

The Pillars of Social Partnership are assembling panels for applications to environmental pillar panel, each local authority area and will be looking at the CVs to see who will be most likely to achieve our objectives, and then will make the nominations. The persons will be representing the environment and not the organisation from whence they came or the Pillar. However the pillar require the nominees to be a member of an environmental group so that they can consult with its members, and report back as well as disseminate through it.

**Invitation for expressions of interest from people willing to represent the Environment on SPCs**

Following the incorporation of the Environmental Pillar into Social Partnership, the new Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) being set up by Local Authorities for the 2009 - 2014 period will include Environmental representatives appointed by the Environmental Pillar.

Members of environmental groups willing to volunteer their time and knowledge to sit on Strategic Policy Committees as representatives of the Environment should email expressions of interest to: Michael Ewing, Environmental Pillar Coordinator, michael@ien.ie by August 21<sup>st</sup> 2009.

**As the nominee must belong to a group that has the protection of the environment as its main aim ESAI requests that a copy of the application should be sent to Shirley Gallagher at chairman@esaiweb.org at the same time.** It will be proposed at the next ESAI council meeting that a sub-group of ESAI members acting as local environmental representatives would meet on an annual basis to consult with and report to ESAI and also to the environmental pillar forum when it is established. The opportunity to inform our members and public will be via Environews (ESAI Ezine) and the website (www.esaiweb.org) will be strongly encouraged.

Please include a description of the qualities that you feel would make you suitable for this role, a short CV and the name of your County/City Council (in all a maximum of one page of A4, type face Tahoma, 12 point).

For more detail on the work, time commitment and terms of reference please see below.

### **The role of a Local Environmental Representative on an SPC**

A person who is nominated to represent environmental issues will be expected to:

- Promote the protection and enhancement of the environment, in all its aspects and in all considerations
- Promote the application of the precautionary principle to all decision-making
- Promote the concept of sustainability<sup>1</sup> and resilience building in all decision-making.
- Consult with and report to his/her local environmental group and networks, as well as keeping the Coordinator of the Environmental Pillar informed of any major issues arising
- It is intended to encourage the establishment of an environmental forum in every local authority district, and the representative would be required to consult with and report to this forum when it is established.

### **The Work**

The representative is a person who will do their best to protect and enhance the environment by ensuring that decisions and proposals made are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The representative on an SPC would be expected to attend about 4 meetings a year. Travel expenses within the county may be refunded by the local authority concerned. As an SPC member you would be required to operate under Standards In Public Office (SIPO) guidelines

### **The Qualities Required**

The nominees must:

- Belong to a group that has the protection of the environment as its main aim. Ideally, nominees should be members of NGOs that are part of the Environmental Pillar.
- Have a good understanding of a range of environmental issues
- Be willing to consult and report with their own local environmental groups and networks

### **The nominees should have the following:**

Assertiveness; good communication skills, written and oral; good social skills; team-working skills; good sense of humour; diplomatic skills; reasonable computer skills; and be organised/disciplined in their engagement with the processes involved.

### **Support from the Pillar**

The Environmental Pillar through its Coordinator and wider membership will provide a resource in terms of expertise and guidance where appropriate. As the Pillar develops policy documents these will also be available as a resource. Periodic training sessions may also be organised contingent on available resources.