

NEES Partners Meeting – 27th – 28th March 2014

Present: As per Attendance Lists (attached)

Apologies: Thomas Fitzgerald (SKDP), Jing Qu (ARTEK), John O'Leary (NCE). John Scahill (Consultant to ARTEK)

Day 1 March 27th

(Presentations are numbered in the order they appeared in the final Agenda)

P1 - WP1 Overall Progress Report, final report and accounts - Jose Ospina CCEA (PPP available)

(PPP presented) There had been good progress over the 5th Reporting Period both on the WP deliverables and on the budget. The 3rd call had taken place and one further Best Practice had been approved, giving us 15. In addition to this 5 Pilot project and a number of smaller pilot projects involving training have been carried out. There have been over 12 public events and extensive media coverage. So the main deliverables of the project have been achieved. Some Partners experienced difficulty in developing and finishing the project, and this is reflected in a significant level of underspending by some partners. Assuming continued level of spend to the end of the project, we will have spent 85.32% of the budget, with most of underspend down to 2 partners. There have been continued delays in approvals of collective claims, and this is due to missing information from partners. As a result, some Partners have not received any funding to date. Jose would write to Partners that were dallying claims asking them to send missing information or we would ask for them to be left out of payments until missing information received. Jose clarified that Partners could continue to claim eligible activities until end of April. After that only preparation of Partner final reports and audits would be eligible, and only for work on the final reports, until the date of submission of final accounts by the Partner to FLC. Partners who were proposing to claim expenditure from work on the Final Report after 28.04.14 should check with their FLC to ensure costs proposed will be approved in principle. Partners in doubt on this should contact Jose. ARTEK has agreed to contribute to cost of Project Final Content Report and Partners agreed that we would try to have this carried out by the contractor winning the Results Website Tender. Tenders have been received from this job, but an appointment is pending. **The forms for final reporting are on the NPP web site on <http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/documents/Downloads/>** (headings Reporting Pack/Main Projects/Final Report) and partners are asked to download the appropriate forms and pass on to their finance officers, for their final accounting. **GCU-UU will set up an ADOBE link so that interviewing of Short List for web site and final content report can be held.** Jose will suggest dates and times for this. GCU and Clar ICH agreed to provide additional comment on web site and Final Content Report if required. In terms of collecting information on NEES events held, **Jose would produce and circulate and Events reporting form, which would be linked to the NPP indicators.** Tom stated that John Scahill was waiting for more feedback on the Training Modules so he could proceed with the drafting work. **Jose would circulate to Partners for comment.**

P2- WP2 - Best Practices Criteria – Rohinton Emmanuel (PPP available)

In addition to the development of the Best Practice Criteria and the Selection procedure for Best Practices, Rohinton reported on activities carried out by GCU during the final period. This included a Future Footprints Seminar in Glasgow in November, the development of a Cross party Group on Architecture and the Build Environment at the Scottish Parliament also in November and various other activities. Also, he reported from the Sustainable Building Materials Scotland event in March 17th that gathered many Best practices as well as speakers and policy makers from Scotland to showcase and promote what was available in this area. GCU has commissioned the carrying out of a Carbon Footprint of one of their Best Practices (Enviroglass) that demonstrated the environmental advantaged of this Product.

P3 - WP3 – Benchmarking Best Practices – Thomas Olofsson and Geza Fischl (PPP available)

Geza describes the process that UMU and Partners have developed for the selection of Best practices and explained that 15 Best Practices have been selected to date. He explained that information for the Project posters have been collected from most best practices, and only information on Invezar Woodlands and MAKKAR timber frame builders is missing. Rohinton agreed to provide these ASAP so posters could be completed.

P4 - WP4 – Results of Best Practice Feasibility Studies – Derek Bond UU (verbal only)

Derek gave a short verbal report on progress son this area. Most of the Best Practices have been visited, although visits to some Swedish BP's are pending. UU has had problems with NEES staff finishing their contracts and other Staff being on leave, but will complete final report on feasibilities by the Project end.

P5 - WP5 – Final Review of Pilot Projects – Thomas Fitzgerald SKDP (deferred)

In view of there being no SKDP staff present, which was deferred to the Seminar on day 2.

P6 - WP6 – Vocational Training and the Training Manual – Tom Woolley for ARTEK (verbal only)

Tom, together with John Scahill (Arch) has been commissioned to draft the Vocational Training Modules and Training Guide, which are currently being drafted. These cover the areas agreed by NEES Partners for future training in Best practices. There was some discussion as to how they could be delivered, and we would look at a variety of methods of delivery, including directly by partners but also on-line. NEES would provide feedback on the draft sent ASAP. Jose would circulate to appropriate partners fro comment. Tom's PPP presentation on this issue was deferred to the Seminar on Day 2.

P7 - WP7 – Dissemination – Geza Fischl – UMU (PPP available)

Geza presented the results of the WP on dissemination. A brochure has been produced and posters on almost every best practice and on-line portal, newsletter and a Network of stakeholders have been developed. There have been at last 12 public seminars and events. Focus groups have been developed in several Partner regions. We have also carried out some mapping of potential stakeholders. These will be used again in terms of the dissemination of the Project results.

P9 Retrofit in Finland - Presentation by Kimmo Lylykangas (UMU) (PPP available)

Kimmo is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture in Umea, and he gave a very informative presentation on work his practice has carried out in sustainable design and building, in particular aiming at the substitution of high-impact synthetic materials with less carbon and energy intensive renewable materials.

Day 2 March 28th

P10 Arctic Eco-Architecture – Peter Barfoed (consultant for ARTEK) (Photos pending).

Peter present a series of photos that outlined the particular problems of arctic architecture and some of the innovative solutions that have been applied, including some information on ARTEK's NEES Pilot Project, the Blue House. Now that the Northern Periphery Programme has acquired a more emphatic arctic orientation, the need for development of materials and designs that are appropriate to the arctic region becomes more important.

P12 Low Carbon design and construction- Kevin McCartney, CCAE (PPP available)

Kevin explained the basic principles of low carbon architecture and materials and the principle of embodied energy. He showed how embodied energy can undo the benefits of energy efficient materials. Also, how renewable materials sequester carbon, thereby creating and added mitigation of GHG emissions.

P13 NEES Project overview, achievements and conclusions. Jose Ospina, Project Manager CCAE (PPP available)

Given the low number of external participants, this presentation was not delivered. It summarised the main results of the NEESW project, including Best Practices (15), Pilot Projects (5), Training Pilots (3) Events (12) Partner Meetings (7) and other deliverables of the Project. It showed that there is still a lot of work to be done in this field, but NEES is a good start.

P14 Delivering and Benchmarking Sustainability, Rohinton Emmanuel, GCU (PPP available)

Rohinton delivered a summary of the rationale behind the NEES Criteria for selection of best practices, including a summary of the 600 different accreditations available for sustainable construction. In particular, he noted the importance of the "social and economic indicators" as they were key to the mainstreaming of the products concerned. He also described the process used by NEES for accrediting Best Practices and gave examples of the 6 Scottish best practices and other selected.

P15 – Profiling Best Practices - UMU

This was not presented, given that it was covered under P3 above.

P16 Profiling and developing sustainable businesses models – Derek Bond, UU (PPP pending)

Derek provided a summary of the business and innovation considerations surrounding NEES best practices. He suggested that NEESs needed to research combining of traditional materials and new technologies.

P17 Developing vocational and on-line training – Tom Woolley, consultant for ARTEK (PPP pending)

Tom explained the advantages and the dangers inherent in the unworkable installation of green materials, in particular hempcrete, and the need for proper research and accreditation. He also explained the proposed vocational training programme that John Scahill and himself had been commissioned to draft for ARTEK and NEES. He suggested that Partners should be prepared to deliver these Modules themselves.

P20 Education, Research, Practice – Cloyne Pilot Project – Kevin Gartland CCEA (PPP available)

Kevin gave a presentation on the Cloyne project which was CCAE's pilot project, a private retrofit and extension project which incorporated 7 best Practices in use of natural renewable and recycled materials. The project was based on the preservation of a historical building (Parnell Cottage) and included retrofit to the existing building as well as the building of a timber frame extension. Hempcrete would be used for external cladding, as well as cellulose for the insulation of the timber frame extension and a sedum roof and wooden double glazed window frames. The building would be used to provide training to students which would be filmed and placed on the NEES Results web site.

P11 Assessing the Life Cycle Impact – Cloyne Pilot project – Raoul Empey consultant for SKDP (PPP pending)

Raoul has been commissioned to carry out a Life Cycle assessment of the Cloyne Pilot Project and explained the methodology that he was using. A first evaluation was indicating that the main benefit of the use of NEES best Practices came from the GHG saving made and the GWP reduction achieved through the use of carbon sequestration products such as wood, cellulose and hempcrete. However, it seems that transport costs in particular are adding embodied energy to these materials and neutralising the energy saving benefits, which shows the importance of local sourcing of materials. The work was still in progress, but Partners agreed it was important to identify the "hot spots" that were causing energy and GHG expenditure.

P18 Pilot Project to Demonstrate Best Practice – Tomas Fitzgerald SKDP (presented by Raoul Empey) (PPP pending)

Raoul presented this in Thomas' absence. SKDP was responsible for gathering information on the Pilot projects, but was also carrying out some local pilots. In particular, they were developing a Constructed Wetlands with FH Wetlands, one of our best Practices, on Valencia Lighthouse in Co. Kerry. In addition to this, they have carried out a number of training sessions on the use of cellulose with Eco Cell (Cork best practice) also in Co. Kerry. They believe the project has been useful in giving local communities new and more sustainable materials to work with.

P19 Clar ICH – Promoting Natural and Sustainable Materials – Alma Gallagher, Clar ICH (PPP available)

Alma explained that Clar ICH was a community based housing association with links to the Irish Centre in London. Car has participated in the NEES project by using cellulose insulation in one of their new build project (Mayfield Community Centre) as well as undertaking training of other community groups and housing associations, and a practical raining project in the construction of a cob oven as a training exercise for local farmers and builders. Clar felt the natural approach as far as building had great potential for acceptance, although it was not yet officially recognised.

P21 Bid and Future prospects – Jose Ospina, CCAE (PPP available)

Jose explained the work that NEES had been doing in looking for funding to continue activities after the end of the project. A preparatory Bid had been made to Northern Periphery programme, and this was based on the proposal of creating natural House accreditation base don the NEES Criteria, that would be applied and promoted in the NPP region. This was turned down. A further Bid been proposed to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, for a Low carbon house model, that would look at the near zero energy standards over the Life Cycle of the Building, and would involve at Life Cycle assessment of a pilot building. This was not submitted due to inappropriate timescales, but SEAI were sympathetic to a future proposal. Finally a full Bid was made to the Horizon 2020 program for a project called NATLOW CO2, which proposed the use of renewable and recycled materials to achieve stringent energy and carbon reduction, as well as cost and sustainability targets. It also included very detailed Life Cycle Assessment and energy measurement activities. The project included several NEES Partners, but also a number of new partners from Spain =, Sweden and Brussels. We would know about the outcome of this Bid in August.

Final Discussion and Next Steps

Rohinton thought that we should make another Bid for a full NPP project in October again under the idea of the NEES Natural House Standard, but [incorporating](#) more of the scientific evaluation proposed in NATLOW CO2. Agreed that CCAE would host a meeting of prospective Partners for such a project after the Call was published. It was noted that the Call would contain a greater emphasis on Energy efficiency, and a greater focus on the artic region. Jose also suggested that another Irish based proposal could be made to SEAI R&D programme, around the development of an LCA tool for assessing the Life Cycle impact of buildings. Clar ICH expressed and interest in this and Jose would set up a meeting when the Call was published.

In terms of the future direction of NEES, it was agreed that we were aiming at establishing a permanent network or cluster to promote this approach. However, without funding it would be very difficult to maintain this. Raoul suggested that we book at the possibility of setting up and SME under the Horizon 2020 programme (it would have to be formed by 3 existing SME's) to provide products and services throughout Europe. [This](#) could be made to the H2020 Environment SME programme by June 2014. Jose would look at this possibility and set up an ADOBE meeting to discuss. Derek agreed that [GCUU](#) would continue with the ADOBE subscription and set these meetings up as required.

The meeting finished at 4 PM.

Jose Ospina
Project Manager
NEES Project