

North Sea Commission Environment Group (NSCEG)
Work Programme 2002

Priorities decided by Annual Meeting 2001, following Porsgrunn Challenge Review 2001:

Recommendation 13: The PWG should continue to promote partnership groups to cover the following themes as a matter of priority: -
Sustainability Indicators and auditing, Training on sustainability, Green purchasing.

Activities to implement the Porsgrunn Challenge:

Area of responsibility	Activities	Responsible/Contact person(s)	Comments	Outputs
Sustainability Indicators and Auditing	R 11 The NSCEG should actively follow ongoing work to develop sustainability indicators for regions.	Gordon Summers Highland Council, Scotland gordon.summers@highland.gov.uk	Information about various relevant indicator initiatives will be compiled by Gordon S and distributed to NSCEG members.	A "catalogue" of examples of regional sustainability indicators
Training on sustainability for staff and members.	The co-ordinator should contact all who expressed interest in this field in the 2001 sustainability questionnaire and ask for their experience and plans and, possibly, include a question about their interest in environmental management systems.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	R6 The NSC and the NSCEG should promote best practice in the development and implementation of training programmes for both Councillors and Staff, which would aid the introduction of sustainability principles as core to the culture of member authorities.	Questionnaire and response

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Green purchasing	Exchange of experience; Develop regional purchasing policies, try these in pilot projects in phase 2 of Interreg project. Interreg IIIB application under preparation; lead partner Västra Götaland region, Sweden, through its purchasing branch WESTMA. Preparatory meeting in Borås. Västra Götaland, March 18-19; more potential partners welcome!	Lennart Blank WESTMA, Västra Götaland Region lennart.blank@vgregion.se Lars Haukvik Telemark fylkeskommune, Norway lars.haukvik@telemark-f.kommune.no .	R9 The PWG should consider promoting examples of best practice in the use, and monitoring, of sustainable products and services.	Interreg IIIB application for September '02 deadline.

Other activities linked to the Porsgrunn Challenge Review 2001:

R1 Member Profiles update	R 1 The Members Profiles for the NSC and the NSCEG should be regularly updated to ensure that all communications get to the right people.	NSC sekretariat, nsc@northsea.org Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	There is great need for more active involvement of more NSC members in the NSCEG. Improved Member Profiles would facilitate the work of the PWG Country Reps. Consultant assistance is needed to perform activity – in contact with PWG.	NSCEG Member Profiles updated two times a year.
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R2 Sustainability questionnaire to NSC members	R14 The NSC should carry out a review of the progress being made by its members on the Porsgrunn Challenge in the year 2003.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	Consultant assistance is needed to perform activity. The mailing list should be selected in close contact with PWG. Focus should be more on what has “been improved” or “been initiated” since last questionnaire – and on what is planned for the future.	Updated knowledge about sustainability work among NSC members. Results to be presented at NSC General Assembly 2003?.
R4 Active involvement of politicians in steering the work of the NSCEG.	Special activities for politicians at NSCEG Conference 2002. The co-ordinator should give feedback to those politicians who participated in Conference 2001. Attract politicians to Sustainable Transport conference.	Project Working Group!	R4 The PWG should continue the active involvement of politicians in steering the work of the NSCEG.	At least as many politicians participating in Conference 2002 as in 2001.
R5 Achieve (continued and increased) involvement of the NSC Executive Committee in implementation of Porsgrunn Challenge.	Raise issue in Executive Committee. Possibly: have politicians from each country who report (to General Assembly?) about Porsgrunn Challenge work in their country.	Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, Norway E-mail: gma-hel@online.no	R5 The NSC Executive Committee should continue to actively promote the adoption and the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge across all its members.	

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R 12 Good Practice Compendium R12 The NSCEG should prepare a good practice compendium of 'sustainability in action' in member Authorities.	A comprehensive "compendium" is beyond the capacity of the NSCEG to compile. The co-ordinator is to contact all regions who, in the Porsgrunn Challenge review 2001, have expressed a will to co-operate on various topics. They will be provided with appropriate contact names, to be able to initiate co-operation.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	R8 The PWG should consider how best to disseminate information on partnerships where best practice details would benefit other member authorities.	Active contacts between members who have declared a will to co-operate. A start of a "Best Practice Compendium" will be offered by the Conference on Sustainable Transport.
Sustainable Development in Rural Areas [including agriculture]	Interreg IIB project proposal is being developed by the NSC secretariat. Discussed at meeting of all Thematic Groups on Febr. 28 th .	NSC secretariat, nsc@northsea.org Project Working Group Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	This topic was the theme of "Political Visioning" workshop at Conf. 2001. There was agreement that the NSC should promote this theme across all (relevant) thematic groups. This was confirmed by Executive Committee on Dec. 7, 2001. Input was requested as to how to get further initiatives relating to this topic.	Applications for project support from Interreg IIB.

Other activities:

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NSCEG Annual Meeting and Conference 2002	Hold Conference in Belgium in November. Theme "Wind energy/sustainable energy", in accordance with proposal from hosting Euregio Scheldemond.	Jo Bultynck, Provincie West-Vlaanderen, jo.bultynck@west-vlaanderen.be	NSC Executive Committee will support this Conference with DKK 30 000, according to decision Dec. 7.	Successful conference – and possibly increased involvement from more NSCEG members.

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<p>5th North Sea Conference (5NSC) in Bergen, Norway, 20-21 March, 2002</p>	<p>Efforts to influence issues for ministerial conference and content of ministerial declaration.</p> <p>Political representation at 5NSC by NSC chair as observer and by (some) individual regions as part of national delegations.</p>	<p>Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, Norway E-mail: gma-hel@online.no</p> <p>Henrik M Jensen, Executive Secretary, NSC secretariat, crbhmj@vibamt.dk</p> <p>Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG per.horberg@vgregion.se</p>		<p>Input into ministerial declaration.</p> <p>Potential continuation of North Sea Conferences process.</p>
<p>Conference on Sustainable Transports Joint arrangement with NSC Communications & Transport Group, focusing on how future transports can be made more long term sustainable than today's transport system.</p>	<p>Conference to be held in Aarhus, Denmark, on April 18-19. All country representatives shall distribute invitation to relevant persons in their countries. Investigate project proposal to find ways to deal with this issue more permanently.</p>	<p>Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no</p> <p>Gordon Summers Highland Council gordon.summers@highland.gov.uk</p>	<p>The NSC Executive Committee finances this event with £3 000:-, from its budget for 2000. In addition the co-ordinators of both groups have contributed respectively DKK 15 000:- and 10 000:- from the groups' annual funds 2001.</p>	<p>Conference and "Tool Box" for regional politicians, showing examples of what has been tried and/or achieved in North Sea regions in sustainable transports. Possible Interreg IIB project to follow up on Conference.</p>
<p>Promotion of co-operation projects.</p>	<p>The co-ordinator will distribute to the NSCEG information he receives about project ideas/proposals related to the basic purposes of the NSCEG.</p>	<p>Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se</p>	<p>Suitable fora for project ideas will be the publications and website of the Interreg secretariat's next North Sea Directoria in Norwich, England, June 19, 2002. Project drafters are encouraged to contact Interreg secretariat, Viborg.</p>	<p>Interregional co-operation projects.</p>

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Radioactive discharges from Sellafield and other nuclear reprocessing plants	Await outcome of 5NSC; then potential co-operation with other organisations like KIMO and NFLA (UK).	Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no	Activities will be suggested by NSC Executive Committee, depending on outcome of 5NSC.	
North Sea Agenda 21 Network	The co-ordinator and Jo Bultynck will prepare contacts with partners known to be interested in this project. Potentially arranging a preparatory meeting.	Jo Bultynck, Provincie West-Vlaanderen, jo.bultynck@west-vlaanderen.be Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	List of partners provided by co-ordinator Oct. 2000. Preparatory meeting may be co-financed by NSCEG, using funds available to co-ordinator.	Application for project support from Interreg IIIB – or other available EU Programme.
Acidification	Await outcome of 5NSC. Action to be discussed at PWG, April 19. Possibly respond to EU discussion paper. Co-ordinator to e-mail discussion paper to Sverre Fosse.	Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland region, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	Topic very much connected to “Pollution from shipping”, which is one of the issues at 5NSC – and probable theme for (probable) North Sea Ministerial Meeting in 2004, hosted by Sweden in Göteborg.	Possible response to EU discussion paper.
Coastal Zone Management	Activities are to be pursued in various Interreg IIIB and C projects – not by the NSCEG.	Kathy Belpaeme Provincie West-Vlaanderen kathy.belpaeme@west-vlaanderen.be	Highly relevant topic for all NSC members and the focus of much attention and work within the EU – and not least the CPMR.	

15 February, 2002, Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator, North Sea Commission Environment Group, e-mail: per.horberg@vgregion.se