

Call for Papers
for the conference stream on
Sustainability Networks
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 Convenor: Dr. Alfred Posch

This conference stream on sustainability networks will be devoted to understanding how networking and cooperation of businesses and other organisations contribute to sustainable development including the ecological, social and economic dimensions. Starting with the central concept of inter-organisational industrial ecology, the main idea is that inter-company collaboration can take place over a very broad range and thus contribute to a shared vision of sustainable development for a large system. Two main paths to pursue are a local/regional economic system and a product system along the entire product life cycle/value chain. The central hypothesis is that businesses play a key role in sustainable development, and that sustainability efforts need to be directed across and beyond company borders since businesses are always embedded in larger systems where interaction with different groups of stakeholders is both commonplace and unavoidable, i.e. corporate social responsibility. In sustainability networks, voluntary but organised cooperation among different stakeholders can provide a fruitful approach for encouraging collaborative action towards the common goal of sustainable development. Inter-organisational partnering and networking can take place on a business-to-business level, as public-private-partnerships, or take various forms of public participation.

Papers and presentations for this conference stream are invited in the following areas but may also address related themes:

- Sustainability oriented stakeholder management
- Regional/municipal sustainability management
- Local agenda 21 and industry
- Public-private-partnerships for sustainable development
- Eco-industrial parks, industrial symbiosis and recycling networks
- Management and information systems for sustainability networks
- Sustainability oriented innovations
- Corporate social responsibility
- Environmental supply chain management and sustainability
- Life cycle management

- Other theoretical considerations, empirical or case study work in the field of inter-organisational industrial ecology

The conference stream will be chaired by Dr. Alfred Posch, editor of the double special issue on sustainability networks of *Progress in Industrial Ecology – An International Journal (PIE)*, Vol. 1, No. 4, and Vol. 2, No. 1, Inderscience Publishers. Presentations and discussions of papers already published in this special issue and of new papers are both welcome. The conference stream seeks to bring together international and interdisciplinary scholars working in this field and to initiate an exciting dialogue on the potentials and limitations of sustainability networks.

Initial abstracts of approximately 200 words should be emailed to Alfred Posch (alfred.posch@uni-graz.at) and to Jouni Korhonen (jouni.korhonen@uta.fi) by February 11, 2005.