ASSIGNMENT: 31 JANUARY – 6 FEBRUARY 2006

On Tuesday, 31 January 2006, you should open the weekly home page on the course web site (http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre105/lectures.htm). The narrative for this week is entitled, “What Are Others Telling Us About Sustainable Development?” Please read the narrative. You may wish to explore some of the Internet links provided in the footnotes. Please remember that you will not be tested on the content. Instead, you will have to work with your classmates to find ways to integrate the content and find a path to sustainable development for the “virtual” company described in the case and for the City of Cambridge (Massachusetts, USA).

After you have become basically familiar with the topic, you should read the case. Make sure you are familiar with the information in the Guide to Using the Case Method. There is a link to this document in the “Introduction to the Course” week home page. During the first week of the course, you will start to become familiar with how to analyze the case. The Instructor will work with this case to demonstrate how the analysis could proceed. Following this example, you will analyze your first case next week.

Please read the Guide to Using the Discussion Board. You should access the discussion board using the tool bar on the course home page. Please look for the proper folder in the first week of the class and enter a brief note of introduction of yourself to the members of the class. These people will be discussing the cases with you each week. You will not be required to discuss the case this week. However, you should follow the sample discussion that will be provided by the Instructor. You are welcome to participate if you wish. However, you will not be graded on your entries this week. Please take the time to read what the Instructor posts on the case. We will be discussing this information and your ideas in the summary discussion on 6 February 2006.

Please read the Guide to Participating in the Weekly Summary Discussions. Even though you are not required to participate in this sample discussion, please come to the weekly discussion summary session on 6 February 2006 with your answers to the questions posed at the end of the case and three (3) suggestions of what Charles River Printing needs to know about sustainable development to start moving down the path to sustainable development. If you are a distance learning student and wish to contribute to this discussion, please e-mail your suggestions to a member of the teaching staff on Sunday, 5 February 2006. Please indicate in your e-mail if you would like to be assigned to a resident graduate student. If you choose this option, this student could both help you make your points in the weekly discussions and help you understand anything that you may have questions on when you view the streaming video of the sessions that will be posted on the web site.
This will be your first reminder about the book report. Please order the three (3) books that are named in the *Guide to Preparing the Book Report*. Please do not delay your reading of these books until near the deadline for submitting the book report on Friday, 24 March 2006. These books should enrich your knowledge of sustainable development at the local level. I am hoping that you will cite information from these books as you participate in the discussions of the case each week.

As a reminder, please contact any member of the teaching staff if you are having problems getting started in this case method course. We want this to be a pleasant experience for you. In the past years, we have found that it took most students a few weeks to get into the routine of the course. Please try not to fall behind! During your transition and after, we will do whatever we can to help you get the most from this course.