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## **CLIMATE CHANGE 'Local Leadership of a Global Issue'**

**2 November 2006, Sheffield City Hall**

### **Speaker biographies**

#### **Cllr Arthur Barker, Leader, Hambleton District Council**

Arthur Barker is the Leader of Hambleton District Council. He is also the Chair of The Sustainable Development Board, which is an advisory panel established to provide expert and authoritative guidance on sustainable development to the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, the Regional Executive Board and other Regional Boards. The Sustainable Development Board is charged with acting independently and providing constructive, robust and insightful advice.

Arthur is also the Chair of the Regional Climate Change Executive Group who are responsible for implementing the Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

#### **Sir John Harman, Chair, Environment Agency**

Sir John Harman is currently Chairman of the Environment Agency, which he has served, first as a Board member and then as Deputy Chairman since its inception in 1996.

A teacher by profession, he had nearly twenty years experience in local government including thirteen years as leader of Kirklees Metropolitan Council. In 1999 he became the first leader of the Regional Assembly for Yorkshire and Humberside.

He was Vice Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities from 1992 until the formation of the LGA in 1997, when he became a Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

He received a knighthood in June 1997 in recognition of his services to local government and the environment. In addition to a wide range of professional interests, he is Chairman of Kirklees Stadium Development Ltd, which operates the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, a Director of Energy Savings Trust, and member of the Board of Trustees for the National Coal Mining Museum.

## **James Gorie, Defra**

James Gorie specialises on local government and spatial planning issues in Defra's National Climate Change Policy Division. He focuses chiefly on climate change mitigation (prevention) issues, but works closely with the Defra team that deals with adaptation to climate change. In his previous post at the Countryside Agency, he served as a policy adviser on local governance in rural areas.

## **Zoheb Khalil, Climate Change Champion for Yorkshire & Humberside**

Zoheb Khalil, 11, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, entered a TV news style report on climate change for the competition. His hobbies include cricket, swimming, reading non-fiction and watching wildlife documentaries. He has an active role in the school council and is the acting treasurer.

Zoheb is part of his school – Parkinson Lane Community Primary School – dancing team, who have recently returned from France, having danced in the Louvre to raise awareness of the plight of people caught up in the Kashmir earthquake. He is passionate about environmental work and is confident he can get the climate change message across to his peers.

## **David Saddington, Climate Change Champion for the North East**

David Saddington, 13, from Stockton-On-Tees, entered a newspaper article for the climate change competition. He enjoys drama, chess, swimming, football, sports and engineering. He wants to keep his message on climate change simple and easy to understand, he feels we need to get across that it is cool to be eco-friendly and everyone can do their bit to be part of the solution and not the problem. There is only one world, so we must look after it.

## **Mayor Martin Winter – Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council**

The Mayor of Doncaster, Martin Winter was elected in May 2002. He was one of the first elected mayors to be appointed in England as a result of the Local Government Act 2000.

Martin, 44, joined Doncaster Council as a Labour councillor in May 1999 and in the following year was selected to be Leader of the Council. After his initial Mayoral election win in 2002 he was subsequently re-elected in 2005 for a further four-year term.

As Mayor, Martin is well known in the Borough and has personal responsibility for the effective implementation of Council policy and delivering services. He also represents Doncaster Council and the Borough on a local, national and international platform. Martin has a very varied background and before joining Doncaster Council ran a consultancy in management and organisational

development focusing on not for profit organisations for seven years on a self employed basis.

In addition, after graduating in Fine Art (Sculpture) and French philosophy from Sunderland Polytechnic, Martin worked as a freelance sculptor. His public commissions can be seen across the country. A keen sportsman, he is an ex professional rugby league player and played for Great Britain Universities and professionally for Doncaster, Keighley and Chatillion (near Paris).

Martin lives in Doncaster with his partner and three children. His interests include nature conservation, jazz and classic car restoration.

### **Solitaire Townsend, Futerra**

Solitaire Townsend M.A, M.Prof. is co-founder and Managing Director of Futerra. She has led our consultancy work with business and government, including internal communications, media management and strategy for sustainable development. She has experience of communications over a wide diversity of sectors.

Solitaire is a member of the United Nations Advisory Group on Advertising and Sustainable Development, the Institute of Public Relations Steering group on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Forum for the Future Steering Group on Marketing and Sustainable Development. She gained a masters degree in Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon and a second masters in Sustainable Development at Middlesex University.

### **Steve Waller, Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government, IDeA**

Steve is Principal Consultant within IDeA's Sustainability Communities Division where he is responsible for the Agency's support for local authorities on Climate Change and on Waste Management.

Steve believes that Climate Change is one of the key drivers of change within our communities and in addressing the impacts of Climate Change Councils must take the opportunity to tackle issues like Fuel Poverty, which have affected disadvantaged communities for a long time. Steve is the author of the *Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (2000 and 2005)* and assisted in the preparation of a number of guides for local authorities including *Community leadership and Climate Change (2001)* published by DEFRA and *Climate change and local communities - How prepared are you?* Published by UKCIP in 2003.

He also manages IDeA's Waste Management Peer Review pilot programme designed to help Councils in England improve waste management services and leads the Beacon Council Waste and Recycling theme.

Steve has worked on Environmental policy and Sustainable Development in local government for 15 years before joining IDeA in April 2003.

## **Dr John Barrett – Stockholm Environment Institute**

John Barrett is responsible for creating and developing the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) research group at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). The group specialises in developing statistical and scientific evidence to help us move towards one planet living at the local, regional and national levels. John leads projects across Europe and China. He recently headed research on Counting Consumption UK; the most comprehensive analysis yet attempted at tracking materials, carbon dioxide, and our Ecological Footprint by industrial sector, geographical area and socio-economic group.

In January 2006 SEI released the headline carbon dioxide accounts and Ecological Footprint for every local authority area in the UK. The interest has been considerable with over 1,000 downloads of the data in the first 2 months alone.

You can access these headline indicators and find out about the REAP modelling tool at <http://www.sei.se/reap>.

## **Dick Bradford – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

Dick Bradford is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, a SAP 2005 Registered Assessor, National Trainer for SBEM and latterly has qualified as a 'Low Carbon Consultant' under the CIBSE Competent Person Scheme.

A Building Services Design Engineer, with nearly 40 years experience in a senior capacity, he has held the post of Chief Services Engineer with Barnsley MBC for the last 22 Years.

A specialist in controls and in application technology one of Dick's earliest achievements was the pioneering on 'Airless Kindle' of Solid Fuel Boilers which served to demonstrate that coal could be better and more properly controlled and thereby economic in use. Primary fuel savings around 40% become the norm after his methods were applied.

His comprehensive understanding and use of Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) has played a significant part in reducing BMBC's Energy Costs and Carbon Emissions by over 50% from the expenditure levels that existed in the mid 1980's. Latterly his insistence on designs utilizing Radiant Panels and Under-floor Heating with conductive screeds, as a departure from more conventional systems, has produced design solutions that operate better than the Governments 'Best Practice' performance criteria.

The focus of his attention now is on the introduction of Biomass Technology as being the answer to many of the problems associated with national energy shortages and the need to make considerable reductions in 'Greenhouse Gas' emissions.

Recognition of this work is seen in that Barnsley MBC received the Ashden Award 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for Renewable Energy Generation in June 2006. The next goal is to reach the Governments 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target for 2050 by 2010 – 40 years ahead of schedule. His presentation will deal with why and how Renewable Technology was implemented within Barnsley Council and the long term benefits that will accrue as a consequence of those actions.

### **Andrew Cooper, Yorkshire and Humber Assembly**

Andrew Cooper has been the Energy Policy Manager at Yorkshire and Humber Assembly since 2004. Prior to that he has led the Housing Energy Team at Calderdale Council and the Energy Unit at Kirklees Council. He has initiated, developed and managed a wide range of energy saving and renewable energy schemes in the thirteen years he has been working in the energy field.

His role at the Assembly is to ensure Sustainable Energy is considered in regional strategies and to ensure this results in processes leading to implementation on the ground. Andrew is a trustee of the fuel poverty charity National Energy Action and has been a Kirklees Councillor in the Newsome Ward since 1999.