

Sustainability Conference 23rd June 2003 – Successful Businesses are Sustainable Businesses

Summary for the Sustainability Commission

This year's Sustainability Conference in Hove Town Hall was on the theme of business and sustainability. The aim of the conference was to show how sustainable practices can benefit businesses as well as improve quality of life.

The conference was welcomed by Cllr Ken Bodfish, and the day was chaired by Cllr Joyce Edmond Smith.

- Simon Fanshawe, Chairman of the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership spoke of balancing growth with environmental considerations.
- Janette Ackroyd, Programme Manager from EcoSys showed businesses how to be more sustainable and save money.
- Thurstan Crockett, B&HCC Economic Development Manager talked about what his team were doing to help businesses be more sustainable, and the kind of work that could be done in the future.
- Ben Messer, Director of C LEVEL explained how carbon balancing works.
- Joe McNulty, Managing Director of construction firm Integra talked about corporate social responsibility and how this was done in his company.
- Richard Mehmed founder of the Brighton and Hove Wood Recycling Project talked about his business as a social enterprise and how it was established.

The afternoon workshops were run by SEEDA, American Express, B&Q and C-LEVEL amongst others on topics such as Sustainable Business Partnerships, Sustainable Procurement and Corporate Social Responsibility.

The day was a great success, with representatives from businesses, business organisations, voluntary organisations and council's discussing the merits and practicalities of sustainability.

Comments included:

- "speakers were excellent";
- "an enjoyable and useful day"
- "case studies were excellent - they always 'speak volumes'"
- "well done - hope you repeat this sort of event next year"

A report of the conference will be produced, for those who were unable to make the day.

Contact Officer: Karen Gardham, Ext 3332
10th September 2003