

February 2011

SustainabilityNow is the e-bulletin from **Sustainability South West (SSW)**, the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development. SSW is a registered charity and its Mission is:

'To champion and assist action now to achieve a South West that is genuinely sustainable: resilient, healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits.'

Which Way Now For Sustainable Tourism?

Editorial by Neil Warren, SSW's newly appointed Tourism Associate



It's at this time of year that people turn their thoughts from the winter gloom to summer holidays. But how many will be looking for a 'green' or 'sustainable' holiday? [Research by South West Tourism](#) suggests very few. While travel supplements in 2007 may have regularly featured 'green' holidays was this ever more than a passing fad? If so, where does this leave tourism in becoming more sustainable?

First off, we might have to look beyond traditional labels – although few visitors actively seek 'green holidays' the same research indicates that the majority are concerned about the impacts of their vacation. Efforts made by the industry to make our getaways 'greener' are seen as enhancing the quality and appeal of a holiday - it's simply that enjoyment remains the priority.

So is the industry responding to this? The South West is generally considered to be ahead of the game however, there is a danger of complacency. Research by Exeter University and South West Tourism shows that, even among businesses that have taken significant action, reductions in the net consumption of energy has plateaued and few are moving onto more advanced actions. [Room cards](#) persuading visitors to 'switch off' remain popular, but is this simply a sign of passing the buck to the visitor? If visitor and business are placing the onus on each other then it's not surprising that there's something of a stalemate.

With an upward trend for energy prices, the industry can ill-afford to stay still. In contrast to their detailed knowledge of where bookings come from, there is little priority on the expenditure side of the spreadsheet, with around half rarely looking at their energy bills. This increases vulnerability to price spikes, but also misses out on the significant opportunity presented by renewables. Attending events such as RegenSW's forthcoming [Marketplace](#) should be a must so that businesses don't miss out.

Neither can transport be ignored. In a predominantly rural region, low down in the pecking order for new infrastructure, with ingrained patterns of car use, it can be tempting to write the issue off. But with it being one of the most significant impacts

on residents and the environment, not to mention the visitor experience and competitiveness of the sector, this would be wrong. Not least because of the opportunities. Achieving modal shift may be tough but encouraging lower mileage enjoyment of what's on the doorstep of the accommodation is very feasible (what family wants to spend hours in the car?). Likewise, the region has many [spectacular travel experiences](#) which could be more widely promoted. Being 'green' or 'car free' doesn't need to come into it.

And maybe this is the key point. For too long we have tried to achieve sustainability by labelling visitor experiences or business approaches primarily on the basis of our primary motivations rather than those that we were engaging with. If we are to avoid travelling alone on our journey towards sustainability tapping into alternative motivations that achieve the same goal may be essential.

This month's other *SustainabilityNow* headlines at a glance:

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Sustainability South West steps in to ensure support for tourism continues

With changes ahead for tourism in the region, and the impending closure of South West Tourism (SWT), **SSW has stepped in to ensure that practical support for the tourism sector can continue into the future.** Neil Warren, SWT's Sustainability Strategist, has moved into a new role with SSW to deliver this sustainable tourism work beyond the closure of SWT on 31 March and so will be able to continue to focus on supporting the tourism sector to find practical opportunities to becoming more sustainable - particularly in relation to how businesses operate, getting visitors involved, transport issues and protection of the natural and historic assets that attract visitors. Chair of SWT, Alistair Handyside said "It is a really positive step to be able to move this remit to SSW, so that the years' of development put in place by SWT is not lost to the region and the industry can retain a high profile focus on critical areas of development." Read more at: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/news/ssw_steps_in/.





The South West tourism industry fights back

Sustainability South West and other **key players in the South West's tourism industry have agreed to form a partnership consortium** to carry forward some activities that would otherwise be lost when South West Tourism closes in March. Unanimous support was offered for the new consortium and work will now begin to formalise the arrangements and plan the continued delivery of key projects such as market research services and high-profile consumer and industry websites. The approach is needed now more than ever following the recent announcement of Yorkshire Tourism's continued multi-million pound funding. The overriding principle of the emerging consortium is to support the tourism industry to improve the visitor experience in a cost effective and sustainable manner. This will mean a shared voice for the tourism industry; a clear direction for the sustainable and balanced development of the visitor economy; and the collection of data and intelligence to underpin the competitive performance of the industry. Importantly, the consortium aims to safeguard the intellectual property built up since the tourist board was formed over 40 years ago. Read more at: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/news/the_tourism_industry_fights_back/.

Soft is Smart shows transport research Review

A group of regional organisations has worked together to help local authority transport policy makers have a more informed view of the potential of different interventions for encouraging sustainable travel behaviour. Published to coincide with the launch of the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund the **Soft Measures – Hard Facts report** pools evidence from the wide variety of 'soft' or 'smart' measures implemented in recent years. These programmes encourage a shift away from car use towards more active and low carbon travel and are an increasingly important component of transport investment by highway authorities as they provide a solution that does not require expensive new infrastructure. The review answers the main questions posed by those considering investment, such as how well do these programmes: • change travel behaviour? • provide value for money? • reduce carbon? • improve activity levels and health? All the measures reviewed were found to generate carbon savings with most success seen from careful targeting of people likely to change their behaviour, combined with multi-measure programmes across age groups:

www.liftshare.com/business/pdfs/soft%20measures%20-%20hard%20facts_2011_final.pdf.



Hotel chains welcome sustainability

For some time it has been smaller, independent accommodation leading the way in demonstrating the potential for tourism to have a better environmental and social impact. Of the 500+ businesses participating in the main sustainable tourism certification schemes, the vast majority match this description. However, it now seems that the chains are waking up to the idea. While this may be driven more by bottom line imperatives than altruism there is evidence of a shift into the mainstream. The Whitbread Group, which takes in the 600 Premier Inn hotels, is one of the latest to launch a programme. To mark the opening of their second purpose-built "sustainable hotel", they hosted a gathering of leading figures in the

UK hospitality sector to discuss future progress. Ten recommendations emerged including a culture of sharing information, targeting efforts on retro-fitting, encouraging more leadership from the 300 larger hospitality businesses responsible for nearly half of the sector's emissions, greater consumer engagement and avoiding sustainable hospitality being seen as an excuse for premium prices. Whitbread's own programme includes goals of 26% and 20% reductions in CO2 and water respectively by 2020, 80% of waste diverted from landfill by 2012 and £1million raised for Water Aid. Tamworth 'sustainable' Premier Inn has achieved 70% energy savings compared to their average hotels. Jurys Inn, which includes a number of hotels in the South West, last year achieved Gold certification in the Green Tourism Business Scheme at all 23 of its UK hotels, while the 42-strong Ramada Jarvis chain was the first to put all of its properties through GTBS. View the **ten recommendations for action** & conference report: www.whitbread.co.uk/content/dam/whitbread/siteimages/responsibility/environment/goodtogethersustainabilityreport.pdf.

Space for Greenspace!

STOP PRESS: Planting Places local greenspace award winners announced! Congratulations to the winners of Sustainability South West's fourth annual **Planting Places awards** (announced today). The awards celebrate top examples of greenspace from across the South West of England. They recognise the huge array of benefits that these spaces – and the hard-working people who look after them – have in supporting healthy, sustainable communities. The ten winners are:



- Ashton Gate Triangle (Bristol)
- South Milton Sands (South Hams, Devon)
- BTCV Tree Life Centre (Kingswood, S. Gloucestershire)
- Guys & Hylton Allotments (Exeter) – pictured right
- Brunswick Cemetery Gardens (Bristol)
- Yeo Valley Community Woodland (Barnstaple)
- King George V Memorial Walk (Hayle, Cornwall)
- Springfield Park (Cheltenham)
- Greens Community Garden (Withywood, Bristol)
- Forches Community Garden (Barnstaple, North Devon)



The annual awards have once again highlighted the wealth of green, and blue!, spaces across the region – from gardens, allotments, woodlands and walkways to a coastal landscaping project. Whether led by communities themselves or managed by a local authority or charity, all the Planting Places winners show how much can be achieved when local people get involved in their green spaces. In addition to the ten winners (listed above), three runner-up entries have also been specially commended: Bury Meadow Park (Exeter), City Jigsaw Garden (Plymouth) and Chegwyn Gardens (St. Agnes, Cornwall). For more information about the winners and the Planting Places initiative see www.plantingplaces.org.uk.

Space for Greenspace!

Year of the Forest

2011 is the UN International Year of Forests. To get involved, why not join The Big Tree Plant, a campaign to encourage people and communities to plant more trees in England's towns, cities and neighbourhoods. It is a partnership bringing together national tree-planting organisations and local groups working with Defra and the Forestry Commission to plant trees throughout England. Anybody can get involved by planting and caring for trees to help make neighbourhoods more attractive, healthy places to live. Visit: <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/index.html>.



U-turn for UK forest sell-off

The massive tide of **public support** has forced a **U-turn decision of Government to scrap the 'controversial' plans to sell or lease off much of the UK's forests.** It was revealed, in an official government report from Defra, to carry out the plans could have cost the nation more than it would save. Over half a million people signed campaign group 38 Degrees' petition against the sell-off and many hundreds more in local groups across the country stood up to protect their local patch of forest. Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman has announced that: • The current public consultation will now be scrapped • Clauses 17-19 will be removed from the Public Bodies Bill • An independent panel will be set up to review the role of Forestry Commission and the future of the Public Forest Estate. The Woodland Trust has welcomed the U-turn but warned the campaign to protect and restore England's ancient forests must go on. Read more at:



www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/17/forest-sell-off-people-power.

NHS Forest Tree Sponsorship Scheme

Millions of people can help in greening the NHS by sponsoring trees through a new NHS Forest Tree Sponsorship Scheme, launched by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and the Woodland Trust. The NHS Forest project aims to see the planting of 1.3 million trees, one tree per NHS employee, with as many as possible planted on NHS sites, such as hospitals and surgeries, to benefit patients, staff and local communities. People can **sponsor a tree** for £15 and up to 10 trees can be sponsored at a time using the web-based scheme. Not only will the scheme allow people to be able to do their bit to change the landscape of NHS sites up and down the country, it will also be a great way to celebrate a baby being born, thank staff for care received during a stay in hospital and recognise a colleague's hard work on retirement. There are many benefits of sponsoring a tree through this scheme. It has been found that improved access to green space can aid patient recovery time, reduce stress at work, provide areas for relaxation, exercise and help encourage greater community cohesion. You can find further evidence about the links between green space and health online at: www.nhsforest.org/evidence and: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/news-media/releases/Pages/woods-and-health-pr.aspx.



Free resources for your climate change event

Climate Change campaign Fair Shares, Fair Choice (FSFC) – supporting the principle of ‘fair, safe carbon shares for everyone’ – is offering **free resources for events including carbon calculator sheets and challenges to reduce your carbon footprint.** Email: freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk with your event details. FSFC doesn't short change the less well-off or climate safety (the formula aims to keep global temperature rise to within a 2 degree increase). It is based on the principles of an internationally recognised model, the UN backed ‘Contraction and Convergence.’ It calculates per capita carbon budgets which take account of the different needs of developed and developing nations. To add your name to the supporters list for the campaign visit: www.fairsharesfairchoice.com.



Work for a local authority? Time running out for subsidy from SSW

Sustainability South West has been awarded **funding to work with local authorities** in 2011. The subsidy can be used for sustainability staff training (at both executive and officer level) and on the application of a sustainability framework to highlight compatibilities and incompatibilities across policy and delivery and to identify opportunities for more integrated approaches. The programme can be tailored to suit the particular needs of your authority.



We understand the significant impacts of the Government Spending Review on local government. The combination of reducing financial resources with increasing pressure to improve public service delivery presents a tough challenge. The programme offered provides a framework for identifying the least sustainable activities (which can be prioritised for cost cutting) and could also help you to avoid policies which may prove to be costly – whether financially, socially or environmentally – in the long term.

If you are interested in partnering with us in this subsidised programme, or to find out more, contact SSW on: 0117 929 0989 or email: Leslie.Watson@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

The subsidy is available until 31 March and work can be arranged to be delivered anytime in 2011.

Sussed!

The diet that could help to save the planet
WWF have created a cheap, nutritious weekly menu balancing healthy eating and sustainable food sources for £29 a head. The Livewell Plate shifts away from processed foods and meat, both blamed for rising levels of heart disease and diabetes. The increasing consumption of meat, especially beef, is a key environmental issue globally. Read more and download the menu at: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jan/30/livewell-plate-diet-nutrition?INTCMP=SRCH

So Last Century...

Puny Playthings
Why oh why do so many toys for tots fall apart just *hours* after being unpackaged and played with? Try not to be seduced by cheap and cheerful and instead opt for ‘built-to-last’/secondhand and pass on or ‘free-cycle’ neglected toys. For your local network see www.freecycle.org.

Sussed!

👍 **Exeter eco social housing first of a kind in UK** Three flats in Exeter have become the first flats and first social housing scheme in the UK to enjoy Passiv-Haus standard, level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, eco-home energy benefits. The flats are Exeter's first new council homes in more than 20 years. Managed by Exeter City Council, the flats will be for people over the age of 55 paying social rent, with priority for those downsizing from larger homes. The Council has a second scheme of 18 one and two bedroom flats being built to the same sustainable standards that will be completed in March.

👍 **HIA Green Academy** The University of Bristol has been chosen as one of eight universities in the UK to participate in a pilot six month change programme (run by Higher Education Academy), Green Academy: Curricula for Tomorrow.

👍 **Happy birthday Social Enterprise Mark** The Social Enterprise Mark, which began in the South West, celebrates its first birthday with more than 370 businesses displaying the Mark. The Mark encourages consumers to buy from genuine social enterprises that have proved they are 'trading for people and planet'. See: www.socialenterprisemark.org.uk/.

👍 **Government grant for Bristol's climate change plans** Bristol is to be awarded £260,000 towards the city's green plans including developing solar energy and supporting community action on climate change – one of 30 pioneering councils across the country to receive money to help develop its climate change plans and share best practice.

👍 **Milk GreenBottle rolling out from Cornwall** Each day 15m plastic bottles are used in the UK, many ending up in landfill sites where they take on average 500 years to decompose. As an alternative, a UK inventor has created the GreenBottle which, whilst looking like a standard plastic milk bottle, comprises a sturdy paper shell with a plastic liner to keep milk fresh. The lining can be ripped out and the paper shell then flattened and recycled up to seven times – plastic bottles can be recycled only once. Alternatively the paper bottle can be turned into compost within a matter of several weeks. A national roll-out across Asda supermarkets started this month, beginning in Cornwall. Read more at: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jan/30/green-milk-bottle-launched-at-asda?intcmp=srchfintcmp%3dsrch/.

**So Last
Century...**

👉 **Waste Not, Want Not** The amount of food waste in the UK is staggering - 8.3 million tonnes of food is thrown away by UK households every year - with huge cost and environmental implications.

Visit: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for ideas on how you can reduce food waste, and 'make friends with your freezer' to save the 30-40% of fresh food typically thrown away.

See: www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/features/how-to-make-friends-with-your-freezer-2202511.html.

On Your Radar?

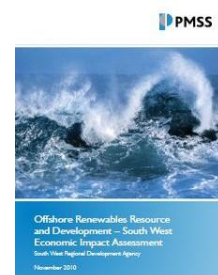


'Whatever the Weather' photo competition

Climate SouthWest are running a photo competition on the theme of 'extreme weather', with a first prize of an annual family pass for one year's free admission to National Trust places. Photos should illustrate the effect that extreme weather has on the South West in one of four categories: Hot, Cold, Wet or Dry. The deadline for entries is 13 March and the winners will be announced during Climate Week 2011 (21 – 27 March). Full details and entry form available at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110313-photo-contest-brief.doc.

Report: Marine renewables sector will be important future employers for South West

The Offshore Renewables Resource and Development (ORRAD) report, commissioned by SWRDA, has found that the marine renewables sector will be an important future employer, representing around 0.20% of the future total employment in the South West. The South West is capable of generating 9220 MW of electricity from marine sources, more than double the current domestic needs of the region. The sector will generate over 5750 new jobs and inject an estimated £4.8 billion into the SW economy from offshore wind technology and wave and tidal technologies from 2015 onwards. Read the report at: [http://swnews.swcouncils.gov.uk/media/documents/Offshore Renewables Resource and Development - South West Economic Impact Assessment.pdf](http://swnews.swcouncils.gov.uk/media/documents/Offshore_Renewables_Resource_and_Development_-_South_West_Economic_Impact_Assessment.pdf).



Somerset Green Schools Challenge – £15,000 prize fund

Secondary schools in Somerset are invited to think of an idea that could make a 10% carbon saving and would involve and inspire the local community. A share of the £15,000 prize fund will be allocated, "dragons den" style, to the five best ideas; rewarding innovation, creativity and community involvement. Deadline for submissions is 31 March. For full details join the Pod at: www.jointhepod.org/get-going/somerset-challenge/default where you can download the information pack.

How well is the UK preparing for Climate Change?

The Adaptation Sub Committee of the independent Committee on Climate Change has produced this first report. The ASC proposes five priority areas to make progress on practical adaptation actions: land use planning, national infrastructure, natural resources, design and renovation of buildings; and emergency planning. Download the report at: www.theccc.org.uk/reports/adaptation.



Defra climate change adaptation web-pages

New climate change adaptation webpages have been launched by Defra featuring a set of 'Future Worlds' images showing potential ways to adapt to climate change, a glossary of key terminology and an A-Z of key links and documents. Visit: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adapting/>.

Barrier busting service for communities

A new web service is available designed to help volunteers, community groups and social enterprises overcome bureaucracy and get things done in their neighbourhood. Access it at: <http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk/>.



Prepare for the challenge of extreme weather – campaign images

Climate SouthWest's Tourism sector group have produced a set of images to highlight the challenges of extreme weather and to signpost tourism businesses towards online toolkit: 'Preparing for Change: climate-proof your tourism business' www.climateprepared.com. The images are freely available for use – download at:

www.oursouthwest.com/climate/tools.htm#.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund Opens

The purpose of the Fund is to enable the delivery by local transport authorities of sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon. The Department of Transport plans to make £560 million available to the Fund over four years. Find out more at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/transportfund/pdf/guidance.pdf.

Free cross-curricular skills-based sustainability resources for 11-14 year olds

Pupils are challenged to rethink a sustainable future based on the principles of closed loop systems in nature. The freely available resource features 28 hours of teaching time complete with teachers' guidance notes, pupil activity sheets, a learning journal, presentations, films and animations. For more information visit:

www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nuffield-stem-futures.

Download the resources by pod (65MB) at:

www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/Nuffield_STEM_Futures.zip.



Up & Coming...Events around the region

24 February, Cornwall and 2 March, Dorset, Alliance Building for Green Workplaces (Feb U-Net Centre, St Austell, Cornwall; Borough Gardens House, Dorchester, Dorset)

These free half day events (09:30 – 13:00), from TUC Green Workplaces Project and Groundwork South West, aim to help organisations and the wider community engage to reduce their environmental footprint.

For the booking form (for both events) visit:

www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Registration-Form-CR-workshops-St-Austell-Dorch.doc.

24 February, SW Climate Change Trade Fair: Save and Profit from Climate Change: A sustainable future for your farm, The Matford Centre, Exeter



This is an event for farmers, growers and rural businesses, organised by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), National

Farmers Union and Farming Futures. Delegates can speak to experts on how to be more efficient with your farm resources, save costs on fuel and energy, generate renewable energy and manage water more efficiently. Fee: £5 to farmers with a holding number / £10 to all others. For further info, see event flier: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110224-FF-FWAG-A5-flyer-web.pdf.

28 February, Proving our Value: the economic impact of social action, tender opportunity, Exeter University

An information event about South West Forum Research Project Proving our Value project, which will commission individual research projects valued at £55,000 for higher education institutions to work in partnership with voluntary and community organisations to measure and demonstrate their impact. This opportunity may interest voluntary and community organisations and academics operating in the areas of: health and welfare, skills and employment, environmental action, community development, arts, social enterprise, sports and housing. For a booking form, contact: debra@southwestforum.org.uk.



28 February – 13 March, Fairtrade Fiesta, Malcolm X Centre, Bristol

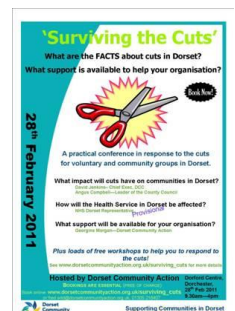
As part of fairtrade fortnight, Bristol Fairtrade Network and Ujima Radio presents a fairtrade fiesta of producer talks, stalls, street dancers, films, free food tastings and samples, activities for kids, music, games and more. On 5 March at The Mall, Galleries, Bristol, a Fairwear Fashion Show and exhibition will run, with free samples

of Fairtrade products. For more info about the events, visit: www.bristolfairtrade.org.uk/.

28 February, Surviving the Cuts, Dorford Centre, Dorchester

An open invitation for voluntary and community groups across Dorset to find out the facts about cuts in Dorset and what support is available. Free to attend. For more information see:

www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/surviving_cuts.



1 March, Low Carbon Skills sustainable business breakfast, 8 – 10am, Bordeaux Quay Restaurant, Bristol

Andy Lewis, Energy Institute, will discuss qualifications and training programmes and the future of low carbon skills. Subject to availability, non-members can attend (£13.50). Yearly membership is £90. Register at:

www.sustainablebreakfast.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=4.

3 March, ESF Leadership Summit, Exeter

A summit to learn about the Social Enterprise Leadership Partnership and learn from Pioneer Leaders Network. Fee: £25 (+VAT). For more details and a booking form, visit:

www.rise-sw.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1308&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0.



4 March, Mediating Environmental Change: exploring the way forward, Executive Business Centre, Bournemouth University

A Symposium debating emerging and established forms and practices of environmental communication. Fee: £25. For more information and the register visit:

www.bournemouth.ac.uk/environmental-change.

8 March, Fuel Poverty: a Time for Change, Exeter

A series of **free** regional one-day seminars are being run throughout March by NEA that will look at proposed changes to fuel poverty policy and delivery programmes. They will focus on initiatives that aim to tackle fuel poverty and prioritise low-income consumers in the transition to a low carbon future. For more details see: www.nea.org.uk/fuel-poverty-a-time-for-change/.

10 and 31 March, Renewable Technologies, Funding and Green Agenda, Genesis Centre, Taunton

Asset Skills, in partnership with Universities South West and Granted Consultancy Ltd, is co-ordinating two full day CPD accredited informal and interactive learning seminars with a focus on Green Deal. Fee: £25 (+VAT). Register your interest: Email pstott@assetskills.org or call 01392 456 825.

12 – 13 March, Transition Network Transition Training, St Werburghs Community Centre, Bristol

A two day workshop to find out the fundamentals of setting up, running, and maintaining a successful transition initiative. Fee: £100. For more information visit: www.shiftbristol.org.uk.

15 March and three other Tuesday evenings, 19:00 – 21:45, An Introduction to Permaculture, St Werburghs Community Centre, Bristol

Explore the principles and practice of Permaculture, a holistic approach to sustainable living. Fee: £40 – £65. For more details visit: www.shiftbristol.org.uk.

18 March, Understanding and Influencing the Legislative Process, GOSW office, Bristol

The Government's Localism agenda places the onus on local authorities and partners to better understand and interact with the government process directly. This **free** event, hosted by the South West Observatory and Parliamentary Outreach, will help you keep track of legislation going through Parliament and suggest ways and means to feed in to the government process in order to help secure positive outcomes for your area. Sign up via: www.swo.org.uk/events/2010-11/understanding-influencing-the-legislative-process/.

21 – 27 March, Climate Week - One week to show how we can combat climate change



Thousands of events and activities, highlighting the positive steps being taken to help combat climate change, are being planned for the UK's first Climate Week. There will be a Climate Week Challenge, involving teams in schools and workplaces all doing the same task at the same time, in Britain's biggest ever live environmental competition. Winners of the Climate Week Awards will be announced during Climate Week – entries can be submitted now. Categories include initiatives by businesses, community groups and public services, new technological breakthroughs, low-carbon products, services, campaigns and events. Plan an event, enter the awards or register for Climate Week Challenge – visit: www.climateweek.com.

- If you have any ideas for events that Climate SouthWest could assist with, or would like our help in promoting relevant activities, email: climatesw@environment-agency.gov.uk.

- For **free** resources for your climate change event, including a carbon calculator and challenges to reduce your carbon footprint, contact Sustainability South West's climate change Fair Shares, Fair Choice – email: Freiny.Miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.



22 March, The Renewable Energy Marketplace - Westpoint, Exeter

RegenSW is organising a new renewable energy exhibition of interest to the construction and built environment sector and housing associations. Fee: £25. More details available at: www.regensw.co.uk/events/regen-sw-events-/renewable-energy-marketplace.

24 March, South West Health Impact Assessment workshop, University of West of England, Bristol

This **free** event is being run by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities. Participants will be introduced to the Spectrum Appraisal approach and is suitable for public health and planning professionals. Reserve a place by emailing: HWHL@gosw.gsi.gov.uk.

24 – 25 March, World with a Future WWF event, Eden Project, Cornwall

This conference aims to engage business and policy leaders in exploring growth and alternative economic models for building an abundant and sustainable future. Fee: £200 (NGO's) / £300. More information at:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/how we work/businesses/world with a future event/speakers/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/businesses/world_with_a_future_event/speakers/).

29 March, ECO-NOMY Environment Kernow Conference 2011, Pool Innovation Centre, Cornwall

This conference will look at the global challenges Cornwall faces – from climate change and resource depletion to financial instability and demographic shifts – and their interrelationships. Fee: £10. More information available at: www.cstn.org.uk/attachments/bulkmail/2560-14022011-162113.pdf.

March – June dates, Microgeneration Certification Scheme, Bicton College, Devon

A one day course offering MCS accreditation. Fee: £250. For dates and info see: www.bictonearth.co.uk.

Until April, South West Sustainable Construction Seminar Series, throughout the South West

A series of seminars from The Green Register and the Knowledge Exchange at Genesis programme aiming to increase the knowledge of sustainable building techniques within the construction industry. Running until April, events are taking place in Somerset, Plymouth, Weymouth and Bristol. For more info contact: mail@greenregister.org.uk or 01173 773 490.

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, get in touch so we can feedback messages on your behalf. And let us know about local and regional events coming up over the next month for inclusion in the next edition. **Contact Freiny Miles at Freiny.Miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk. Deadline for submissions: 20 March 2011.**

Other news from SSW available from: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk
Follow SSW on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sustsouthwest>

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

- **SustNav** – Sustainability Principles to navigate your way to lasting solutions www.sustnav.org.uk
- **Fair Shares, Fair Choice** – campaign for fair, safe carbon shares for all www.fairsharesfairchoice.com
- **Sustainable Health SW** – supporting the region's NHS trusts www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk
- **Planting Places** – linking greenspace and sustainability in the South West www.plantingplaces.org.uk



Sustainability South West:

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