

West Midlands HECA Forum Conference
8th October 2003, 9.30am to 3.45pm
Venue: Highbury Hall, Moseley, Birmingham

‘Towards a West Midlands Energy Strategy’

Why develop a West Midlands Energy Strategy?

The Energy White Paper has acknowledged that local authorities have an important role to play in decisions on energy policy and that there should be greater emphasis on local and regional approaches in delivering national energy objectives. As a result, the White Paper has proposed that each region develops a strategic approach to energy policy, recognising that regional and local decision making will help promote national objectives through partnership working.

The West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy has identified five themes on which the region will concentrate, including Housing and Fuel Poverty, Renewable Energy and Transport Energy.

The new Sustainable Energy Bill, currently in the Lords will also have a major impact on the future direction of energy strategies in the area. The Bill will identify ‘energy efficiency directions’ for each energy conservation authority. Under the new legislation, authorities will have a duty to fulfil the ‘directions’ specified under the new legislation. Our ‘strategy’ conference is therefore well timed.

The WM HECA forum’s work on the West Midlands Local Authority Sustainable Energy Strategy will contribute to the Regional Strategy Development process and with your valuable contribution on the day, will help ensure that the local and regional issues that are important to us will be properly considered.

What will be happening at the conference?

This one-day conference is the eighth in the very successful series of one day events arranged by the West Midlands HECA Forum. We have enjoyed support from the Government Office in the West Midlands and the October conference is sponsored by ‘here to HELP’ (British Gas) and Birmingham City Council.

The GOWM will provide a background to the Regional Energy Strategy Development Process, with Dr Lynne Jones MP setting the work of the Forum in context. Speakers from the Birmingham City Council, IT Power and Gfleet Services provide overviews of strategic work in the West Midlands in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport. British Gas will also be giving a presentation of their ‘here to HELP’ initiative which is meeting the challenge of fuel poverty in the region.

The Forum aims to encourage partnership development involving local authorities their strategic partners and the private sector.

The event is FREE to delegates thanks to the generous support of ‘here to HELP’ Birmingham City Council and the WM HECA Steering Group.

For further information please contact:

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