

Call for Papers
for the conference stream on
Industrial Ecology and Regional Development Session

within the

11th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference

June 6-8, 2005 in Helsinki at Finlandia Hall, Finland

Conference Website: www.erpenvironment.org

Session Convenors:

Pauline Deutz (P.Deutz@hull.ac.uk) and David Gibbs (D.C.Gibbs@hull.ac.uk),
University of Hull, Tony Jackson (a.a.jackson@dundee.ac.uk), University of Dundee,
and Don Lyons (dlyons@unt.edu), University of North Texas

In this session, we would like to explore the commonalities between industrial ecology and regional development studies. Industrial ecology (IE) is a business-centred eco-efficiency initiative based on an analogy with natural ecosystems. It is part of the broader field of endeavour to move society towards a more ecologically balanced relationship with the environment. Exposure to debates in the social science community may be a useful vehicle to attempt to understand some of the connections and potential synergies between industrial ecology and the broader field of sustainability initiatives at what is still a formative stage of the discipline.

Notwithstanding the private sector origins of industrial ecology, its implementation in the form of eco-industrial development has been seen as a public sector tool for promoting sustainable development, especially in the US. In the UK IE, or more specifically industrial symbiosis, has received support from regional development agencies in the form of the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme. It is seen as a way of promoting regional development by improving the economic performance of businesses.

The timeliness of this session is indicated by the increasing influence of environmental issues policy areas such as regional development. Implementation of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, for example, requires policy makers to consider environmental impacts explicitly. Much EU environmental legislation has no direct equivalent in the US, although a series of voluntary programs such as those specified under Project XL, are encouraging companies to develop new ways to achieve environmental results, which may increase the prioritisation of the environment on the regional development and business agendas. This session could help to promote a cross-fertilisation of ideas on the efficacy of the EU regulatory driven approach to sustainability, compared to the US reliance on voluntary actions and market mechanisms. Contributions from beyond EU/US are very much encouraged, in order to expand the debate further.

Among other areas, we would welcome papers that deal with:

- Eco-industrial park development
- Region-wide industrial ecology initiatives
- The role of policy in promoting industrial symbiosis
- Theorising industrial ecology at the regional scale
- Developing interfirm linkages at on-site and/or regional scales.

Please notify one of the session organisers as soon as possible, if you are interested in participating in this event, or would like more information.

Abstracts

200 word abstract should be e-mailed to Jouni Korhonen (jouni.korhonen@uta.fi) by February 11, 2005.