

Networks and Improvement

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Our language is 'Improvement'

Audiences

- Elected Members
- Senior Officers
- Professionals
 - Sustainability and climate change Practitioners
 - Other key professionals, land use planners etc

Networking practitioners

Networking is a means to an end. The goal is local government improvement. Achieved by

- Raising confidence of practitioners through information, advice and sharing
- Confidence to challenge decision makers and to insist that sustainability be adequately resourced and integrated into mainstream practice
- Confidence to seize opportunities such as delivering sustainable solutions to the problems of climate change

Who we work with

Target audience – sustainability and climate change practitioners

Opportunities

- Direct by IDeA
- With Nottingham Declaration Partners
- With Beacon Councils
- Through RIEPs

How we work

Keeping in touch

- COP and newsletter, IDeA and Nottingham Declaration websites

Sharing practice

- Online conference Feb 2009, Positive Future conference 5 and 6 May, themed workshops Feb 2008 and Oct 2009, Beacon activity started Sept 2008. ND workshops

Support

- tools and guides incl. climate change benchmark, ND reporting tool, case studies and articles on good practice

Speaking at other peoples events

Challenging local government

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improvement and development
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Lessons learnt

- **Balance listening with leadership.** User surveys, partner evaluation.
- **Support and challenge** – includes horizon scanning
- **Act as a voice for the sector** in relationship with Government (and Audit Commission) to represent local authority views and to seek a better deal for local government

Nottingham Declaration Partners

Business plan 2009/10

- Encourage, enable and challenge
- Simplify the support landscape
- Fill gaps in support
- Horizon scanning
- Balance needs of partners

Improvement lessons from the Beacon scheme

- Face to face contact most effective in sharing practice eg site visits, study tours and open days.
- Visits are especially useful at learning about best practice and innovation. Less useful at more strategic issues such as revising policy and organisational change
- 69% attending visits implemented change in practice.
- Delegate preparation before a visit aids learning.
- Important factors in transferring learning are the need to build trust between source and recipient and the ability to share failure as well as success
- Important also for the recipient to choose the right time to learn