes and facilities for community integration. These attributes were included with the aid of the *Sustainability Checklist for Developments in the South East*. Developed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), it reinforces the priority SEEDA assigns to sustainable development.

For construction projects to contribute to sustainable development, key issues need to be addressed including: mixed-use design, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water use, transport and social well-being. The Checklist aims to ensure that all construction industry players recognise the impact of new developments on natural resources, ecology and energy. It offers a common framework for all developments and allows sustainability to be understood in an everyday sense, encouraging the industry to factor key aspects into the fledgling design and planning stages.

Following the launch in July 2003, a pilot study for SEEDA by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) involving eight companies and two local authorities showed that developers and architects are using the Checklist successfully to quantify how they are embracing the sustainability agenda. Planning authorities are also using it to assess development proposals and champion sustainability.

A series of sub-regional training courses have also been organised to promote the Checklist to a wider audience of construction industry professionals. SEEDA's £80,000 investment to date has added further value by assisting both the World Wildlife Fund UK and BRE to build a national standard and by encouraging other RDAs to adopt the checklist framework.

Phil Dibsdale, SEEDA's Project Manager for the Ropetackle project adds: "The Checklist ensures developments can function sustainably long into the future."

SEEDA
www.sustainability-checklist.co.uk
01483 470145



“The Checklist ensures developments can function sustainably long into the future.”

RDA contribution – £2.75 million

Outcome – renewing deprived neighbourhood through brownfield development

Laban London Development Agency

“Innovative in design, it has contributed to urban regeneration,” said one architectural writer about Laban in Deptford, South East London, when it won the prestigious Stirling Prize in 2003. Laban is the world’s largest purpose-built contemporary dance centre: an international centre of excellence designed by the architects who created Tate Modern. Its shimmering cladding illuminates the dance studios by day and glows vibrantly by night. Built on the site of a waste depot, Laban has revitalised a run-down area of the city and supported nature conservation alongside its construction.

The London Development Agency’s award of £2.75 million in November 2000, under its South London Area Development Framework, helped lever in new funding. The development is a catalyst for residential, cultural and recreational schemes in the area and has created 104 jobs. Laban has 30 active programmes for the local community, including training opportunities and dance participation, which have been attended by 2,693 local people.

Laban
www.laban.org
020 8691 8600

RDA contribution – £142,000 for 2-year project

Outcome – working partnerships to achieve sustainable communities

PlanIt Northwest Northwest Development Agency

As part of North West Region’s Sustainable Development Framework, the Northwest Development Agency is supporting a unique learning tool. PlanIt-Northwest is an interactive computer-based training package containing a 3D model of a typical north west community. Users make sustainable development decisions and the virtual community changes accordingly. The tool is being rolled out through a series of workshops to regional decision-makers, including all 42 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), emphasising the need for co-operation in order to create a sustainability culture.

Mary Dees, Director of software creators PixelFOUNTAIN, says: “The future is not somewhere we are going but somewhere we are creating. If we are to build sustainable communities it needs all organisations to work together.”

The sustainability of participating LSPs will be judged in a competition based on practical action taken following the workshops. Resource packs based on the project are being prepared for schools and higher education institutions.

PixelFOUNTAIN
www.pixelfountain.co.uk
01625 610650

RDA contribution – £100,000 set-up costs

Outcome – increasing employment, improving qualifications, maximising recycling rates

Renew North East One NorthEast

Renew North East is a community project providing skills and helping the environment in East Gateshead. The not-for-profit enterprise, part of the North East’s Integrated Regional Framework for Sustainable Development, recycles unwanted white goods and offers training opportunities for local people.

Working in partnership with Gateshead and Tyneside local authorities and community groups, One NorthEast contributed over £100,000 to the cost of setting up the enterprise in 2000, with additional funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

The scheme offers quality NVQ training in Production/Domestic Repairs to long-term unemployed people and gives support to enhance their employment prospects. Initially eight jobs were created and over five years it is anticipated that 200-250 long term unemployed people will receive paid training, with the majority (90%), achieving NVQ level II qualifications or gaining employment.

Chris Munro (pictured right) has been at Renew for five months: “I’m enjoying it a lot more than what I was doing before.

This work is much more ‘hands on’ – it’s the best job I’ve ever had.”

Around 25,000 appliances will be removed from the waste stream over five years. Over the same period, 5,000 appliances such as washing machines and electric cookers will have been offered to disadvantaged individuals and families at substantial discounts. A key feature of the project is the involvement of Comet plc which supplies the bulk of the white goods for recycling and a degree of technical support.

Carole Harris from Renew North East says: “The hard work by our dedicated team has been rewarded with two national business and entrepreneurial awards. These were a great motivator and a vote of thanks to everyone who has helped fund and support the project.”

Renew North East is working with the Environment Trust to support the roll-out of 13 white goods recycling projects across the UK.

Renew North East
www.renewnortheast.com
0191 469 7068

"This is the best job I've ever had."





...the communities are extensively consulted.

RDA contribution – £5.5 million

Outcome – achieving neighbourhood renewal through promoting economic development, training, and investment in deprived areas

Meden Valley Making Places East Midlands Development Agency

The Meden Valley is an area of 52 square miles in the heart of North Derbyshire/North Nottinghamshire and was one of the worst-affected regions of the UK following the colliery closures of the 1980s and 1990s. British Coal housing was sold and extensive areas of private sector rented accommodation created. A combination of low demand and lack of investment led to an increase in dereliction, blighting adjoining residential areas. Eight out of nine wards in the area were identified in the Coalfields Task Force report by Sheffield Hallam University as being in the worst 10% in England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000.

This project has been funded by a collaborative partnership including the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), English Partnerships, Bolsover and Mansfield District Councils. The implementation of the Meden Valley Making Places Project (MVMP) will help tackle some of the wider economic and social issues facing North Derbyshire/ North Nottinghamshire communities, such as improving competitiveness, increasing levels of economic output, tackling social exclusion, addressing

cultural isolation and building community capacity.

MVMP is acquiring properties, either to demolish and sell the land for new housing development, or to refurbish and carry out environmental improvement works.

Diane Turrall, Partnership Development Manager of emda says: "With this project, we are working with partners to address affordable housing problems in areas of low demand and linking housing regeneration to wider economic objectives."

Janet Bradbury, CEO of MVMP adds: "The communities themselves are involved in the transformation process through extensive consultation and in devising relocation packages that meet their needs. We are working with organisations such as emda to help local people get on training programmes and participate in local employment initiatives."

Meden Valley Making Places
www.meden-valley.co.uk
01623 819 910

RDA contribution – £65,701

Outcome – increasing employment through partnership

WorkWise Advantage West Midlands

In response to a Social Exclusion Unit report which stated two out of five jobseekers cite lack of transport as a barrier to getting a job, Advantage West Midlands (AWM) supported an innovative transport scheme in the East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone.

Rosie Paskins, AWM Delivery Director for Birmingham and Solihull, says: "Our role is to create more and better jobs and an enhanced quality of life for all. We can achieve this by ensuring that communities – the deprived as well as the more prosperous – can access the opportunities that turn these aspirations into reality."

WorkWise was delivered in partnership with travel company Centro and JobCentre Plus. Travel advisers helped local jobseekers with one-day passes for travel to interviews and monthly passes for the first two months of employment. The project helped 538 people access interviews and 170 people into new jobs. One hundred and twenty-four participants remained in work after eight weeks.

Advantage West Midlands
www.advantagewm.co.uk
0121 380 3500

RDA contribution – £3.25 million for first 3 years of programme

Outcome – regenerating market towns as healthy and attractive centres to serve the rural population

Renaissance Market Towns Yorkshire Forward

One of Yorkshire Forward's flagship projects, Renaissance Market Towns is a 10-year plan that builds on experience gained from the national Market Towns Initiative. It supports the development of small towns in Yorkshire and Humber, ensuring that the 'rural capitals' are places people want to live, work, invest and visit.

Town teams, composed primarily of local people, are created to drive forward the process of creating and delivering a vision then an action plan for the renaissance of their town over the next 25 years. Yorkshire Forward has worked with every level of local authority, community groups and Chambers of Commerce.

Seven market towns, or groups of towns, have been involved since December 2002 and a second round of five towns, or grouped towns, is now getting underway. Five of the first seven have produced a vision, charter, masterplan and delivery plan. Towns in the Upper Calder Valley have also jointly established a regeneration company to deliver their vision.

Yorkshire Forward
www.yorkshire-forward.com
0113 3949600



Community services include a crèche, a sports centre and a youth centre.

RDA contribution – £2.2 million

Outcome – increasing enterprise and youth employment in disadvantaged community

Genesis Social Enterprise Centre East Midlands Development Agency

The East Midlands Development Agency (emda) invested £2.2 million for the conversion of a redundant bus depot in Alfreton, Derbyshire, into a thriving hub of entrepreneurial and community activity. The Genesis Social Enterprise Centre offers modern managed office space, on-site business counselling and mentoring, conference facilities and support for groups seeking to establish social enterprises. The Centre also hosts services for the local community including a crèche, a café, sports centre, ten-pin bowling alley and youth centre.

Kevin Baillie, Economic Inclusion Advisor for emda, says: "This is one of a number of partnership and demonstration projects looking at new models for economic inclusion. By encouraging the development of a vibrant and sustainable social enterprise sector, we can understand better how to address the problems of unemployment, poverty and the cultural barriers that affect entrepreneurship." Emda partners include the East Midlands Community Loan Fund, European Social Fund and Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

The Genesis Centre engages people in their local community, providing valuable entertainment and social facilities.

The training and support on offer enables individuals and groups to work towards reinvigorating their neighbourhoods and create a more inclusive society. The on-site non-alcohol bar also provides business management training for the young people who frequent it.

The organisation's turnover has grown to over £500,000 in 18 months and staff from 16 to 46 – including trainees from the New Deal. By the end of 2005 the centre will have created 35 new jobs, safeguarded 46 and allowed for the development of 41 social enterprises.

Start-up businesses which have been assisted include a logistics company, a security company and a tanning studio. Emda is investigating applying the Genesis business model to other areas of the East Midlands.

Steve Holmes, Chief Executive of Genesis, says: "Plans for the future include building a further 10,000 sq ft of office and workshop space, an Italian restaurant and a multi-purpose arts centre incorporating a community cinema."

Genesis Social Enterprise Centre
01773 83310

RDA contribution – £13 million

Outcome – exploiting technological base to improve businesses and aid communities

Regional Initiative on Broadband Advantage West Midlands

The Advantage West Midlands (AWM) regional initiative on broadband demonstrates to individuals and businesses the benefits of broadband technology. It promotes high-speed internet access to stimulate demand, ensuring service providers have sufficient demand to make their investment profitable. "If broadband is actively promoted and campaigned for, then take-up is good," says Martin Male, Head of IT Policy at AWM. "The initiative satisfies our Regional Economic Strategy on several counts. It meets the aim of improving conditions for growth, by creating better IT infrastructure and helping to ensure a diverse and dynamic business economy. It also has a role to play in regenerating communities by increasing broadband access, especially among the sparser populations of Shropshire and Herefordshire." By September 2004, broadband coverage throughout the region will have increased from 74% to 94% in two years. This is higher than any region outside the south east. Broadband take-up by businesses is also ahead of the national figure.

Advantage West Midlands
www.advantagewm.co.uk
0121 380 3500

RDA contribution – £45 million
including new infrastructure

Outcome – converting existing buildings, regenerating brownfield land, advancing learning

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich London Development Agency

The London Development Agency (LDA) masterplan for the regeneration of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich in South East London will open up an area restricted to the public for over 300 years. The former Ministry of Defence munitions site near Woolwich town centre once employed over 80,000 people during WW1, and its closure in 1997 was linked to the decline in the economic fortunes of Woolwich. Now the 30-hectare brownfield area containing 22 listed buildings is a flagship project in the Thames Gateway. The LDA masterplan seeks to provide housing, employment, leisure and heritage opportunities and helps stimulate the regeneration of Woolwich. Among the first of the listed building developments is Firepower, the museum of the Royal Artillery, which houses Europe's widest variety of historic and modern artillery. Firepower offers schools and colleges an exciting educational resource, as well as offering valuable information to adult learning groups and military historians.

London Development Agency
www.lda.gov.uk 020 7680 2000
www.firepower.org.uk

RDA contribution – ODPM contribution of £14 million to LDA, EEDA and SEEDA

Outcome – enhancing the accessibility and quality of green space by design and co-ordination

RDA contribution – £230 million over 10 years

Outcome – working with stakeholders to achieve renewal in deprived communities

RDA contribution – £260,000 for Sustainable Eastside, £79 million overall for Eastside regeneration

Outcome – co-ordinating effort to ensure sustainable regeneration

Green Grid

London Development Agency/
East of England Development
Agency/South East England
Development Agency

The green grid vision is that new residents in the revitalised Thames Gateway growth area will be able to access the countryside, heritage assets and a network of green spaces via new cycle and walking routes. The green grid will encompass East London, South Essex and North Kent. Complementary green grid strategies are being prepared in each sub-region by multi-agency partnerships. The London Development Agency and English Nature have also developed a biodiversity toolkit for developers, to promote planning of green space and encourage healthy living.

As well as improving the urban fringe landscape, the green grid will enhance the river, protect wildlife sites, promote sustainable transport, encourage learning through environmental activities and local heritage and arts projects.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has recognised the contribution of the green grid to sustainable communities in the Thames Gateway and allocated £14 million of funding via the three RDAs to begin implementing the initiative.

*London Development Agency
www.lda.gov.uk 020 7680 2000*

Investing in Communities

East of England
Development Agency

Investing in Communities (IIC) is an innovative programme to encourage a long-term partnership approach to regeneration and renewal in deprived communities. Launched in 2003, it tackles social exclusion and inequality and plays a key role in delivering Regional Economic and Social Strategies.

IIC seeks to maximise existing funding by influencing how money and services are channelled to deliver Local Strategic Partnerships' community strategies. Working with regional partners, such as Social Enterprise East, the Community and Voluntary Forum for Eastern Region (COVER) and Minority Ethnic Network for Eastern Region (MENTER), it will help develop appropriate strategies for region-wide issues. A research and development programme will help guide policy and inform decision-makers on social exclusion and regeneration. Overall, IIC sets out to improve economic performance and enterprise in deprived areas, achieve better employment rates for disadvantaged groups, raise aspirations and skills levels, increase community leadership and participation and offer support for social enterprises.

*EEDA www.EEDA.org.uk
Tel: 01223 200870*

Sustainable Eastside

Advantage West Midlands

Advantage West Midlands (AWM), together with the Government Office of the West Midlands, has invested almost £500,000 in Sustainable Eastside project to ensure the regeneration of central Birmingham will follow sustainable principles.

Birmingham's Eastside is rich in industrial heritage and is estimated to have the huge development potential of £6 billion over the next 10 years. Proposals include a new city library, a park and the restoration of a river, canals and adjacent buildings. Until recently the heavy road infrastructure of Eastside obscured the natural topography and gave little consideration to pedestrians. Now sustainable thinking has helped to demolish 800m of elevated highway and recycle the concrete into new buildings.

The Sustainable Eastside project seizes the opportunity to develop a better place to live and create new relationships between people and their environment. Eighteen organisations including Groundwork Birmingham, Friends of the Earth, Birmingham City Council (BCC) and the Environment

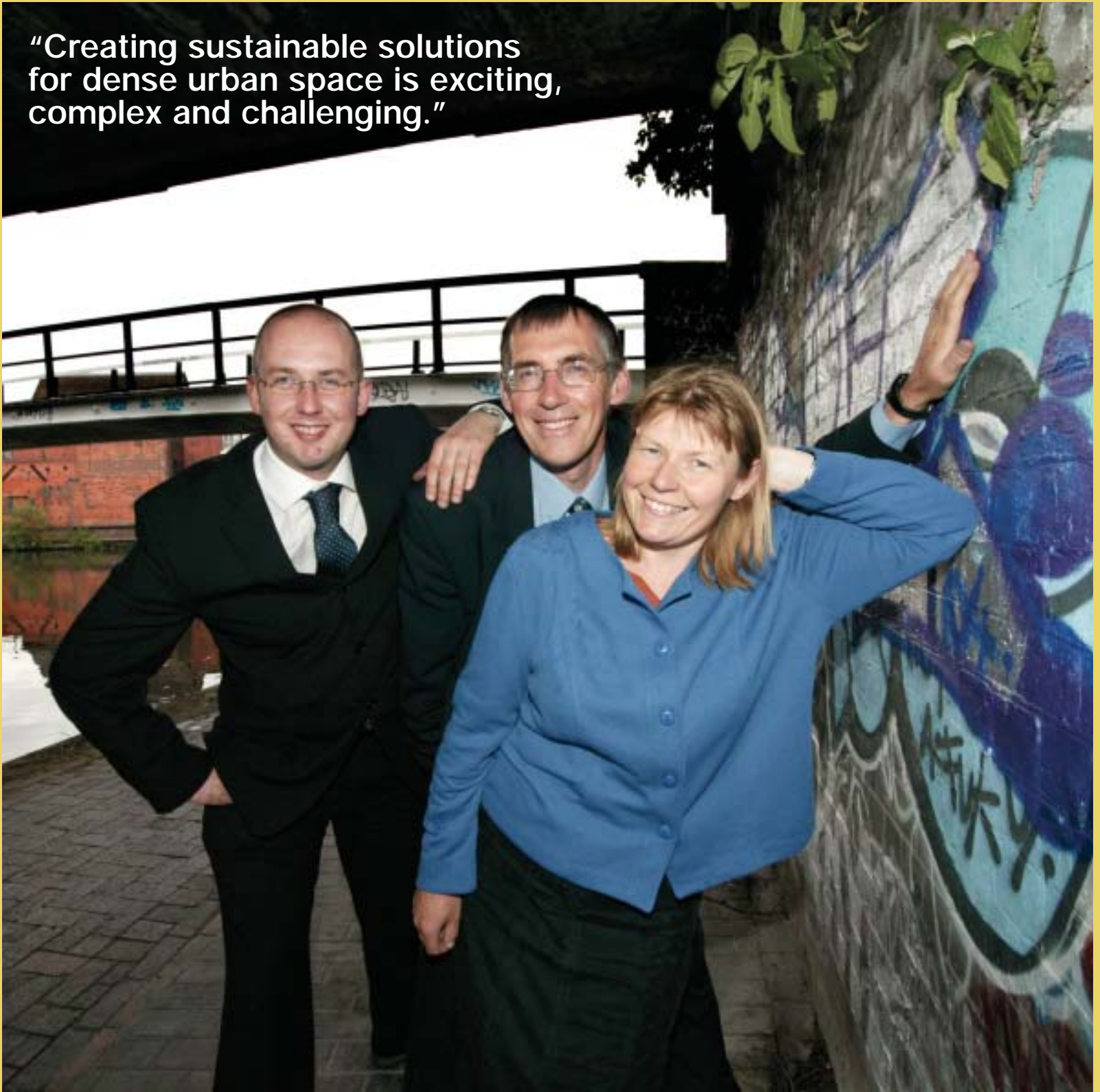
Agency are working together as the Eastside Sustainability Advisory Group to produce a holistic plan for this quarter of the city. Two sustainability advisors from Groundwork Birmingham, seconded to the City Council's Eastside team, are helping private and public sector developers and investors achieve sustainable outcomes.

Richard Green, Director of the City Council's Eastside team, says: "Eastside covers 170 hectares of densely built-up urban environment and is a huge regeneration project. Creating sustainable solutions for the phenomenal range of schemes coming forward is exciting, complex and challenging."

The team's aspiration is for the regenerated environment to gain prominence as a Sustainable Zone within Birmingham and become an international model of best practice.

*Eastside
www.birmingham.gov.uk
0121 464 0900*

"Creating sustainable solutions for dense urban space is exciting, complex and challenging."



"A win-win situation, a shining example of development in harmony with the environment."



RDA contribution – £1.6 million to date

Outcome – providing diverse employment and training, offering biodiversity and access to environment

Northwick Road, Canvey Island

East of England Development Agency

Work will soon begin on a new business park at Canvey Island in Essex, owned by the East of England Development Agency. The story of the creation of the Northwick Road site is one of attaining a winning balance of benefiting the local community, the local economy and nationally rare wildlife.

The brownfield site, which previously belonged to Occidental Oil, has been earmarked for development for much-needed business facilities for the past 10 years. Current development proposals have had to account for the site's importance as a wildlife haven and in particular for its diversity of invertebrates. This included the country's most important remaining population of the Shrill carder-bee, whose numbers have declined by 90% in the last 30 years in the UK, as well as 30 other endangered species of invertebrate. The neglected site, with its mix of dry and marshy habitat, provides an ideal habitat for a huge range of invertebrates, plants and other animals. The survival of rare invertebrates is one of the key indicators of the health of the environment under the government's

biodiversity strategy. EEDA has developed relationships with English Nature and Buglife, an organisation which campaigns for the conservation of all invertebrates. The result is that two-thirds of the 68-acre site will be turned into a protected wildlife area with a visitor area, with the remaining third being developed into sustainable offices and workshops. It is intended that these buildings will feature specially-designed roofs made of recycled materials which will gather water and become a habitat for some of the insects displaced by the footprint of the building. The site will create up to 500 new jobs and training opportunities in an area of high unemployment where local people currently face long commutes to other parts of Essex or London for work.

Matthew Shardlow, Buglife Conservation Director, says: "Canvey Island has more invertebrates per square foot than any other site in the UK. The result is a win-win situation, a shining example of development in harmony with the environment."

Buglife www.buglife.org.uk
01733 201210

RDA contribution – £188,000

Outcome – strengthening relationship between business communities and environment

West Midland RES Appraisal

Advantage West Midlands

Ove Arup & Partners was appointed by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) in November 2003 to appraise the sustainability of the West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy (WMRES) update document.

Ove Arup used the SPEAR (Sustainability Project Appraisal Routine) tool to determine whether sustainable development is integral to the policy and actions of the WMRES update and whether the strategy truly connects economic, social and environmental issues and solutions. The consultancy had previously conducted three similar studies for AWM so it was able to track progress over a four-year period.

AWM Project Manager Iain Neville says: "The main aim was to highlight the areas for priority action. We are now working with the Environment Agency on an action plan to strengthen the relationship between business, communities and the environment in our region, previously identified as a weakness in Arup's report." Proposed projects include a regional industrial symbiosis centre and the development of supply chains for wind turbines.

Advantage West Midlands
www.advantagewm.co.uk
0121 380 3563

RDA contribution – £1 million

Outcome – re-using existing buildings and regenerating land to benefit economy and wildlife, supporting the local economy

Dearne Valley

Yorkshire Forward

Semi-derelict farmland buildings on an old nature reserve have been turned into a thriving sustainable business and visitor attraction in the Dearne Valley, between Doncaster and Barnsley.

Three years ago Yorkshire Forward and the region's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) together established an environmental investment programme which underpinned the Regional Economic Strategy.

This included the acquisition, restoration and management of the 400 hectares of wetland for wildlife conservation, and regenerating the land around former coal workings.

"Our view is that visitor income can give wildlife an economic as well as environmental value," says RSPB Regional Director, Laurence Rose.

This five-year, £4.3 million investment has attracted 25,000 visitors in its first year and seen the refurbishment of the existing visitor and education centres, sustainable job creation and the provision of business facilities and residential accommodation for wildlife volunteers.

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk
01226 273830

RDA contribution – £30,000 for
ERVNE study

Outcome – improving the sustainable
economic performance of the region

ERVNE Study

Northwest
Development Agency

The North West's 'environmental economy' is estimated to account for 101,200 jobs and £1.79 billion annual turnover. The Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) commissioned the Economic and Regenerative Value of the Natural Environment (ERVNE) study to identify projects with the potential both to generate significant economic outcomes and benefit the natural environment. An extensive consultation process with public, private and voluntary sector organisations identified 87 projects.

Mark Atherton, Head of Environmental Development and Sustainability at NWDA, says: "Thirty-nine had great scope to regenerate over 1,000 hectares of brownfield land, create 1,600 hectares of woodland and create 2,034 jobs with schemes ranging from biodiversity parks, to revitalised coastal walks to reclaiming derelict buildings in urban areas. The study also showed wetlands to be one of the most productive areas in terms of environmental regeneration and economic growth. We are investigating developing a network of nature reserves to attract visitors and provide educational facilities."

NWDA www.nwda.co.uk
01925 400283

RDA contribution – £13 million to date

Outcome – revitalising the local
economy, reducing and utilising waste

Morlands Enterprise Park

South West Regional
Development Agency

At the heart of a £50-million scheme to regenerate a derelict tannery works near Glastonbury is the development of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and recycling plant. The South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) is working with Mendip District Council, businesses and the local community to redevelop the 40-acre site into a mixed-use sustainable development containing industrial and commercial space for companies, including environmental technology businesses, as well as social, community and recreational facilities. Glastonbury has one of the highest unemployment rates in the county.

Meeting the needs of the SW Regional Waste Strategy, the CHP plant will use renewable fuels such as bio-fuels and waste to provide heat and electricity, at discounted cost, to businesses on the Morlands site. It is anticipated that it will take around 100,000 tonnes of waste per annum which would otherwise have gone to landfill or been transported out of the region for disposal.

South West RDA
www.southwestrda.org
Tel 01392 214 747

RDA contribution – £140,851

Outcome – encouraging enterprise in disadvantaged
communities

Women in Enterprise

London Development Agency

For the past four years Kirti Dhamecha has been a volunteer at local schools, helping six and seven year-olds with their reading. Recently, she has been able to give her young students in Stanmore, London, valuable computer skills – thanks to the training she has received from the Women in Enterprise courses, delivered by the Asian e-Foundation. The courses are supported by the London Development Agency (LDA), investing to remove barriers to skills, knowledge and finance.

Having become adept with a computer, Kirti is working with a friend to set up a food-importing business. "It's early days but the Women in Enterprise programme has all the courses we need to be able to set up and run a successful business," she says.

Women in Enterprise is a 16-month pilot project which started in August 2003 as part of the Regional Economic Inclusion Framework. The initiative prepares women from minority communities, many of whom feel isolated due to cultural and social barriers, for business by addressing issues often overlooked by business support organisations. Partners include Job Centre Plus, Inland Revenue, Sangam Community Centre, Brahmin

Society for North London and the Somali Women's Group and Marlborough Hill (Family Welfare Association).

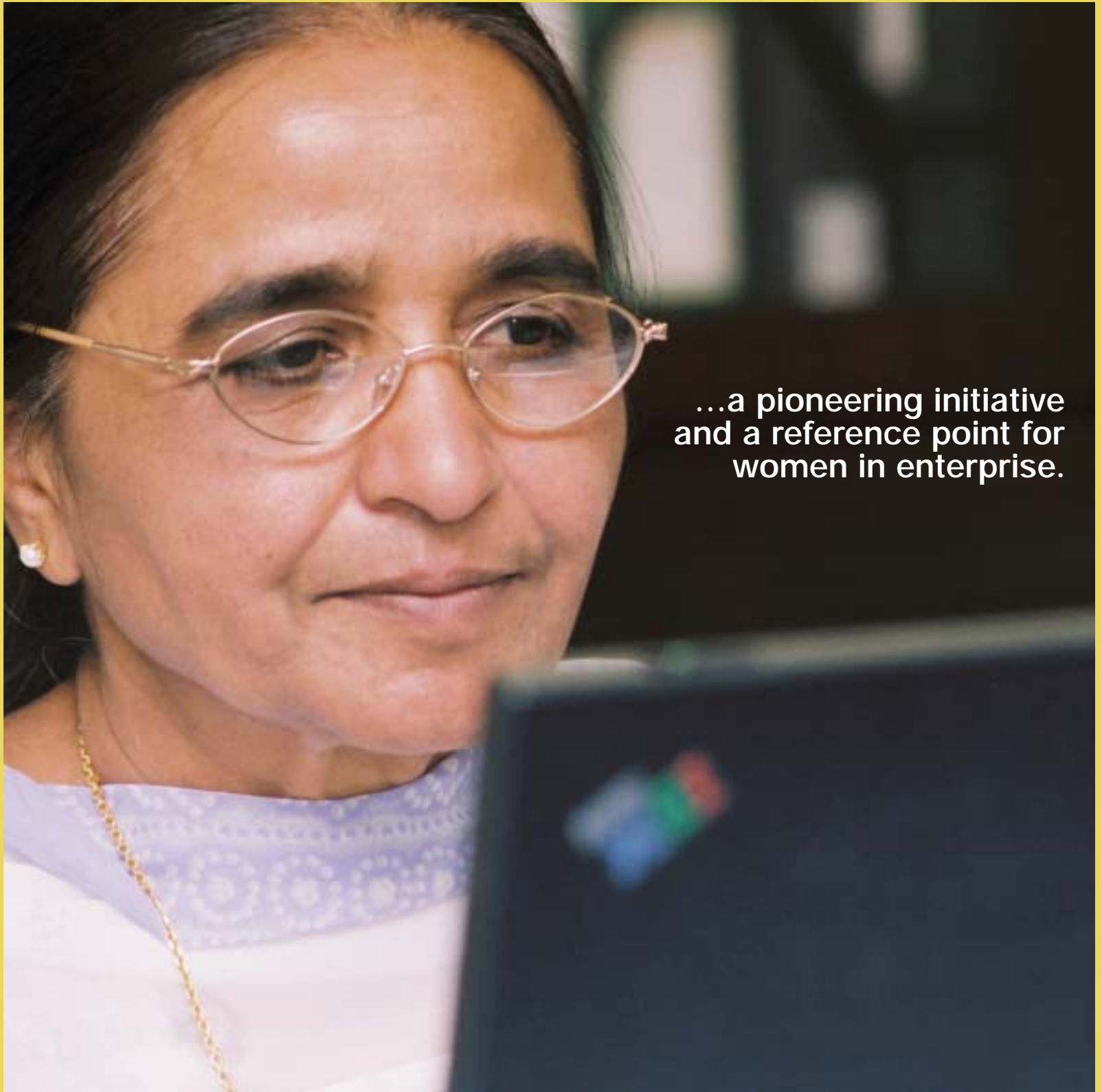
Tailored courses cover management, ICT and problem-solving. They help women to start and manage their own business, increasing their self-confidence and self-belief at the same time. Home working is also highlighted as a viable option.

The bi-lingual training is being delivered to women by women in community centres in Park Royal and Wembley in North London and includes being mentored by a woman who is successfully managing her own business.

Over the 16-month period, the project aims to create 16 businesses, 16 jobs and train 60 women, as well as providing support and advice to 60 businesses. So far, 41 women have enrolled and courses are being held in four training centres. Six mentors have been recruited.

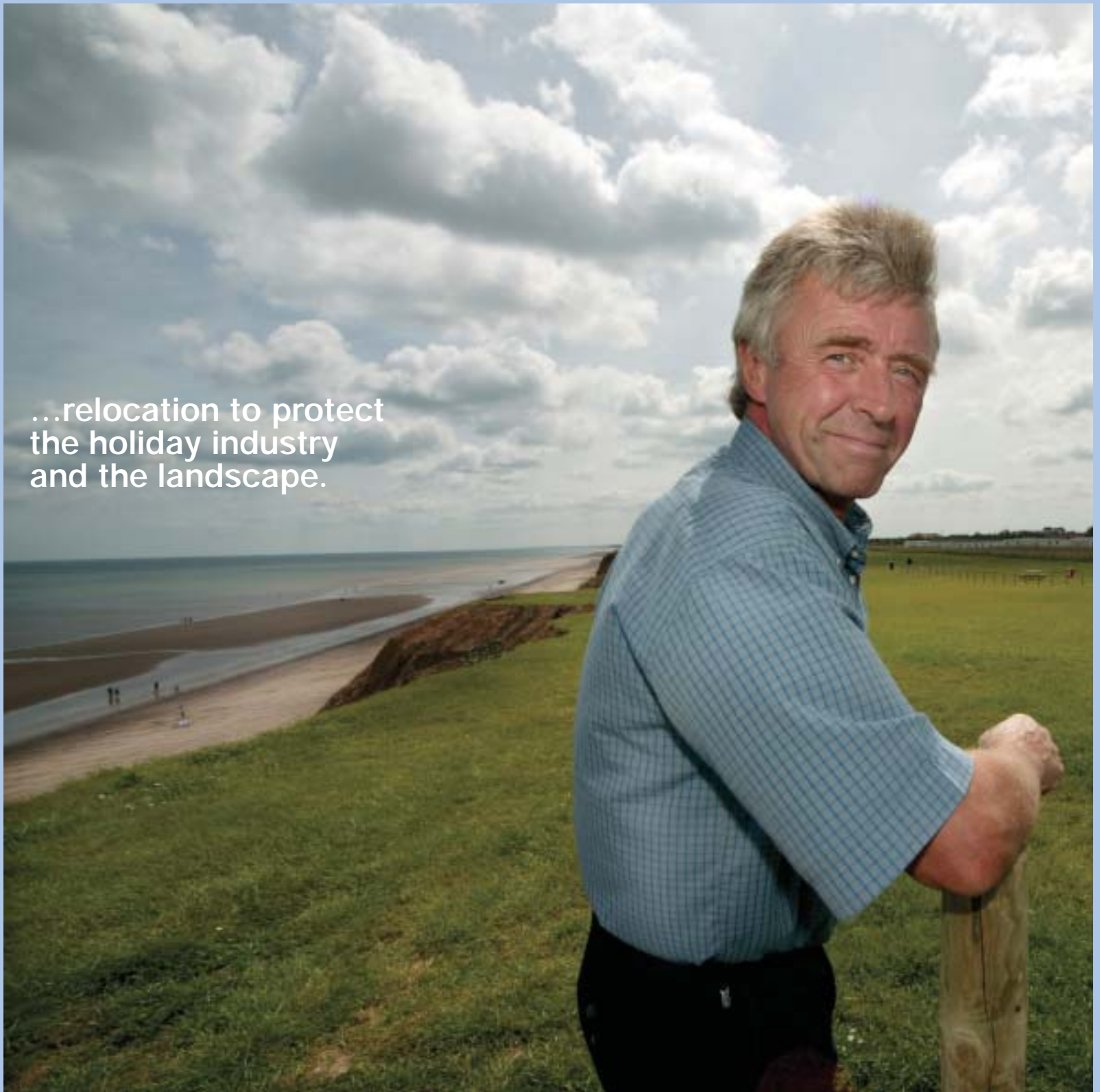
Yasmin Akhtar, Chief Executive of the Asian-e Foundation says: "This project is a pioneering initiative and will act as a reference point for women in enterprise."

Asian-e Foundation
www.theasian-efoundation.com
0121 698 8524



...a pioneering initiative
and a reference point for
women in enterprise.

...relocation to protect
the holiday industry
and the landscape.



RDA contribution – £600,000

Outcome – contributing to biodiversity and sustainable economic growth

Roll-Back Yorkshire Forward

East Yorkshire has some of the highest rates of coastal erosion in Europe. An average of two metres per year is disappearing and some places have seen slippage of 10 metres. The East Riding's thriving coastal holiday industry turns over £92 million a year but much of it is precariously near the North Sea.

Twenty-four caravan parks containing 15,000 units have been identified as being at risk in the next 100 years.

Yorkshire Forward is working with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to create a sustainable development plan to enable these sites to move back from the coast. The Roll-Back programme will meet the Regional Economic Strategy by helping sites to stay in business and contribute to the local economy. Site owners will have to agree that their relocated sites will be tourist-board approved and provide facilities for the local community such as recreation facilities or community meeting venues. These rural holiday home parks often provide local services for neighbouring villages, from licensed bars and post offices to crèche and home support for the elderly.

The new 'rolled-back' sites will have to be developed with minimum impact on the landscape and English Nature has funded a guide to ensure that the vacated site, which will become public land, will be cleared to high standards and benefit biodiversity.

Alex Smith, Principal Sustainable Development Officer of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, says: "Abandoned sites have historically been left to deteriorate and fall to the mercy of the waves, leaving the local authority to pick up the cost of cleaning up. Yorkshire Forward's funding will tip the balance in favour of relocation and protect the industry and landscape."

Mike McCann is the owner of Far Grange caravan park near Skipsea, which has 500 static caravans. He has already moved his site back. "It was hard work but we put the park where it needs to be. The infrastructure is better and it looks good."

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
www.eastriding.gov.uk
01482 391718

RDA contribution – £20 million over 3 years

Outcome – building on engineering and science base to develop renewable energy

NaREC One NorthEast

NaREC (the New and Renewable Energy Centre) is one of the five Centres of Excellence set up by One NorthEast as part of its Strategy for Success programme. It represents the biggest single investment in the renewable energy sector by any RDA. NaREC will lead the development of new technologies in the North East through partnership with industry and academia.

NaREC is part of the Blyth Quayside regeneration project in Northumberland. Projects on the site include: an electrical power laboratory to link renewable power generation into the national grid, an operational wave power testing facility and a photovoltaic technology centre. NaREC will also support regional companies developing new energy technologies.

Doug Everard of NaREC says: "Renewable energy has to overcome a lot of significant challenges, both technical and economic, to become one of the mainstream energy supplies for the future. The support by One NorthEast and central government is absolutely vital."

NaREC www.narec.co.uk
01670 359 555

RDA contribution – £25,000

Outcome – using science innovatively to help business

Warming to the Idea South West Regional Development Agency

Climate change will be a significant factor in decision-making for the South West. *Warming to the Idea*, a scoping study into the impact of climate change on the region led by the South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership, including the South West Regional Development Agency, concluded that people – and businesses – need to be more aware of the impact of climate change and how they should adapt to it. Businesses need to respond not only by mitigation, for example reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also by adaptation.

"There is a positive as well as a negative impact for virtually every sector," says Peter Grigorey at the Environment Agency in Exeter, citing extended growing seasons and longer visitor seasons as examples of potential opportunities.

Since the launch of the report in early 2003, groups have been established within six priority groups – agriculture, housing, transport, tourism, local authorities and utilities – to raise awareness of climate change and address the key issues for adaptation.

Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
0845 9333111

RDA contribution – £150,000 over 3 years including regional co-ordinator

Outcome – improving the sustainable economic performance of the region

RDA contribution – £75,000 over 3-year period

Outcome – improving the sustainable economic performance of the region

RDA contribution – £500,000

Outcome – improving the sustainable economic performance of the region

Climate Change Adaptation Kit Yorkshire Forward

Yorkshire Forward believes businesses need to put climate change higher up their agenda and is tackling the issue head on. A 2002 scoping study *Warming up the Region* showed that climate change will have a real impact on the Yorkshire and Humber region, not least on its economies. In the next 50-80 years the region will be vulnerable to coastal erosion, water shortages and flooding.

The RDA has now commissioned a practical toolkit for businesses to assess how climate change will affect them. This has been piloted in the region by both Leeds University and Yorkshire Water in partnership with the Building Research Establishment, whose Karen McGuire says: "We identify things companies can do: the impact, the costs and the effect on their profits."

The roll-out of the Climate Change Adaptation Kit this year, through the regional climate change co-ordinator, will help raise climate change awareness among the region's businesses and give them a practical tool to urgently address the issue.

Building Research Establishment
www.bre.co.uk
01923 664656

Renewables North West Northwest Development Agency

Renewables North West helps turn the government's targets on renewable energy into reality for the north west. A study funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) into the regional implications of hitting the national target of 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010, showed that 1,000 jobs could be created in the north west.

Renewables NorthWest is supported by NWDA and United Utilities in its work to bring renewable energy schemes to fruition. It carried out a study on behalf of Oldham Borough Council to show the potential for each renewable energy technology and held a well-attended seminar for local businesses and training for local councillors. Other successes include one local authority declaring that all new buildings must include solar PV technology. In another area, a company marketing building-mounted wind turbines has been helped to work with the Housing Market Renewal Fund.

Renewables North West
www.renewablesnorthwest.co.uk
0161 834 7744

Wave Hub South West Regional Development Agency

With coasts facing the prevailing Atlantic swell, the South West has some of the UK's best resources for generating tidal and wave energy. Attention is focusing on this region as work intensifies to try to exploit the oceans as a source of renewable energy to meet the government's Renewables Obligation that by 2010, 10% of the UK's electricity requirements should be met by renewable energy.

Wave power is at an early stage of development and earlier this year the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) committed almost £500,000 to take forward plans to install an offshore connection point, known as the Wave Hub, nine miles out to sea off Cornwall's Atlantic coast. This would allow wave power machines to be connected to the national grid. The money will fund a programme of work including employing a Project Manager and carrying out a feasibility study into the viability of the Wave Hub. The studies, to be completed in autumn 2004, are also looking at likely locations and the economic benefits of the project to the South West. A second phase of

research will carry out detailed site surveys of the proposed location.

The South West RDA is working in conjunction with Regen SW which champions renewable energy in the South West. Chief Executive Matthew Spencer, says: "Consultations are being held with stakeholders including local councils, fishermen, navigators and English Nature. The decision by the South West RDA to explore this concept has generated real excitement amongst wave companies throughout Europe and we are in discussion with several of the lead players about locating in the South West. The development of wave and tidal energy technology can deliver significant jobs to the South West over the next 15 years by building on the many existing specialist skills in the marine and electro-hydraulic businesses, so it is a smart investment for the future of the region."

Regen SW
www.regensw.co.uk
01392 229 394

“The development of wave and tidal energy technology can deliver significant jobs to the south west over the next 15 years.”





The Development Agency
for the North East of England

