



Dear EMS Network Member,

In July 2006, Kirklees Council set up a national network of regional EMS groups for public sector bodies. They were able to do this with financial support from Defra. The main purpose of the network was to encourage and assist more public sector bodies to implement formal environmental management systems certified to national, European or international standards. Over the past four years the network has helped local authorities and other public sector bodies to share best practice, training opportunities, skills, knowledge, and expertise and has provided a platform for discussing a wide range of other environmental and sustainability issues.

Kirklees Council has however decided not to bid for further funding to co-ordinate the EMS network in 2010/11. Kirklees is focusing its resources in other areas such as preparing for the Carbon Reduction Commitment, continuing our work in the domestic sector and developing new ways of working with micro businesses in Kirklees.

In the light of Kirklees Council's decision not to continue with its previous coordinating role for the EMS network, Defra is reviewing its position and considering how best it can continue supporting the network to achieve its stated goals.

Defra would therefore welcome the views of network members on actions they can take to become self-sustaining in the long term, including, for example, sharing resources with other established Government Office networks such as the Yorkshire and Humber Government Office Climate Change Network; and exploring other avenues for finance.

Thank you to all who have attended meetings, provided presentations, meeting rooms and generally supported Kirklees with the coordination of the network.

Please send your Ideas and suggestions to the EMS Network mailbox ([ems.network@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:ems.network@kirklees.gov.uk)) and they will be sent on to DEFRA

Thank you again,

Helena Tinker,  
Alexis Fennell, and;  
Kathryn Marshall

**EMS National Network coordinators for Kirklees Council**

Sackey Bennin, and;  
Sue Whitehead  
**Defra**