



From SSN Vice-Chair, Sylvia Gray

It was with interest that I read about the recent departure of the UN Climate Chief Yvo de Boer.

Dubbed The Crying Dutchman, de Boer was known for his passionate and emotional approach and for breaking down in tears at the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Bali. While his pressures were undoubtedly more intense than those exerted by our day-to-day jobs, I'm sure that we've all experienced similar states of frustration over the lack of agreement and urgency afforded to the sustainability agenda.

In saying so, the pace continues to pick up in Scotland, with this month's public sector duty workshops providing a welcome opportunity to learn about and influence the guidance that will help us comply with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act when the duty comes into force next January. At East Dunbartonshire Council, demand for places has outstripped supply - I hope that other SSN members are observing similar enthusiasm amongst their colleagues!

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SSN Update

SSN Conference 2010 – Save the Date: 4 November, Edinburgh

We are pleased to announce that the Sustainable Scotland Network Conference 2010 will take place on Thursday 4th November at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

SSN is hard at work developing the conference programme, and more information will be with you soon. In the meantime, please pencil the event into your diaries.

If your organisation would be interested in contributing to the SSN Conference, booking an exhibition space or being a conference sponsor, please contact Anna Hunter on anna.hunter@ksbscotland.org.uk or 01786 468768.

And remember, you can still access material from the 2009 SSN Conference, “Sustainable Economic Growth & the Agenda for Scottish Local Authorities”, at: <http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/conference2009/>

SSN Attends COSLA Conference

SSN attended the annual COSLA Conference from 3 - 5 March. With the sub-title of ‘Change, Challenge, and Opportunity’, this set the tone for the event. Alongside the standards political group meetings and the COSLA Convention, conference delegates engaged with a range of presentations which outlined key pressures and priorities for local government in the years ahead. Highlights of the conference, from an SSN perspective, included:

- The attendance of four Ministers including First Minister Alex Salmond, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Mike Russell and Minister for Public Health and Sport Shona Robison. A common theme in the Ministerial presentations was the value of partnership working, the importance of the Scottish Government-Local Government relationship as embodied in the Concordat, and the value of preventative interventions.
- Both Alex Salmond and John Swinney commented on the importance of addressing climate change and meeting Scotland’s carbon budgets while also addressing the demands and financial pressures facing local government. Indeed, Alex Salmond stressed the importance of investing in the public sector in order to take Scotland out of the economic downturn, while focusing heavily on Scotland’s carbon emissions reduction and renewables market advantage.
- Challenging perspectives on service provision and public participation provided by the ‘alternative voices’ of the Big Lottery, Reform Scotland and the Independent Living in Scotland Project. These organisations stressed the importance of local government but also the importance of reforming public services to be more user-directed and radical in approach.
- The stress in many conference session on the need to consider ‘transformational change’ in addressing the financial pressures on local government, with these changes offering opportunities to make social, environmental and economic savings through more effective working.
- A powerful, personal presentation by Sir Jackie Stewart who explained the impact of poor school experience in dealing with his dyslexia and the danger of public sector cuts



impacting on educational provision which will lead to more significant costs to society in later years. This presentation stressed the financial benefit of good quality early intervention – prevention being cheaper than cure – and the need to take a whole-life, long-term, cross-agency approach to assessing costs and benefits.

- A politicians 'dragons den' session which asked leading local councilors to 'invest' their political capital in project proposals, including a proposal from the Sustainable Glasgow Initiative.

You can view conference presentations online at <http://www.video3uk.com/cosla2010>

In addition to the COSLA Conference, the COSLA Excellence Awards took place on the evening of 4 March. Information on award nominees and award winners is available at: <http://awards.cosla.gov.uk/>

SSN Climate Change Update

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration Reports

There are now 23 Scotland's Climate Change Declaration reports online. These can be viewed at www.sustainable-scotland.net/climatechange. SSN is encouraging people to refer to the Declaration and its reporting template and guidance when considering how the guidance on the new Public Sector Climate Change Duty should be framed.

Public Sector Duty Workshops

SSN has been supporting the organisation of four Scottish Government workshops on the Public Sector Climate Change Duty, which take place during the week of 22 March. SSN, along with the Sustainable Development Commission, has been working with the Scottish Government's Climate Change and Greener Scotland Directorate to organise pre-consultation workshops in Inverness (22 March), Glasgow (24 March), Edinburgh (25 March) and Dundee (26 March) for public sector organisations.

All workshops are being attended by SSN members, as well participants from a range of other public sector bodies. The events will provide information on the duty within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act and the Scottish Government's thoughts on how guidance could be developed. Participants will then have the chance to consider how the duty will affect their organisations and to provide thoughts on what guidance is needed. The Sustainable Development Commission is due to produce a summary report of the workshops, as a record of comments made.

COSLA has also organised a workshop on the public sector climate change duties for elected members and Chief Executives. This workshop takes place at COSLA on Monday 29 March.

Local Footprints

The local authorities who applied to become exemplar project in 2010 attended a working meeting on 1st March. This event involved the three exemplar project councils (Clackmannanshire, South Lanarkshire and the three Lothian Councils), along with those authorities that will act as shadows to the project. Our aim is to focus Footprint support in the three exemplar localities, while allowing the other councils to learn as the projects develop.

As part of our efforts to support the Footprint learning process SSN has started using the online Communities of Practice web platform provided by the IDeA and the Improvement Service. This is allowing all councils involved in the programme to share their work as the projects develop; enabling blogging, document uploads, wiki development, diary planning and events promotion.



SSN plans to then promote the Communities of Practice facility to more of our network, as a means of improving networking, learning and effective working.

Amie Fulton, SSN's Footprint Officer, is now meeting with each of the Footprint exemplar project to plan the work involved and to start the process of applying footprint analysis to SEA, Local Transport Planning, and the complexity of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements.

Meanwhile, at the national level, the Footprint Local Authority Working Group met on 9 March, bringing together a number of local authorities, the Scottish Government (Greener and Environmental Assessment/SEA Teams), SEPA, SNH and WWF Scotland. The working group discussed the national relevance of the exemplar projects, how national capacity can be leveraged to support the exemplars, and how the Footprint programme develops longer-term funding arrangements.

Sustainable Procurement

The SSN Sustainable Procurement Working Group will meet on 21 April. Since the last meeting Group members have been assessing local authority responses to the Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, developing practitioner training courses and keeping updated on policy developments.

In relation to Sustainable Procurement training, Scotland Excel has taken a lead in developing a generic sustainable procurement training course designed for procurement and sustainable development practitioners. This course is being trialed with practitioners, with the plan to develop it into an expanded training schedule for 2010-11.

In relation to the developing policy landscape, SSN has noted that the British Standards Institute has issued a consultation on a BSI Sustainable Procurement Standard (see <http://www.supplymanagement.com/news/2010/purchasers-views-needed-on-new-british-standard/>).

Meanwhile, the Society of Procurement Officers in Scotland is consulting their members to assess how local authorities are responding to the sustainable procurement agenda and how they are taking steps in line with the Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. This information will feed into the Working Group's meeting on 21 April.

Local Government News

Fairtrade Fortnight: Local Authorities' Fairtrade Work Brought to Attention of Parliament

Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 stimulated debate and discussion in many corners of the country, including in The Scottish Parliament. In the Fairtrade Fortnight debate on 3 March, various local authorities were given plaudits for their efforts to encourage and extend local awareness and action, and for their contributions to Scotland's Fair Trade Nation bid. While areas like East Dunbartonshire and Edinburgh were recognised for their strong track record, the clear message was that every council can and should get involved.



One aspect explored in some detail by our politicians was the issue of Fairtrade tuck shops, a matter of some controversy following the recent introduction of the Nutritional Guidelines. Fiona Hyslop MSP helped to put minds at rest over the question of whether or not Fairtrade confectionery should be sold in schools. She pointed to Adam Ingram MSP's letter to Directors of Education, in which schools have been advised to balance health promotion with celebration of social and cultural activities, including Fairtrade. This news is expected to be welcomed by teachers and pupils across the country, many of whom have counted on Fairtrade tuck shops as an important part of their armoury in the battle for trade justice. East Dunbartonshire Council has also compiled a list of healthy Fairtrade products suitable for everyday sale in tuck shops - for more information, contact Sylvia Gray on 0141 761 4860 or at sylvia.gray@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The full Parliamentary debate can be read at the bottom of this page:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0303-02.htm#Col24205>

Committee of the Regions Calls on Local and Regional Strategy to Support Fair Trade

ICLEI recently reported that the European Union's Committee of the Regions (CoR) has unanimously adopted an opinion calling on local and regional authorities, EU Member States and the European Commission to join forces with the CoR in further supporting Fair Trade. Specifically, the opinion underlines the need to adopt a European Strategy and action plan for the local and regional level.

One of the key tools for local and regional authorities to support Fair Trade is by promoting Fair Trade Public Procurement. With the partnership of ICLEI, the European Fair Trade Association's (EFTA) Public Affairs Project has put in place a European Observatory that aims at mobilising public authorities to include Fair Trade criteria in their public procurement procedures.

For further information on the European Observatory, visit:

<http://www.eftafairtrade.org/observatory>

Record-breaking 25 Scottish Local Authorities Sign Up for Earth Hour – Interactive Map Records Sign-Up

A record breaking 25 Scottish local authorities have officially signed up to take part in Earth Hour 2010.

Over 100 countries and over 1000 cities have pledged to take part in the lights-off campaign, which brings together over one billion people to switch off the lights for a symbolic hour on 27 March. Countries and regions involved for the first time include the world's newest country Kosovo, the remote island nation of Madagascar, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Paraguay, Ecuador and the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

In Scotland, the number of local authorities involved has already surpassed 2009 figures. Scottish local authority involvement in Earth Hour 2010 was picked up in early March by the 'News of the World' and several local newspapers and radio stations, and on 4 March, 'Heather the Weather' launched WWF Scotland's official countdown to Earth Hour 2010.

This year, WWF have also developed an interactive online map showing the public sign up to Earth Hour by local authority (as a percentage of the population in each) across the UK.



For further information, and to access various Earth Hour resources, visit:
<http://www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour/>

To access the online map, visit: <http://earthhourmap.wwf.org.uk>

Glasgow City Council: Consultation on Climate Change Strategy

Glasgow City Council announced on 1 February that it has launched a consultation on its draft Climate Change Strategy.

The draft strategy is the result of an initial consultation with a variety of stakeholders and experts, and was open for public consultation between 1 February-18 March.

Looking at climate change through nine subject areas including; education, energy, waste, transport, water, cultural and natural heritage, built environment, sustainable procurement and health and wellbeing, the document sets out the strategic measures and actions proposed by the Council to deal with the serious challenges it faces as a result of global warming, such as more frequent flooding, storms, heatwaves and other extreme weather events.

Once responses are collated and analysed, a finalised document will be published later this year with measures identified in the action plan being carried out between 2010 and 2014. The Climate Change Strategy will also feed into a number of other policies that the council is working on including Review of National Waste Plan, Energy Efficiency Action Plan, Staff Travel Plan and National Procurement Strategy and most notably Sustainable Glasgow Initiative that was launched on 27 January 2010.

Read the full Glasgow City Council press release here:
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/News/climatechangeconsultation.htm>

Access the draft strategy online here:
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Business/Environment/Sustainabledevelopment/climatechange.htm>

Perth & Kinross Council: New Interactive Webpage Profiles 'State of the Environment' Information

From 18 March, the latest information on the 'State of the Environment' in Perth and Kinross is to be made available on the Council's website via an innovative new web page:
www.pkc.gov.uk/stateoftheenvironment.

The site, which features a set of interactive maps and profiles of areas across the Local Authority, is designed to be easy to use and informative, whether visitors want to find out about how the region is performing on the environment, view and download tables, graphs and maps, or read about the latest trends affecting our area.

The information will help Perth and Kinross and its partners ensure they are taking local environmental issues and variations into consideration when planning services. The statistics come from the Council's second State of the Environment study, which was completed in 2009.

Read the full Perth & Kinross Council press release here:



<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Council+and+government/Council+information+performance+and+statistics/Media+area/Council+releases/February+2010/Latest+State+of+the+Environment+information+available+to+view+online.htm>

Dundee City Council: Promoting Business Opportunities in Renewables Supply Chain

Dundee City Council reported on 19 February that Dundee Renewables organised a seminar for local businesses focussing on opportunities in the renewables industry.

The event, held on 22 February, attracted more than 60 businesses and featured speakers from major wind power player, Sea Energy Renewables, as well as the organisation's partners and Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce. President of Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce and business risk manager of Michelin Group Trevor Haines chaired the event, which also included a business case study and a question and answer session.

Since its launch last year Dundee Renewables has been highlighting the city's facilities to companies in, or supplying to, the emerging market for renewable energy in Scotland. Representatives of the group have attended a number of renewable energy exhibitions and conferences highlighting Dundee's special features to industry representatives from across the globe.

Read the full Dundee City Council press release here:

http://www.dundee.gov.uk/news/index/article?article_ref=1040&year=2010&month=3

More information on Dundee's renewable energy credentials can be found at

www.dundeerenewables.com/

East Ayrshire Council: Launch Environmental Education Pack

East Ayrshire Council announced on 2 March that an innovative Environmental Education Pack has been launched.

The pack, which has been developed by the Countryside Services team in partnership with the Quality Improvement Team from the Department of Educational and Social Services, supports the Scottish Curriculum for 3-18 year olds and ties into the new Curriculum for Excellence.

This is the first time in Scotland that such an extensive environmental pack has been made available to schools in a CD Rom format. Each pack includes detailed lesson plans which can support ranger led activities, can be used for standalone visits to Dean Castle Country park or can even be used within school grounds.

Read the full East Ayrshire press release here:

<http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/corpres/news/showNews.asp?cat=http://eacnews.co.uk/eacannounce/an-environmental-education.html>

For further information on the pack, contact 01563 522702, visit www.deancastle.com or email info@deancastle.com



City of Edinburgh & Midlothian Councils: Survey Shows Public Positive About Move from Landfill to Alternative Waste Treatment

It was announced on 12 March that a survey commissioned by the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils, and conducted by Keep Scotland Beautiful, has shown that the majority of the public understand the need to move away from landfilling of waste and the benefits of using a mix of technologies in order to treat waste as a resource in the future.

The first phase of this research, initiated by Zero Waste: Edinburgh and Midlothian, looked at public attitudes to residual waste treatment and the potential development of a Zero Waste Parc (Prevention and Recycling Centre) near Millerhill in Midlothian. It is envisaged that a mix of technologies could be built on that site to increase recycling and to recover energy from the waste that is currently landfilled.

Only two per cent of those surveyed disagreed the Millerhill site would be a suitable location to build a residual waste facility. In addition, only 1 per cent of those surveyed felt using Energy from Waste, as an alternative to landfill, was very unacceptable. 96 per cent of all those surveyed agreed that being able to utilise heat from this type of facility to heat local homes is a good idea. The 455 door-step surveys took place throughout Edinburgh and Midlothian over December 2009 and January 2010.

To access key findings from the report and to request a copy, read the full City of Edinburgh Council press release here:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CEC/Corporate_Services/Corporate_Communications/Press_Releases/NewsRelease.jsp?ID=4593

Perth & Kinross Council: Investing in Renewable Energy Business Cluster

Perth & Kinross Council announced on 15 February that it is to invest £100,000 in a new initiative that will see the Council take its first steps towards creating a renewable energy business cluster.

Perth and Kinross has a growing renewable business sector and the Council has also vigorously supported biomass energy over the past few years with installations in the new Breadalbane, Blairgowrie and Crieff Community Campuses, Alyth Primary School and Pitlochry High School.

There are 30 renewable businesses in Perth and Kinross including contractors, consultants, engineering firms, professional services and businesses services. Scotland's largest renewable company, Scottish and Southern Energy, is headquartered in the area employing 2,000 people and one of Scotland's two wood pellet generation manufacturers is also based in the area, employing 14 people.

Read the full Perth & Kinross Council press release here:

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Council+and+government/Council+information+performance+and+statistics/Media+area/Council+releases/February+2010/Major+Investment+in+Renewable+Energy+Business+Developments.htm>

Angus Council: Street Light Trial Success

Angus Council reported on 3 March that the dimming of street lights in parts of Angus has been hailed a success, and the trial will now be extended to other suitable sites.

Angus Council agreed last March to dim streetlights in some residential and industrial areas between midnight and 6am in a bid to reduce the council's carbon footprint and energy use.



Street lights in six residential areas have either been dimmed by 30% or had lower energy white lights installed and residents have been surveyed about the resulting lighting levels.

Commenting on the trial Infrastructure Services convener David May said it was interesting that despite some people's initial misgivings about reducing lighting levels, 71% of those who responded to the survey had noticed no difference.

Read the full Angus Council press release here:

<http://www.angus.gov.uk/new/releases-archive/2010/2010-03-03a.html>

Highland Council: Social Enterprise Win Contract to Recycle Household Waste Electrical Appliances

Alness based social enterprise, ILM (Highland), has recently been successful in being awarded a two year contract to recycle all household waste electrical appliances in the Highland area. The contract will involve collecting appliances and other electrical equipment from Highland Council Recycling Centres, selecting with a view to maximising reuse, with the remainder going for reprocessing.

ILM (Highland) is a social enterprise with charitable status. It delivers additional services, which include a handyperson and care and repair service for older people and those with a disability. It also delivers a cavity wall and loft insulation service. Electrical appliances which ILM refurbishes are available for sale at its on site shop in Alness.

Read the full Highland Council press release here:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/news/newsreleases/2010/February/2010-02-08-03.htm>

Argyll and Bute Council: Dunoon Green Gym Secures Funding

Argyll and Bute Council announced on 3 February that a partnership between Argyll and Bute and Inverclyde councils aimed at enhancing the area's natural heritage has secured funding to set up a 'green gym' in Dunoon.

Lower Clyde Greenspace and the Dunoon Community Development Group have been allocated £3,000 for the project by the NHS Health Improvement Fund.

The Green Gym scheme is a national initiative designed to boost people's health and well being at the same time as improving their natural environment. Experienced leaders guide participants through a range of practical physical projects, all of which take place out of doors.

Read the full Argyll and Bute Council press release here:

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/news/general/3297313?s=906>

City of Edinburgh Council: Work with Colinton Community Compost Receives Award Nomination

The City of Edinburgh Council announced on 2 March that it has been short listed for the Local Authority Partnership Award at this year's 'More Than Recycling' 2010 Awards, hosted by the Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS). The nomination has been given for the council's work with Colinton Community Compost.

For the last five years the Council has had a partnership agreement with Colinton Community Compost, a charitable organisation who offer a composting service to 530 homes in their local



community. The charity works with adults who have learning disabilities and provides a weekly collection of garden waste, collecting approximately 250 tonnes per year. The group receive grant funding, with support from the Council and also receive a payment per tonne for carrying out the collection.

Read the full City of Edinburgh press release here:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CEC/Corporate_Services/Corporate_Communications/Press_Releases/NewsRelease.jsp?ID=4573

New Website to Facilitate Knowledge Exchange Between Scottish Local Authorities - Includes Carbon Emission Reduction Work

On 3 March the University of St Andrews Co-ordination Team for the 'Engaging with Scottish Local Authorities' scheme announced that it has launched its 'Engage' website.

'Engage' is intended to be a central information point for the five pilot projects involved in the scheme, one of which is "Enhancing local authorities' community engagement: Co-designing and prototyping strategies for carbon emission reduction".

The website allows other local authorities to learn about what these pioneering projects are doing, what events are underway, and to access resources on knowledge exchange and impact. The remaining four pilot projects are: Building safer communities; Co-ordinating service provision and improving life chances for children in severe poverty; Building capacity for evidence-informed practice in rural and remote island social service delivery; Engaging with involuntary service users in social work.

To access the website, visit: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/engage/>

City of Bristol: Finalist in European Green Capital Award 2010 & 2011

The City of Bristol is one of eight finalists in the European Green Capital Award 2010 and 2011, a prize which aims to promote environmental initiatives around the continent. The winner will be announced at the end of March 2010.

Bristol's bid focussed on its work to promote parks and green spaces. Bristol has proportionately more parks and green spaces than any other UK city, and the city adopted its Parks and Green Space Strategy in 2008

To download Bristol's bid, and to access further information and the European Green Capital Award, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/green_cities_submenu/bristol_2010_2011.html

City of Bristol: Walking Website Helps Cut Car Use

Forum for the Future recently reported on the success of Bristol's walking website, www.walkit.com/bristol, which has been used by 14,616 people according to figures from its first year of operation.

Launched by Forum for the Future in October 2008, walkit.com provides essential information for anyone considering a journey on foot within a five-kilometre radius of Bristol city centre. The website generates easy-to-read maps between any two points in Bristol and also shows the health and environmental benefits of choosing to make that short journey by foot.



The Bristol city-region website was funded by Bristol Primary Care Trust, Bristol City Council and Triodos Bank, as part of Forum for the Future's ambitious 10-year programme, launched in 2008, to help make the greater Bristol area the most sustainable city-region in the UK.

For more information on Forum for the Future's work in Bristol, visit:
<http://www.forumforthefuture.org/projects/sustainable-bristol-city-region>

City of Aalborg: Plans to Brand as a Cycling City

Civitas reported on 28 January that the Danish city of Aalborg plans to put a strong emphasis on cycling by developing the concept of 'Cycling City Aalborg' over the next three years.

The Cycling City Aalborg project, with the subtitle "High class cycling commuter routes", focuses on commuting cyclists, and supports schemes that facilitate high Accessibility, Road Safety and Articulation.

For more information on the Cycling City, including the innovative Cycle Motorway project, visit the Civitas website here: http://civitas.eu/news.phtml?id=671&lan=en&read_more=1

European Commission Seeking Local/Regional Case Studies for Green ICT Guidance/Toolkit

ICLEI recently reported that the European Commission has embarked on a European research and dissemination project to inform and provide guidance on the relevance of ICT to achieving energy efficiency and sustainability objectives at regional and local government levels.

The project has been commissioned by the Commission's DG Information Society and Media (INFSO) in collaboration with the EU's Committee of the Regions, and focuses on local and regional initiatives for promoting energy efficiency through the direct and enabling roles of ICT.

Areas of interest include:

- ICT infrastructure and equipment/devices (e.g. purchasing energy efficient desktop computers, data centres)
- ICT enabled buildings/construction (e.g. planning and design applications, smart office lighting, smart metres)
- ICT enabled transport (e.g. road user charging, logistics systems, electric vehicles), and
- ICT enabled monitoring, measuring and reporting systems (e.g. carbon management systems, wireless sensor networks)

The project involves a review of examples of initiatives from across the European Member States. A toolkit will be prepared for local and regional authorities including guidance and a series of case studies. A wiki-style website resource will also be set up to provide increased access to the results of the project. The project is being undertaken by an international team led by SQW Energy in partnership with ICLEI, the Regional Environment Centre (REC) and Intellect (the UK's national industry trade association for technology including ICT).

If you have a good practice experience which yielded high energy savings that you would like promoted internationally please share it by email to amalia.ochoa@iclei.org

For further information on the latest EC Communications on ICT and energy efficiency, visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sustainable_growth/energy_efficiency/index_en.htm



Sustainability Network Makes Progress in Central America

ICLEI recently reported on a public sector network established last year in Central America to encourage the public sector to consume sustainably.

Comprasresponsables.org aims to create a community of experts in Central America to enable capacity building and exchange of experiences. The network also works to develop tools to assist the public sector in their implementation activities, such as educational materials, training and a 'green' product and service directory. Supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the project is run by CEGESTI, a Costa Rican NGO, and currently focuses its efforts in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.

For more information, please visit www.comprasresponsables.org

Let Us Know What's Happening at Your Local Authority

To help us profile the latest sustainable development activities in Local Authorities across Scotland, and to share your news with other SSN members, please forward your news items or press releases to: anna.hunter@ksbscotland.org.uk

Sustainable Finance and Procurement

SMART Sustainable Public Procurement: Guidance and Tools Available

SMART Sustainable Public Procurement (SMART SPP) is a European project which encourages public purchasers to use procurement procedures to further support the development of sustainable innovative technologies, and at the same time, keep financial costs at a minimum.

Part of the European Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign, SMART SPP guidance is now available online for use by procurement practitioners. The guide presents a standard procedure designed to encourage innovative energy efficient solutions.

The Guide is accompanied by a Tool (in Excel format, supported by a User Guide) that is designed for procurement decision makers to calculate the life cycle costs (LCC) and CO₂ emissions of different products and services.

To access the guidance and toolkit, visit: <http://www.smart-spp.eu/>

Green Alliance Report: 'Cutting Back On Carbon Spending'

A new report, 'Cutting Back on Carbon Spending', published by the Green Alliance on 8 February argues that the government could slash £12 billion off the national debt through a package of public spending cuts and the abolition of tax allowances that promote growth in carbon emissions.

The report was commissioned by Greenpeace, the RSPB and WWF-UK and reviews the options for reducing spending and tax anomalies to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.

To access the full report, visit: <http://www.greenalliance.org.uk/grea1.aspx?id=4673>

Businesses Link Bonuses to Sustainability

The Financial Times reported on 24 February that a multiplying band of companies - predominantly from the Netherlands - are linking part of the bonuses senior managers receive to sustainability.

Akzo Nobel, the Dutch paint company that bought ICI of the UK three years ago, was among the pioneers. It based half of its long-term incentive scheme on its position in the Dow Jones sustainability index for chemicals companies.

Carola van Lamoen, a pay expert at Robeco, the Dutch investor, says it has been asking companies to include sustainability in remuneration for several years. "We are convinced that strong corporate values, including care for the interests of employees, customers and the environment, are a precondition for stable, long-term, above-average results for a company."

Read the full Financial Times article here:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c125d9a8-20e5-11df-b920-00144feab49a.html>

Climate Change and Energy News

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY: TOP INTERNATIONAL STORIES

U.N. Climate Chief De Boer To Quit In July – Speculates on Mexico Meeting

Reuters reported on 18 February that U.N. climate chief Yvo de Boer has announced he will step down in July to join a consultancy group. The Dutch former environment official, who has run the Secretariat since 2006, will join KPMG in London. He was also considering part-time work at universities - Yale in the United States and Maastricht and Utrecht in the Netherlands.

"We must quickly find a suitable successor who can oversee the negotiations and reform the UNFCCC to ensure it is up to the massive task," said British Energy and Climate Change minister Ed Miliband.

Read the full Reuters report here:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE61H2JF20100218?sp=true>

Ban Ki-moon Comments on Copenhagen Accord & Looks Ahead to Cancun

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) reported on 17 March that UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has described countries' support for the Accord as a 'critical step forward' on international action on climate change, and an 'important advance' towards the next major UN climate gathering – COP16 – in Cancun.

110 countries, which collectively account for over 80% of global emissions, have 'expressed support' for the Copenhagen Accord, Mr Ban confirmed to journalists from the UN Headquarters. The major economies of the EU, US, China, and India are amongst those countries that have associated with the Accord.

Looking towards the 2010 negotiating year, commentators and insiders are increasingly acknowledging the role of processes outside the UN framework. Gro Harlem Brundtland, special UN envoy on climate, was reported on Tuesday as predicting that 'you will have more of a double



track system' of smaller discussions between emerging and major economies, in addition to the formal UN framework. Mr Ban acknowledged that it is sometimes necessary to break into smaller groups to build consensus, but asserted that the UN was the official process for negotiations. The first round of formal UNFCCC negotiations is scheduled to take place on April 9-11 in Bonn, Germany.

Read the full DECC article here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/change_energy/tackling_clima/int_climate/climate_news/110_accord_asc/110_accord_asc.aspx

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY: SCOTTISH STORIES

CCC Issues Advice to Scottish Ministers on Climate Change Act

On 24 February, SSN attended the launch of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advice to Scottish Ministers on meeting the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

Scotland's climate change targets were described as 'challenging but achievable' if the EU framework is tightened, according to the CCC's assessment.

Following a short presentation welcoming the report by Stewart Stevenson MSP, Scotland's Climate Change Minister, the main presentation was given by CCC member Professor Jim Skea (Research Director at the UK Energy Research Centre). Professor Skea highlighted the complexity of the analysis that underpins the new report and stressed the critical issue of whether the EU moves from a 20% to a 30% emissions reduction target.

The CCC's advice to Ministers concludes that:

- Scotland's 42% reduction target for 2020 is an appropriate, and achievable, contribution to the global emissions reduction requirements, and would set Scotland on track for an 80% reduction by 2050.
- International aviation and shipping emissions are not likely to reduce by 2020, thereby requiring other sectors to achieve a more substantial 44% reduction.
- The Scottish emissions already covered by the EU ETS are expected to achieve reductions of at least 39% by 2020, and possibly more if international negotiations lead to an increased EU emissions reduction target.
- Emissions reductions of 47% in the non-traded sectors will be required. There is scope to achieve these cuts, but this will require new Scottish policies designed to achieve a step-change in emissions reduction.

At the launch event a range of issues were raised by delegates. These included:

- The need to do more work on assessing cumulative emissions and what this means for annual targets
- The challenge of addressing consumption emissions, with Stewart Stephenson MSP noting that the Scottish Act includes a commitment to report annually on Scotland's consumption emissions
- On-going complexities of calculating aviation and shipping emissions, with new work providing useful methodologies in these areas
- The need to recognise the distinct opportunities available in Scotland for abatement measures relating to land use, land use change and forestry.
- The challenges of taking a holistic approach to carbon budgeting, where policies inducing emissions need to be counter-balanced with policies that achieve cuts.

Overall, the launch event provided an excellent overview of the CCC's advice to Ministers, stressing the achievability of the Scottish emissions reduction targets and the consequent need for a step change on policy development and implementation. To this end, we can look forward to seeing more on defining Scotland's annual targets and a report on policies and proposals coming forward from the Scottish Government later this year.

Access the full report here: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/scottish-report>

Read the Scottish Government press release here:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/02/24112159>

Scottish Government/Scottish Enterprise Publish Carbon Capture & Storage Roadmap

The Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise published a Carbon Capture and Storage Roadmap on 10 March, which they see as “a comprehensive set of actions to put Scotland at the forefront of CCS development.” The actions include:

- Setting out a vision for CCS in Scotland including aiming to develop a number of demonstration projects
- Maximising EU and UK support for Scotland's ambitions
- Developing of an offshore carbon licensing regime
- Identification of the skills and training needs to match industry demand

Guidance on how Ministers will determine consents relating to thermal power stations under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 was also published on 10 March. It confirms the Scottish Government position that any new coal-fired station would need to demonstrate carbon capture and storage on at least 300 Megawatts of its capacity from day one and retro-fitting for those stations by no later than 2025, with 100 per cent CCS expected on new builds from 2020.

Read the full Scottish Government press release, and access the full reports, here:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/10132422>

Low Carbon Communities Progress in Dumfries, Aberdeen and Fife

The Scottish Government announced on 1 March that Andres Duany, who drew up designs for rebuilding work in Louisiana and Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, is set to run low carbon community design workshops, known as 'charrettes', in Dumfries, Aberdeen and Fife.

The projects form part of the Scottish Governments Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI). The 'charrettes' will run for three weeks in March 2010 and will involve intensive events focusing on project design.

A major urban expansion is envisaged for the North side of Aberdeen, with the possibility of building 7,000 new homes in a series of live and work neighbourhoods. The Ladyfield project in Dumfries looks to offer up to 400 new energy efficient homes and large and small business premises to allow people to live within walking distance to work. In Fife plans are being developed for to extend Lochgelly with 1,750 new homes and environmentally friendly connections to the existing town centre.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/01111304>



Read the Fife Council press release on the Lochgelly development here:

<http://www.fife.gov.uk/orgs/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.display&objectid=42AF890D-07CB-8A87-FAB0D404B4D084B7&orgid=60304273-A856-11D6-BF4D0002A5349AC9>

Scottish Government to Plant 100m Trees as Part of Climate Group Pledge

Scotland will plant 100 million trees by 2015 as part of a drive to cut emissions, the Scottish Government pledged on 5 March.

The initiative represents Scotland's contribution to a global pledge made by the Climate Group States and Regions to plant one billion trees by 2015 and will result in a 3.7 per cent increase to Scotland's forest area.

The Climate Group States and Regions was formed in 2005 and members include California, Catalonia, Quebec and Manitoba, and Scotland. The group of self-governing nations and regions hopes to persuade governments, businesses and communities worldwide to plant a tree for everyone on the planet to help counter climate change.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/05131411>

Scottish Government: Edinburgh to Host Major Energy Conference

The Scottish Government announced on 4 March that Edinburgh will host a major conference aimed at harnessing financial innovation to fund the creation of major green infrastructure projects and support global climate change goals.

The international conference - to be held in the autumn - will bring together the financial services and energy industries to develop innovative financing solutions for energy efficiency, heat, transport and low carbon electricity and infrastructure projects.

The conference will be organised by the Scottish Low Carbon Investment Project (SLIP) - a new joint initiative between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Arup - which will run over 6 months from March.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/04151751>

Scottish Government Launch Latest Ad Campaign on Home Insulation

As part of the latest phase of the Scottish Government's 'Go Greener' campaign, a new TV advert launched on 4 March urges householders to insulate their homes to save hundreds of pounds on heating bills and reduce Scotland's impact on the environment.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/04094914>

Visit the Go Greener website and watch the ad here:

http://www.infoscotland.com/gogreener/CCC_FirstPage.jsp



Longannet Awarded Funding for CCS Design & Development

On 12 March, WWF Scotland reported that the UK Government confirmed funding to ScottishPower's Longannet site for design and development studies as part of the competition to build one of the world's first commercial scale carbon capture and storage demonstration plants.

Head of Policy at WWF Scotland, Dan Barlow said: "Demonstrating this technology at Longannet makes climate sense as it could result in a reduction in CO2 emissions of over 14 million tonnes by 2025 whereas if a new coal power station was built to demonstrate carbon capture, emissions could increase by 30 million tonnes."

Read the full WWF Scotland press release here:

[http://scotland.wwf.org.uk/what we do/press_centre/?3756/Longannet-awarded-funding-for-carbon-capture-design](http://scotland.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/press_centre/?3756/Longannet-awarded-funding-for-carbon-capture-design)

Read the full Department of Energy and Climate Change press release here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_041/pn10_041.aspx

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY: UK STORIES

First UK Carbon Budget Report Card Published

The UK Government announced on 18 March that it is "on track" to meet its first carbon budget, following the publication of the annual statement of emissions for 2008.

Under the Climate Change Act, the UK has to report annually to Parliament on progress in meeting its carbon budgets. The UK has committed to cut emissions by at least 34% by 2020, and by at least 80% by 2050, below 1990 levels.

Taking into account the use of carbon units, the net UK carbon account in 2008 was 606.7 MtCO_{2e}, 22% below base year (1990) emissions, which were 777.8 MtCO_{2e}.

The level of the first three 5 year carbon budgets – covering the periods 2008-2012, 2013-2017, and 2018-2022 – were set in May 2009 at 3018 MtCO_{2e}, 2782 MtCO_{2e} and 2544 MtCO_{2e}. These represent reductions of just over 22%, 28% and 34%, respectively, below 1990 levels.

Read the full DECC press release, and access the full annual statement for 2008 emissions here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_045/pn10_045.aspx

UK Government Launches 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' Strategy

On 2 March the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) announced the launch of the 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy, which aims to cut emissions from the UK's homes by 29% by 2020.

The strategy will be implemented in a three stage plan:

- To insulate 6 million homes by the end of 2011
- To have insulated all practical lofts and cavity walls by 2015
- To have offered up to 7 million eco upgrades by 2020; all homes to have smart meters.

Ed Miliband, Energy and Climate Secretary, said: ““The Warm Homes, Greener Homes Strategy will remove the deterrent of upfront costs and reduce the hassle of the move to greener living. “New ‘pay as you save’ green finance, a new alliance between energy companies and local authorities to help people in their communities, as well as moves to encourage landlords to stop ignoring energy wastage in their properties, will help deliver the radical transformation that’s necessary.”

Read the full DECC press release and here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn2010_037/pn2010_037.aspx

Access the full strategy document here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/hem/hem.aspx

UK Marine Energy Action Plan Published

On 15 March the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published its Marine Energy Action Plan. The Plan states that harnessing the full potential of marine energy could provide enough power for up to 15million homes and save up to 70million tonnes of CO₂ by 2050. The document also highlights the potential for the marine energy sector to provide up to 16,000 jobs, with a quarter of these in exports. The Plan sets out the actions needed to drive the marine energy sector forward.

The full Marine Energy Action plan is available to download at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/explained/wave_tidal/funding/marine_action/marine_action.aspx

Defra Report: Tackling Air Pollution and Climate Change Together Can Save £24 Billion

A report discussing how the UK can save £24 billion through measures which jointly help prevent air pollution and climate change was published by Defra on 3 March.

Despite significant improvements in recent years the effects of air pollution are still costing the UK around £15 billion each year. The report shows that climate change and air pollutants often share the same sources, even though the effects are seen on different geographical scales. In the long term, promotion of non-combustion renewable sources of electricity, promoting the use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and reducing agricultural demands for nitrogen will all benefit both local air quality and climate change.

The report, ‘Air Pollution: ‘Action in a Changing Climate’ is published on behalf of the Government, the Welsh Government Assembly, the Scottish Government and the Northern-Ireland Executive.

Read the full Defra press release:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/100303c.htm>

Access the full report here: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/strategy/index.htm

DECC Publish New Short Guide to Carbon Offsetting

On 26 February, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) announced the publication of their new ‘Short Guide to Carbon Offsetting’ which is aimed at helping consumers understand the carbon offsetting process and how it fits in with the Government’s hierarchy of actions on CO₂ emissions – Calculate, Avoid, Reduce, Offset.



For further information and to download the guide, visit:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/co2_offsetting/co2_offsetting.aspx

DECC Consult on Allowing Local Authorities to Sell Electricity from Local Renewables

On 2 March the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) launched the consultation, "Allowing Local Authorities to Sell Electricity: Consultation on making regulations under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973". The consultation seeks views on a proposal to allow local authorities from across Great Britain to sell electricity generated by renewable sources.

DECC believe that allowing local authorities to sell electricity generated by them from renewable sources would encourage the development of local renewable electricity projects by those local authorities that are well-placed to undertake such projects either on their own or in partnerships. The deadline date for submissions is 2 June 2010.

For further information and to download all the relevant papers, visit:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/loc_auth_elec/loc_auth_elec.aspx

DECC Issues Guidelines to Help English Regional Authorities Assess Potential for Local Renewables

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have published new guidelines on 5 March, aimed at helping English regional authorities assess the potential for renewable and low-carbon energy in their area. The UK has an overall target of achieving 15% renewable energy by 2020.

The document provides regional authorities with guidance on how to calculate the potential their areas have for renewables. This might include what the wind speeds are in different areas, how many houses there are with roof space - and what constraints they should then apply. The guidance provides detail on how to assess potential for large and small scale onshore wind, biomass, hydro power and solar energy.

Read the full DECC press release here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_040/pn10_040.aspx

The report, 'Renewable and low-carbon energy capacity methodology', can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/ored/ored.aspx

Motorists to Receive up to £5,000 towards Cost of Electric Car

The Department for Transport announced on 25 February that, from January 2011, motorists will be able to receive up to £5,000 to buy an electric car via a Plug-in Car Grant.

Also included in the Government's plans is the roll-out of a £30m fund for a network of electric vehicle hubs – called Plugged-In Places – which will see charging infrastructure appearing in car parks, major supermarkets, leisure and retail centres, as well as on the street. The first Plugged-In Places were named today as London, Milton Keynes and the North East; and between them they will be installing over 11,000 vehicle recharging points during the next three years.



Read the full DfT press release here:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=411534&SubjectId=2>

Research Published on Carbon Reduction in Existing Buildings

A special issue of the 'Building Research and Information' journal, published in January 2010, focuses on the subject of achieving carbon reduction in existing buildings.

All but one of these articles are by UK academics who were partners in a UK research consortium called 'Carbon Reduction in Buildings: A Socio-technical, Longitudinal Study of Carbon Use in Buildings' (CaRB), and provides a summary of their findings.

To access further information, and to download the journal editorial, visit:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a916936347>

Green Alliance Publish Report on Improving Climate Change Communications

On 11 February the Green Alliance published a new report on improving the way climate change is communicated to the public. The Green Alliance asked experts to suggest the ways in which communication could be improved to inspire stronger public support for action on climate change. In two parts, this guide first examines what is wrong with current efforts and then proposes how to get it right.

While a communication strategy may not lead directly to behaviour change, this report argues it can help to reframe the debate on climate change, and shift public perception so that individual campaigns, incentives and legislation are more successful.

Download the guide here: http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/grea_p.aspx?id=4686

Tyndall Centre: How People Use Smart Meters – Do they Change Energy Consumption?

The Tyndall Centre have recently produced a working paper, outlining research into how people use and perceive smart meters.

Throughout 2008-2009, a range of partners ran a trial of a range of smart energy monitoring devices in 275 households in the East of England. As part of this 'Visible Energy Trial' (VET) 15 semi-structured interviews were conducted with trial participants. This working paper uses the interviews to understand how people actually use these devices, how they relate this to their everyday lives and practices, and how (or if) this leads to changes in energy consumption patterns.

Access the research here:

<http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working-paper/2010/visible-energy-trial-insights-qualitative-interviews>

Courtauld Commitment 2: Voluntary Packaging Waste Reduction Agreement Launches New Targets

On 4 March, the Scottish Government reported that Courtauld Commitment 2, a voluntary waste reduction agreement for major grocery retailers and brand owners, supported by Zero Waste Scotland, has launched new targets.

Scottish soft drinks company AG Barr (the makers of Irn Bru) has signed up to Courtauld Commitment 2, and will aim to reduce PET plastic use in bottles produced at its Cumbernauld factory by 8 per cent - a saving of 375 tonnes of PET a year, or enough to make 18 million 500ml bottles. Robert Wiseman Dairies, a signatory to the original Courtauld Commitment, which launched in 2005, has also announced that it will take part in the second phase.

The Courtauld Commitment has led to some 500,000 tonnes less packaging being used in the period 2005 - 2009. The new targets announced on 4 March will move away from solely weight-based targets and aim to achieve more sustainable use of resources over the entire lifecycle of products, throughout the whole supply chain.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/04094931>

New Flood Warning Scheme Launched in North East Scotland

The Scottish Government announced on 2 March the launch of a new £1 million scheme to protect vulnerable communities from the threat of flooding in high-risk areas of the North East of Scotland.

Around 2000 homes and businesses will benefit from the Scottish Government-funded flood warning scheme around the rivers Dee, Don, Deveron and North Esk. The system uses state-of-the-art technology to measure rainfall and river levels and issue early flood warnings.

Read the full Scottish Government press release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/02140813>

Scottish Government: New Policy Document Promotes Streets for People First, Cars Second

The Scottish Government published 'Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland' on 1 March. The statement marks a change in the emphasis of guidance on street design towards place-making and away from a system focused upon the dominance of motor vehicles. It has been created to support the Scottish Government's place-making agenda and is intended to sit alongside the 2001 planning policy document 'Designing Places', which sets out government aspirations for design and the role of the planning system in delivering these.

Download the full Designing Streets document here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/02113940/0>

Lochhead Attends Food Security Summit – Joint UK Ministers’ Communique Issued

The UK’s food ministers issued a joint statement on 10 March following a summit focusing on the issue of food security.

The event in Cardiff was attended by Scotland’s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment Richard Lochhead, is the second high-level summit of its type. The summits have been held as a forum to identify opportunities to co-operate across borders on food chain issues.

Ministers discussed a range of issues surrounding food security where UK-wide collaboration between the four administrations would be beneficial, such as sustainable food production, and the opportunities for liaison in areas such as cost-sharing on Food Research and Development, Skills Development within the food industry, and on action to combat Climate Change.

Read the full Scottish Government press release and Joint Communique here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/10170505>

Fifth Annual People and Places Conference and Awards Ceremony

The fifth annual People and Places Conference and Awards Ceremony was held on 24-25 February. Organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful, this year’s conference focussed on “Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour for a Safer, Cleaner and Greener Scotland”.

The conference included the Scottish People and Places awards ceremony, which recognises the contribution that local authorities and land managers have made in delivering high quality local environments in the past year. Awards were made in four categories, with the Programme of the Year Award this year going to Renfrewshire Council.

For further information, visit the People and Places website:

<http://peopleandplaces.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/>

Scottish Sustainable Development Forum Launches New Website

The Scottish Sustainable Development Forum (SSDF) has a new and vibrant website. The focus of the site is the discussion forum, where members are invited to share thoughts, ideas and resources. The new website will be a focus for debate on sustainability in Scotland under 7 topic headings: Energy and climate change; Community, social inclusion and education; Health and nutrition; Travel and transport; Planning, development and property management; Pollution, waste and recycling; Environment, land use and food production.

Membership of the SSDF is free and has various benefits including: advertising your events on the website, receiving priority information about free SSDF events, and use of the Melting Pot through SSDF’s associate membership.

To log on and take part in the debate visit: www.ssdforum.org.uk

Scottish College Involved in European Sustainable Energy Planning Project

Expertise at Dundee College is being brought to bear in a bid to beat the scourge of fuel poverty. As the lead partner in the North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning (NSSEP) Project, the college is engaged in examining techniques to insulate buildings by focussing on construction technique and craftsmanship.



Connections between various structural components in buildings, such as between the inner frame and outer skin, can result in 'thermal bridges' being created through which substantial heat loss can accrue, this is particularly true of existing buildings.

Dundee College is identifying techniques to reduce this problem and thus help decrease heating bills and reduce CO2 emissions. Along with the project partners in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands and Belgium, the college is also raising energy awareness and establishing a transnational knowledge base with other projects and initiatives.

For further information, visit: <http://www.northseasep.eu/> and <http://www.dundeecollege.ac.uk/>

Case Studies/Policy Briefings on Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities

The University of Strathclyde hosts a joint initiative to support independent, high quality research and link new thinking, ideas and knowledge to the development of skills and practice in the sustainable communities field.

The focus is on enhancing the skills and knowledge that are needed to create and maintain better places, now and in the future. The website features several policy briefings and case studies.

Visit the website here: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/gs/sustainablecommunities/>

Green List: Nominate your Sustainable Development Champions for 2010

The Scottish Sustainable Development Forum wants to hear about people working in all areas of Scottish society from housing, health and education to energy, transport and waste management.

The Scottish Green List is a celebration of people making a difference. The top 20 will be published by SSDF, and featured in the Scotsman, our media partner for the Scottish Green List 2010. The deadline for entries is Monday 12th April.

For more information and details on how to nominate go to:
http://www.ssdforum.org.uk/pages/scottish_green_list.html

CIC Start Online: Sustainable Building Design & Refurbishment News, Events and Research

CIC Start Online is a programme managed by a partnership of seven Scottish academic institutions that aims to embed sustainable building design and refurbishment into practice. The project will assist Scottish small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop and test innovations at testing facilities of the project partners' institutions.

CIC Start Online have recently published the second edition of their Innovation Review journal, and are also organising an online event on Sustainable Refurbishment on 4 June. For further information, visit:

<http://www.cicstart.org/content/home/1/>

Job Vacancy: Transition Scotland

Transition Scotland Support is recruiting for a new post to develop a range of printed, video, web based and other resources around training, mentoring and re-skilling for Scottish Transition communities. The post-holder will connect with local groups around Scotland and create



accessible materials that tell their stories. They will create contexts for people to share their experience and skills, to inspire and resource people involved in Transition.

This is a fixed contract till 31st March 2011. Closing date 23rd March 2010. For further information, visit: www.transitionscotland.org

Big Tent Environmental Festival: Early Bird Offer

The Big Tent is Scotland's environmental festival, and is taking place between 23-25 July in Falkland, Fife. The festival has already announced part of 2010's music line-up. The festival also includes children's activities galore, debates, poetry, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and local food. The Big Tent is currently offering an early bird rate on tickets.

For more information, visit: <http://www.bigtentfestival.co.uk/>

UK News

UK Government Introduce New Measures to Support 'Grow Your Own' – Includes Practical Advice to Local Authorities to Make Best Use of Allotments

On 3 March Communities Secretary John Denham and Environment Secretary Hilary Benn announced a range of measures intended to bring under-used and uncared for land in England back into use to enable more people to grow their own fruit and veg.

The package of measures includes working with the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens to set up a new national community land bank which will act as a broker between land-holders and community groups who want somewhere to grow food.

New good practice guidance has also been published to help local councils reduce the length of time someone has to wait before getting an allotment plot. The guidance, "A Place To Grow", published by the Local Government Association, gives practical advice on making the most of existing statutory allotment sites including reducing plot sizes and managing waiting lists.

Read the full Defra press release here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/100303d.htm>

A Place to Grow can be found at: www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-home.do

UK Cycling Demonstration Towns – Research Shows Positive Impact

New research on the UK's six Cycling Demonstration Towns, published on 2 March, shows that there has been a 10 per cent reduction in the number of people classified as physically inactive in the towns.

The research carried out for Cycling England shows that, in the first three years of the programme: cycling has increased by an average of 27 per cent in the six towns; the proportion of children cycling to school either every day, or once or twice a week, soared by 126 per cent in the schools where the six towns invested most heavily; and the towns have achieved growth rates for



cycling similar to the most cycle-friendly European cities, and matched the growth seen in London.

The six cycling towns (Aylesbury, Brighton and Hove, Darlington, Derby, Exeter and Lancaster with Morecambe) received support similar to that in European cities where cycling is popular and cycling schemes are successful.

To read the full DfT press release and to access the full report, visit:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreald=2&ReleaseID=411732&SubjectId=2>

Marmot Review: 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' – Most of Society Affected by Health Inequalities

Most people in England aren't living as long as the best off and spend longer in ill-health, according to a report published on 11 February.

Fair Society, Healthy Lives, also known as the 'Marmot Review', proposes a new way to reduce health inequalities in England post 2010.

The Review argues that traditionally government policies to reduce health inequalities have focused resources only on some segments of society. But to improve health for all of us, the Review says, action is needed to build on the past ten years work on health inequalities to continue to improve everyone's health and reduce differences that are both unfair and unjust.

To download the Marmot Review, and for further information on the Review, visit:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/qheg/marmotreview>

IDeA: "The Social Determinants of Health and the Role of Local Government"

In March the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) published a collection of articles that assesses what local government can do to tackle the social conditions that lead to health inequalities. Written by distinguished practitioners and academics, the publication builds on the recent Marmot Review report, 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'.

Access the articles on the IDeA website here:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=17415112>

Defra: Regional Sustainable Development Indicators

Defra published regional sustainable development indicators for England on 25 February. The indicators provide an overview of economic, social and environmental issues in each region. The 46 regional indicators are available on the UK Government sustainable development website to enable comparisons to be made between regions and with progress nationally.

Read the full Defra press release and access the indicators here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/100225a.htm>

Defra Hosts Online Greener Society Debate

Defra is hosting an online Greener Society debate to enable contributors to share their views on what a greener future might look like. Debate topics include: homes, shopping and eating, travel,



the business world, and the environment. Contributors are invited to take a look at the pages setting out some of the changes envisaged by Defra in these areas, and then their comments.

To contribute, visit: <http://engage.defra.gov.uk/greener-society/>

DfT: Active Travel Strategy

The Department for Transport published its Active Travel Strategy on 22 February, which aims to get more people walking and cycling more often and more safely.

Access the strategy here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgf/sustainable/cycling/activetravelstrategy/>

The Climate and Health Council

The Climate and Health Council is a UK association of health professionals which aims to raise awareness of "the global and national public health threat of climate change".

Members of the Council take actions in five main ways, including: informing about issues related to climate change and global health; offering personal leadership on carbon reducing actions; mobilising health professionals into an international movement of advocates.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.climateandhealth.org/>

European News

New EU Climate Chief Wants Europe To "Lead By Example"

EurActiv.com reported on 10 March that the EU's new commissioner for climate action, Connie Hedegaard, wants Europe to continue leading global negotiations and pursue deeper emission cuts, even if its current pledge of 20% reductions by 2020 is not matched by other developed countries.

"The EU must continue to take leadership," Connie Hedegaard told the European Parliament on 9 March in Strasbourg, while presenting a new EU communication on climate action. "The most convincing way Europe can do so is by taking tangible and determined action domestically to become the most climate-friendly region in the world."

With international talks progressing slowly in the wake of Copenhagen, Commissioner Hedegaard said the EU would demonstrate how to meet its green goals while creating jobs and boosting economies.

"It is in Europe's own interest [to do so]," Hedegaard said. "If we do it intelligently, it will enhance our competitiveness, strengthen our energy security, stimulate green economic growth and innovation, and by that we will create new jobs."

The EU climate chief said the European Commission would present an analysis of what it would take for Europe to reduce its emissions to 30% below 1990 levels by 2020. The bloc's possible



move to 30% was marred by internal divisions among its 27 member states, with Poland and Italy worried about the cost of such a switch, and countries like Sweden and the UK keen to take on the challenge. Hedegaard said that although a conditional 30% pledge is part of the EU's negotiation strategy for global talks, the Union should also consider making the move given the positive implications it would have for Europe's growth.

Read the full EurActiv article here:

http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/eu-comes-climate-exit-strategy-global-talks-news-325531?utm_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2032555af2-my_google_analytics_key&utm_medium=email

Sweden Pushes for Carbon Food Labels

On 19 January GreenFutures magazine reported that Sweden's National Food Administration has issued dietary guidelines that consider both the nutritional benefit of particular foods, and their environmental impact.

A global first in consumer guidance, the guidance recommends assessing foods according to their climate impact, pesticide use and biodiversity effect. The guidelines favour carrots over greenhouse-grown tomatoes, and rapeseed oil over palm, due to the latter's impact on rainforest destruction.

The guidance isn't mandatory, but a number of retailers have responded with carbon-labelling of products.

Read the full article here:

http://www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures/articles/Sweeden_pushes_carbon_food_labels

International News

World's Pall of Black Carbon Can Be Eased With New Stoves

On 8 March the Yale 360 website reported that the world could save millions of people in poor nations from respiratory ailments and early death - while dealing a big blow to global warming - by increasing access to cheap, clean-burning cook stoves.

Two billion people worldwide do their cooking on open fires, producing sooty pollution that shortens millions of lives and exacerbates global warming. If widely adopted, a new generation of inexpensive, durable cook stoves could go a long way toward alleviating this problem.

1.5 million lives are lost to respiratory, heart and other soot-related harm every year, according to World Health Organization estimates. Some scientists now estimate that small, solid particles of ordinary soot - black carbon - are responsible for about one-fifth of warming globally and, as such, are the second-largest contributor to climate change, after carbon dioxide gas.

A variety of stoves have been developed to address this issue, among them the 'Envirofit' stove. About 100,000 Envirofit stoves have already been sold in India, at prices as low as 700 rupees, or about \$15. The stoves quickly pay for themselves in fuel savings alone, allowing households to save \$50 to \$75 annually that would have been spent on wood or other biomass, even while using 60 percent less biomass and eliminating about 80 percent of soot.

Read the full article here:

<http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2250>

The Bloom Box: Innovation or Replication?

On 25 February Carbon Commentary website reported on the announcement of Bloom Energy's solid oxide fuel cell on 24 February, which has generated huge amounts of press, and flags up the work of the Australia/Germany company Ceramic Fuel Cells which has a product close to market launch.

Writes Chris Goodall of Carbon Commentary, "Does the Bloom Box represent a substantial technical advance over Ceramic Fuel Cells? On the information provided so far, I could see no obvious technical innovation that puts Bloom ahead of the Ceramic Fuel Cells machines. But Ceramic Fuel Cells works from Melbourne, not Silicon Valley, and can't get the California Governor and Colin Powell to come to its product launches. We'll soon see whether the unflashy Australians have just lost their market to Bloom or whether Ceramic Fuel Cells' long and painful development has just been validated by Bloom's hyperbolic endorsement of the potential of the SOFC."

Read the full article here:

<http://www.carboncommentary.com/2010/02/25/1385>

USA: Down on its Luck Mall Transformed into Giant Greenhouse

On 17 March, Grist reported on a Cleveland mall that has rejuvenated its fortunes through re-versioning as a giant greenhouse.

Vicky Poole, who heads up marketing for the Galleria at Erieview mall, was faced with dozens of vacancies in the 200-store centre. She conceived the project after looking at a photograph of plants growing in a cafe window, and went on to secure a \$30,000 grant to set up the greenhouse project.

In February, spinach, tomatoes, and strawberries were started in a composted soil system produced by a local company. Recently, a hydroponic system was delivered that will exponentially increase output, and a farmers market is growing in popularity.

Read the full article here: <http://www.grist.org/article/the-mall-gets-fresh/>

Training / Events / Resources / Funding

SNH: Sharing Good Practice Programme 2009-10

The new Sharing Good Practice programme of events for 2009 - 2010 is available on the SNH website here: www.snh.org.uk/sgp

Stop Climate Chaos Events Calendar

This website provides a guide to grassroots climate change events happening in Scotland, and the rest of the UK. For more information, visit: <http://local.stopclimatechaos.org>



Carbon Trust: Advanced Energy Management

23 March 2010, Glasgow

This event is available, free to everyone with an interest in the subject, and reservations for places are now being taken. If you would like to secure your place at this event, please register on-line at: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/events/listings/pages/default.aspx> or by sending an email to carbontrust@tuvnel.com.

SURF Annual Conference

24-25 March 2010

The theme of the 2010 SURF Annual Conference is on 'sustaining and reinventing community regeneration' in a time of anticipated record reductions in public spending, sharply rising levels of unemployment and resultant poverty. For more information visit: <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1099>

SAC/SEPA Conference: Climate, Water & Soil

31 March-1 April 2010, Edinburgh

With the future of our climate, our water and our soil all under the microscope the theme of the Scottish Agricultural College and SEPA biennial two-day conference is the science and policy surrounding these combined challenges. For further information visit: <http://www.sac.ac.uk/news/currentnews/10n10sacsepa>

S2S Social Enterprise Fair 2010

21 April, Corn Exchange, Edinburgh

The fifth annual S2S social enterprise fair allows social enterprise companies and organisations to meet, trade, collaborate and develop partnerships to help each other grow. For further information, visit: www.s2sfair.com

Patrick Geddes Lecture 2010

21 April, National Gallery, Edinburgh

Peter Head OBE will give the lecture on Sustainable Economic Development: towards the emerging Ecological Age. For more information, visit: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/1737/23/5/3>

6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference

19-21 May 2010, Dunkerque, France

The programme for Dunkerque 2010 features innovative European examples of local sustainability, as well as internationally renowned experts and high-level representatives from European institutions and business. The event is the latest in a series of conferences that has shaped local sustainability in Europe and empowered local governments to influence policy. For further information, visit www.dunkerque2010.org

Resilient Cities 2010 - World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

28-30 May 2010: Bonn, Germany

Organised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Bonn, this is an opportunity for partners from all sectors to share experiences and research outcomes, to overcome knowledge gaps and to discuss and identify jointly solutions and impulses for innovation. More information available on www.iclei.org/bonn2010



This is the newsletter of the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). SSN is a programme of Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), an operating name of Environmental Campaigns (Scotland). Scottish Charity Number SC030332. The purpose of the newsletter is to assist networking between members and contacts, and to provide information on topical issues and events. The newsletter also provides a means of seeking and exchanging information. Items included may not necessarily reflect the views of the Network or its individual members.

As a means of promoting further networking, circulation of the newsletter also extends to a growing number of other networks with an interest in promoting sustainable development. We encourage distribution of the newsletter to anyone you think might find it useful.

For further information or to submit information for future Newsletters, please contact:
Anna Hunter, SSN Information Officer, on 01786 468 768 or at anna.hunter@ksbscotland.org.uk

