

2nd April 2007

Specifying Sustainability

Six breakfast briefings are being held across the South East to help construction companies and public sector procurers in the Built Environment tackle the issues surrounding sustainable procurement. This will support the government's new Sustainable Procurement Action Plan which sets out the changes that Government supply-chains and public services will need to take to become low carbon, low waste, water efficient, respect biodiversity and deliver the UK's 2009 sustainable development goals.

SECBE, together with its project partners SEEDA, SECE and Business Link, has established a Built Environment Sustainable Procurement Network (BESPN) to promote best practice in Sustainable Procurement across the Public, Private and Academic sectors. "There will be huge opportunities in our Region for built environment companies who can meet the sustainability requirements of public sector specifiers," says Derek Rees, SECBE's Chief Executive. And all parts of the public sector, agencies and local authorities, are headed in the same direction. Our sector needs to be prepared and the BESPN can do this."

The breakfast briefings will identify the challenges to be faced by public sector procurers and construction and built environment suppliers and how to overcome them.

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2/”Specifying Sustainability”

The briefings will look at all aspects of sustainable procurement; these include understanding sustainable construction and the procurement process which goes with it, how to put sustainability at the heart of tenders, the facts behind constructing energy efficient buildings, how to buy green materials and how to design buildings to withstand climate change.

The breakfast briefings are free and will be held in Reading, Maidstone and Guildford during April. For more details call 0118 933 8798 or e-mail events@secbe.org.uk or link to www.secbe.org.uk. ENDS

For further information, please contact Ruth de Mierre on 01444 453399 (mobile: 07870 267344)

Editor’s Note:

Sustainable Procurement considers the environmental, social and economic consequences of: design; non- renewable material use; manufacture and production methods; logistics; service delivery; use; operation; maintenance; reuse; recycling options; disposal; and suppliers’ capabilities to address these consequences throughout the supply chain.

SECBE - South East Centre for the Built Environment

The South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) is a consortium of business leaders that exists to inform policy and drive business-to-business learning and networking. They take regional strategies and industry issues and develop action plans to improve business performance throughout the sector. SECBE is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee - owned and driven by its business members. SECBE aims to help businesses operating across the South East – Oxon, Bucks, Berks, Hants, Surrey, Sussex and Kent to create a sustainable built environment through better business.

Business Link

Business link is a Government funded service providing businesses in Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire with a free, convenient and impartial route to the most appropriate advice, information and resources in the business arena.

SECE - South East Centre of Excellence

Established in November 2004, the South East Centre of Excellence is one of nine centres funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Centre is responsible for supporting all 74 Local Authorities within the South East, in their delivery of the aims of the National Procurement Strategy. SECE’s vision is to support Local Authorities in the South East to improve the efficiency of their services.

SEEDA – South East England Development Agency

SEEDA is the Government funded agency set up in 1999 responsible for the economic and social development of the South East of England - the driving force of the UK’s economy. SEEDA aims to be a catalyst for change within the South East, working with partner organisations- businesses, education at all levels, local authorities, Government agencies, voluntary and community organisations and many others - to produce clearly recognisable results.