

## **Proceedings of the First National Air Quality Forecasting Seminar**

A National Air Quality Forecast Seminar took place at the Met Office headquarters in Bracknell on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2001.

The conference kicked off an improved air-quality service that the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Devolved Administrations has commissioned from the Met Office and the National Environmental Technology Centre (NETCEN). The service aims to make improved air quality information more accessible to Local Authorities, health services and the general public.

The event was attended by 39 delegates including Scientific Officers, environmental health and pollution control delegates from local authorities, as well as academics, consultants and representatives from DEFRA and the devolved administrations and the Head of Weather at Anglia Television.

The air-quality service has a number of aims.

- To give prior notice to groups sensitive to high levels of pollution so that they can take action to reduce any risk
- To encourage members of the public to be more environmentally friendly, particularly during periods of poor air quality
- To provide advance warning of the length and severity of pollution episodes to the Government and health services

The event included talks on how the air pollution forecasts are made, methods of distributing forecasts, and ways in which Local Authorities may be able to use the air-quality advice. There was also a discussion of the implications of using weather and air quality forecasts to enhance hospital efficiency.

The conference provided an introduction to the air-quality service and will be followed by further biannual events, hosted alternately by the Met Office and NETCEN.

Copies of the presentations from the seminar are included here in pdf format, for further information on the air quality forecasting service contact [paul.willis@aeat.co.uk](mailto:paul.willis@aeat.co.uk).

<b>9:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>ARRIVAL AND COFFEE</b>	
10:00 – 10:15	Introduction to the National Forecasting Service	Greg Archer - DEFRA
10:15 – 10:45	How pollution forecasts are made using NAME.	Dr Alistair Manning – Met Office
10:45 – 11:15	Forecasting ground-level ozone	John Stedman - NETCEN
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	<b>COFFEE</b>	
11:45 – 12:15	Forecasting plume grounding of sulphur dioxide	David Acres - JEP
12:15 – 12:45	Dissemination of the Forecast.	Paul Willis - NETCEN
<b>12:45 – 14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14:00 – 14:30	How Local Authorities can use Air Quality Forecasting.	Andrew Deacon – Lewes District Council
14:30 – 15:00	Using air quality forecasts in weather broadcasts	Dr William Bird – Met Office
15:00 – 15:30	Open Discussion & Departures	