

March 2009

Sustainability Now is a monthly bulletin from Sustainability South West, the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development. SSW is a charity and its Mission is: 'To champion and assist action now to achieve a South West that is genuinely sustainable: healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits.'

A new age of fair shares and green places?



Crunch! Crunch! – people are waking up to the realisation that a high consumption lifestyle is unreal?! The illusion has tricked many. Behind the smoke and mirrors those who stood to gain are being exposed. The real costs to people and planet of more and more, cheaper and cheaper stuff are coming home to roost. It's time to accept that we've been stupid.

A new film 'The Age of Stupid' premieres this month at cinemas across our region – see www.ageofstupid.net/. It may leave many with a sense of helplessness. The re launch of our charitable campaign *Fair Shares, Fair Choice* also happens this month. It will offer people the opportunity to voice their support for the notion of a fair carbon share that is based on real global environmental limits and social justice and responds to the understandable reaction of many to our current crisis 'I will if they will.' Campaigner and climate change researcher, Mark Lynas, will be giving a talk at the Bristol Watershed showing on 24 March – see below for your chance to win 2 tickets!

Absolutely real green spaces from around the region are being celebrated by the Sustainability South West 2009 Planting Places Awards. They are examples of just how important local community green places are for providing social, environmental and economic benefits. Read on and imagine the joy of a reassuringly real green crunch under your feet!



This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ *Don't be Stupid, It's the Age of Fair Shares, Fair Choice!*
- ◆ *Win 2 tickets to 'The Age of Stupid' introduced by Mark Lynas, 24 March, the Watershed, Bristol*
- ◆ *Planting Places Awards Winners Announced and Exhibition Open!*
- ◆ *New! Sustainability Network Membership*
- ◆ *C+ Carbon Positive Awards 2009 Deadline for entries: Close of Tuesday 31 March*
- ◆ *SSW Conference Report coming soon: An Integrated Approach to Planning the Future–Yes We Can!*
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Don't be Stupid, It's the Age of Fair Shares, Fair Choice!

Everyone in the UK could have their own carbon budget by 2020, says the head of the most comprehensive trial of the idea by the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). Personal allowances set a limit on emissions produced over a year from activities such as driving and heating homes. People could switch to greener services or do without to meet their allowance, sell credits if they did not use them, or buy credits if they went over the budget because of more highly polluting activities such as flying. The RSA's CarbonLimited study began in 2006. On average the 140 volunteers cut emissions by almost 5%.

(See www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/feb/03/personal-carbon-allowances).

SSW campaign **Fair Shares, Fair Choice** offers the principle of fair and safe carbon shares for everyone, to avoid the worst effects of climate change. A new look, updated website (www.fairsharesfairchoice.com) will go live on Sunday 15 March, allowing people to Sign Up to the principle of 'fair shares' and providing advice on how to make low carbon lifestyle choices. Watch this space for promotional activities which will take place throughout March across the region, starting with the Premiere showings for 'The Age of Stupid' movie on 15 March. For more information contact freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

Win 2 tickets to 'The Age of Stupid' introduced by Mark Lynas and an exclusive screening of Fair Shares, Fair Choice promo short! 24 March, the Watershed, Bristol
The Age of Stupid (www.ageofstupid.net/) is a new eco drama starring Pete Postlethwaite set in a devastated 2055 and combining drama, documentary and animation to answer the protagonists troubling question: "What state of mind were we in, to face extinction and simply shrug it off?" **Sustainability Now** has a pair of tickets to the 8:10pm showing on 24 March at The Watershed, Bristol up for grabs. The film will be introduced by Fair Shares, Fair Choice supporter, Mark Lynas, author and climate change advisor.

An exclusive showing of Fair Shares, Fair Choice short promo film will also feature on the night. **For your chance to win, don't be stupid, tell us your clever low carbon tip! Email your tip with your name and address to info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk by 22 March.**

Planting Places Awards Winners Announced and Exhibition Open!



Five top examples of greenspace across the South West have been awarded a Planting Places award, recognising the input and influence that all of these spaces have in supporting healthy, sustainable communities and the people who work to make them special.

Planting Places is a partnership project coordinated by Sustainability South West to champion and celebrate local greenspaces and their importance in building sustainable communities. Supporters include the Architecture Centre; Natural England; South West Strategic Health Authority Environment Agency and Arup.

Any greenspace in the region that is free and accessible to the public could be nominated for the awards, and entries were received from all across the region and all types of greenspace; from parks, community gardens and allotments to green route cycle paths, playing fields and even cemeteries and rooftops.

The 2009 Planting Places Award winners:

Overall Winner – Penhill Orchard, Swindon

The Penhill Orchard, planted on a disused allotment, is entirely managed by community residents. As well as providing free fruit in a disadvantaged area, it enhances the space for wildlife and provides and preserves a very pleasant place for the local community.

Best Practice: Engaging the Community – Torre Churchyard, Devon

Highly commended: Modbury Millenium Meadow, Devon and St Neot Green, Cornwall

Best Practice: Supporting Biodiversity - Maningham Wood, Cornwall

Highly commended: Modbury Millenium Meadow, Devon and Torre Churchyard, Devon

Best Practice: Promoting Health & Well Being – St Neot Doorstep Green Garden, Cornwall

Highly commended: Badock's Wood, Bristol

Best Practice: Responding to Climate Change – Russell Town Avenue Community Allotment, Bristol



The Planting Places winners are highlighted in a special exhibition, displayed in the shop gallery of The Architecture Centre, Bristol, running until 5 April. The exhibition is part of The Architecture Centre's Spring Green season which celebrates urban green spaces and encourages debate about their future. A season of exhibitions and events highlights the importance of the network of spaces that forms the green infrastructure to urban environments and the key role it plays in shaping sustainable neighbourhoods. See: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/assets/files/pdf/Spring_Green_Programme_2009.pdf

For more information about Planting Places and the Planting Places awards, including information about all of this year's winners, please visit www.plantingplaces.org.uk.

New! Sustainability Network Membership

From April 1st SSW is inviting individuals and organisations to join a new Network Membership. Benefits include:

- Make your voice heard: A Network Member will be elected annually to join SSW's Board so that views from the Network are taken on board
- A free place at SSW's Annual Conference/other events, to hear from sustainability experts and network with Board Members
- Your name / organisation's name listed on SSW's website
- An exclusive Network Membership quarterly e-newsletter
- SSW promotional resources and worksheets available for free
- Discounted rates for SSW to carry out sustainability appraisals of plans/projects and tailored workshops/presentations
- Get involved in SSW's work - use your networks/expertise to promote sustainability and help with SSW projects/ events



Network Members will be invited to make a voluntary annual donation to support the work and independence of the charity - details on application form.

Join today email freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk for an application form

C+ Carbon Positive Awards 2009 Deadline for entries: Close of Tuesday 31 March

There are just over three weeks left to enter the second annual free South West C+ Carbon Positive Awards. The region wide award scheme is sponsored by the South West Regional Development Agency and supported by Sustainability South West, Business in the Community, Wessex Water, Viridor Waste Management, South West Water and Bristol Green Capital. The C+ Carbon Positive Awards recognise the businesses, organisations and communities taking a proactive and innovative low carbon approach to the ways in which we live and work and builds on the South West's growing reputation for ambition and excellence in achieving sustainable solutions.



There are seven C+ Award categories (the first three recognising both large and small organisations):

- **C+ Carbon Positive Footprints:** for organisations successfully cutting their carbon emissions
- **C+ Carbon Positive Consumer Choices:** for organisations offering consumers more low carbon choices
- **C+ Carbon Positive Cutting Edge:** for organisations developing innovative carbon cutting solutions
- **C+ Carbon Positive Micro:** for exemplary low carbon businesses with five employees or less
- **C+ Carbon Positive Communities:** for communities that are successfully reducing their carbon footprint
- **C+ Carbon Positive Bristol Green Capital:** for any organisation in, or providing services to, the greater Bristol area that is able to demonstrate how they are working with either suppliers, employees or peers to positively influence and impact on climate change
- **C+ Carbon Positive Pioneer:** overall winner – the business, organisation or community that is having the greatest impact on carbon reduction in the South West (*open to winners of the above categories*)

Application form available at: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/c+ carbon positive awards/

Deadline for applications: 31 March with an awards ceremony and celebration taking place on 1 May.

SSW Conference, An integrated approach to planning the future – yes we can! Conference Report coming soon

On 2 March, Weston-super-Mare, representatives from many sectors right across the region met to hear from guest speakers including Jonathon Porritt, SSW's President and Chair, Sustainable Development Commission, and to discuss embedding Sustainable Development into the new government processes and strategy for the South West region, sharing ideas on some of the big questions:

- How can the new Regional Strategy be genuinely sustainable?
- Who will provide the independent challenge on delivering sustainability?
- How can local authorities and the RDA be better supported to deliver Sustainable Development?



The conference report – will be available shortly at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

Sussed!

👍 **MOD and Natural England protect land** Ministry of Defence has signed a Declaration of Intent with Natural England to improve and preserve the natural environment that makes up the Defence Estate and minimise environmental impact of defence related activities.

👍 **Eco-Schools programme a success** Over 50% of schools in England have achieved Eco School status following the Eco-Schools programme - an award scheme encouraging action for environmentally-friendly and sustainable schools. www.eco-schools.org.uk/

👍 **Voluntary sector adopts environmental policies** The proportion of voluntary sector organisations with an environmental policy has almost doubled to 52% over the past 18 months, according to surveys by Every Action Counts www.everyactioncounts.org.uk

👍 **New action plan to make fashion more sustainable** The Sustainable Clothing Roadmap has brought together 300 organisations including Marks and Spencer and Tesco to battle the environmental impacts of 'throw away fashion'. www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/products/clothing.htm

👍 **Local guidance for air quality** Defra has issued revised guidance to all local authorities on managing air quality which includes taking measures to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/ifi/170766

👍 **New carriages to increase rail capacity on busy routes** Bristol will be amongst several areas to benefit from 202 new train carriages to relieve busiest rail routes.

So Last Century...

👎 **UK travel emissions on the rise**

Despite overall reductions of the UK's CO₂ of 1.5% between 2006 and 2007, some sectors increased in emissions including 1.0 per cent (1.3 Mt) from the transport sector and 9.5 per cent (1.2 Mt) from industrial processes. www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/index.htm

On your radar?

Can you help Sustainable Schools? The DCSF is working towards an updated Sustainable Schools website. If you represent a non-governmental organisation in the South West that provides support or resources relating to sustainable schools and would like to feature the work of your organisation on the website, please complete form at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/news/news_detail.cfm?id=249

Commercial CSR Day, Cheltenham Racecourse, 30 April Last year's overall C+ Carbon Positive Awards winners, Commercial Group Ltd, will be holding their 3rd Annual CSR Day on 30 April with guest speaker Professor Mark Maslin, Director of the UCL Environment Institute, who regularly appears on programmes such as 'Horizon', 'Newsnight', 'Dispatches', and the BBC's 'Supervolcano' and 'Superstorm'. The day is for companies committed to reducing their impact on climate change to share information and experience and will focus on how to engage with staff and suppliers, with case studies from companies such as Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. This is a free events but places are limited. More info at www.commercialevents.co.uk

New action plan to cut South West construction waste The new plan aims to reduce the amount of construction waste on civil engineering projects across the region. The plan comes out of South West RDA study 'Towards zero waste for civil engineering', with research carried out by Future Foundations and Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) www.ceca.co.uk/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=198&NewsTypeID=3

Achieving Improved Sustainable Economic Well Being research project Globe Regeneration and Rural Innovation, on behalf of the Commission for Rural Communities, are looking for examples of sustainable economic well-being projects to produce a set of case studies to identify and share good practice. Contact Rob Hindle rob.hindle@ruralinnovation.co.uk or Ivan Annibal Ivan.Annibal@globelimited.co.uk for more info.

First edition of the South West Climate Change Action Plan Newsletter out now Produced to highlight progress by regional partners on actions in the Plan, there is also an opportunity for partners to give more details on their activity. See www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=4778

SW Consultations

<i>Consultations currently 'open' for responses which could impact on sustainability in the region & wider</i>
Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study
DECC, Open: Now, Close: 1/04/09 The Government is seeking views on the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); which of 10 options should be short-listed for detailed consideration and whether the feasibility study is looking at the right issues and taking the right approach. See: http://severntidalpowerconsultation.decc.gov.uk/
Draft Guidance for Local Transport Plans
DfT, Open: Now, Close: 09/04/09 The Department of Transport (DfT) is consulting on a draft of statutory Guidance to support the production of the next round of Local Transport Plans (LTP). The Guidance will apply to plans that take effect from 2012, as well as amendments to current plans. More detail at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/draftguidance/tp/
Eco Towns
CLG, Open: Now, Close: 30/04/09 12 potential Eco-Town locations have been proposed, including St Austell (China Clay Community), Cornwall for the South West. The consultation asks for views on the Draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement with a final shortlist of locations with the potential to site an eco-town announced following after the consultation ends. See: http://ecotownssurvey.communities.gov.uk/home/

Up & coming...

'Weathering Storms: Regional Resilience and Future Proofing', Empire Museum Bristol, 11 March South West Observatory, the region's data and intelligence network, VI Annual Conference will look at the themes climate change, demographic change and globalised economic change: How resilient is the region now, and how resilient can it be in the future to the known and unknown? With speakers from Forum for the Future, Wessex Water, SWRDA, GOSW & UWE. Price: £150/£75. Contact Rachel.Hartnell@swo.org.uk Visit SSW's stand for the region's recommendations on how to embed sustainable development post Sub National Review following consultation with stakeholders over the past six months.

SW Public Sector Food & Drink Procurement event, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, 12 March Hosted by South West Food and Drink with Gloucestershire Food Vision and f3, the conference will bring together people across the region involved in the policy and practice of sustainable food procurement within the public sector. The programme will cover approaches and solutions to issues of sustainable public sector food procurement, and include presentations on: OGC Food Commodity Quality Standards; Collaborative Food Procurement & Efficiency; Public Food and the Challenge of Sustainable Development; Proeftuin Amsterdam–The Amsterdam Food Strategy. Register with Amy Murfin: info@gloucestershirefoodvision.com

Bristol Green Capital Business Support, 8-10:30am the Pavillion, Harbourside, Bristol, 23 March

Learn about the different opportunities to get involved in supporting the Green Capital initiative, from becoming a Business Champion to mentoring others; Find out about seminars, workshops and networking events in association with BETS, Business Link and GWE Business West; Hear how Bristol will be building on its ambitions to be a leading EU Green Capital, with a welcome from John Savage, Chair of Bristol Partnership, and briefings and case studies from Bristol Green Capital. Confirm your place by 13 March: email Amanda.Watkins@bristol.gov.uk

Climate Change: Are you prepared? FREE workshops for SME's, Plymouth and Bristol through March

South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP) and Arup are offering free half-day workshops to help small businesses across the following 4 sectors: Agriculture and Construction (13 March, Bristol; 18 March, Plymouth); Food and Drink and Tourism (17 March, Plymouth; 19 March, Bristol) adapt to climate change. Workshops will explore the threats and opportunities of climate change for your business, and offer examples of practical adaptation actions within your business sector. A networking lunch is included. Registration forms available from kate.bullock@arup.com

FREE Greener Living Roadshow, Wiltshire and Swindon, until 25 March

A free public roadshow with a wealth of the best green living tips will be touring the village halls and town halls of Wiltshire and Swindon until 25 March. Run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, the Roadshow will have masses of information, demonstrations and samples for how families and individuals can make a difference to the planet, their pocket and future generations and info about local services and groups. **Roadshow dates:** 8 March Swindon Steam Museum 11-2; 14 March Salisbury United Reformed Church Hall (Fisherton Street) 10-3; 21 March Pewsey's Bouverie Hall 10-2; 25 March Lower Shaw Farm, Swindon 10-2

Sign up to WWF's Earth Hour, 28 March

931 cities and towns in 80 countries have already committed to Earth Hour 2009 - on Saturday 28 March 2009 at 8.30pm, people around the world will take part in WWF's Earth Hour by turning off their lights for one hour and showing their support for global action on climate change. See www.earthhour.org/ Events in Bristol include a torch lit night at Bristol Zoo, a candlelit dinner evening at both Bordeaux Quay restaurant and The Watershed and a gathering on Brandon Hill arranged by Avon Wildlife Trust to watch the lights go out and explore the local wildlife. Find out more from WWF at The Hub, Bristol on 18 March, 1-2pm

Homes for Good 2009, Westpoint Arena, Exeter, 17-18 April The South West's leading sustainable home and garden exhibition, showcasing cutting edge sustainable construction techniques and building materials, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technology, as well as promoting realistic lifestyle techniques that help to reduce consumption, save energy and make sustainable living easy. Book now for a 2-for-1 ticket offer (standard Adult ticket price: £5). Visit www.ecostrust.org.uk/h4g/

Over to YOU

Remember – we're your independent sustainability champs – and as an independent charity we're here to act as a critical friend for the common good. If you're involved in action for sustainability – let us know and we can champion it! Equally if you're experiencing barriers to adopting a more sustainable approach let us know so we can feed back messages on your behalf. Also let us know about local and regional events coming up over the next month for inclusion in the next edition.

Contact us at info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

Deadline for submissions: close of Friday 27 March 2009

Other news from SSW available from:

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

Regular updates on **SSW coordinated projects** available:

Fair Shares, Fair Choice – the SW's growing low carbon movement

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework

www.shapersw.net

Future Footprints – the SW's sustainable tourism visitor campaign

www.futurefootprints.org.uk

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

www.plantingplaces.org.uk

Feedback: As a network of influential individuals your feedback on *Sustainability Now* is very valuable. Send comments to info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk (let us know if colleagues would like to be added to the e-distribution list).

Back issues: at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability_now

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Disclaimer: Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of SSW's membership as a whole.

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