

## Conference Invitation

### **Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), Sustainability and Climate Change: Global and Local Perspectives**

**Who would benefit?** The conference is intended for the SME community, including SMEs, policy makers, educators, researchers, consultants and organizations who work with SMEs.

#### **Scope**

Loughborough University is currently working with SMEs both in the UK and overseas to assess sustainability and climate change implications for financial performance, corporate relationships and future skills requirements. The conference presents findings arising from this work and provides opportunities for participants to discuss issues with important practical, policy and educational implications.

The conference considers three themes:

1. **Opportunities.**  
Actions currently taken by SMEs to address sustainability and climate change issues create new opportunities. The conference will address a range of opportunities including new markets, managing procurement and cost reduction.
2. **Motivations and Challenges**  
There are a number of reasons why SMEs might engage with sustainability and climate change issues, including regulation and a sense of responsibility towards future generations. The conference will address the motivations behind SME engagement and the practical challenges that result.
3. **National and International Perspectives**  
Sustainability and climate change have both local and global implications. The conference will highlight experiences from the UK and Chile as a basis for comparison of responses at both national and international levels.

Further information is available from: [n.j.beesley2@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:n.j.beesley2@lboro.ac.uk)

**Venue:** Holywell Park, Loughborough University.

**When:** January 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**Time:** 9-00 to 17-00 and includes lunch (hot and/or cold).

**Cost:** The conference is free.

**Event sponsored by:** Accion RSE; BiTC; Loughborough University Knowledge Dissemination Fund; UNRCE East Midlands.

## Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), Sustainability and Climate Change: Global and Local Perspectives

One-day conference: Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2011

| <b>Timetable</b>                                 |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>09:00 Registration</b>                        |  |   |
| <b>09.20 Welcome and introduction (Ed Brown)</b> |  |   |
| Session One                                      | <b>Benefits of climate change action for SMEs</b>  |   |
| 9.30   | Opportunities and Motivations: An overview of UK SME responses                                       | Grahame Boocock and Laurie McAulay<br>Loughborough University |
| 9.50   | Energy management and its challenges: An SME perspective   | Haydn Young<br>(Gaia Active)                                  |
| <b>10.10 Discussion</b>                          |  |   |
| <b>10.40 Morning break and refreshments</b>      |  |   |
| Session Two                                      | <b>Procurement and sustainable sourcing</b>  |   |
| 11.00  | Responsible sourcing in the construction sector  | Jacqui Glass<br>Loughborough University                       |
| 11.20  | Construction industry supply chain relationships with SMEs   | Ian Wallace<br>(Bovis Lend Lease)                             |
| 11.40  | The BiTC approach to dealing with the SME community with a particular focus on the procurement chain | TBC<br>(Business in the Community)                            |
| <b>12.00 Discussion</b>                          |  |   |
| <b>12.30 – 13.30 Lunch</b>                       |  |   |

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|---|---|---|
| Session Four                                  | <b>An International Comparison: Chilean perspectives</b>  |   |
| 13.30   | The SME sector in Chile:<br>Major Features & Key<br>Challenges  | Francisco Castañeda   |
| 13.50   | Presentation on Accion<br>RSE's recent work on CSR<br>issues with the Chilean<br>SME community          | Alejandro Diaz<br>(Accion RSE, Chile)                           |
| <b>14.10 Discussion</b>                       |   |   |
| <b>14.40 Afternoon break and refreshments</b> |   |   |
| Session Three                                 | <b>National and International Perspectives</b>  |   |
| 15.10   | The Regional Skills for<br>Sustainability Agenda and<br>the challenges for future<br>UK national policy | James Luger   |
| 15.30   | Operationalizing CSR<br>policies within<br>organisations: A UK &<br>international view                  | Shamir Ghumra and Chris<br>Higgs<br>(Aggregates Industries Ltd) |
| 15.50   | Corporate relationships<br>within supply networks:<br>An international<br>perspective                   | Ed Brown<br>Loughborough University                             |
| <b>16.10 Discussion</b>                       |   |   |
| <b>16.50 Concluding Comments (Ed Brown)</b>   |   |   |