

January 2010

**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.'*

## Welcome to the first **Sustainability Now** of 2011!

SSW friends and partners have been getting in touch with their Sustainability Hopes and Fears for the near future. We reveal all later in this bumper issue!

So to start the year we are exploring the concept and emerging practice of 'The BIG Society' and 'Localism' through the lens of sustainability. Our special thanks to Dorset MP and Minister for policy coordination in the Cabinet office, **Rt Hon Oliver Letwin**, for this month's guest editorial and to Nigel Costley who amongst other things is concerned with the protection of The Forest of Dean and sends us a personal report. As a Charity interested in promoting the common good, we pride ourselves on taking a 360 degree perspective on the big issues. We hope you gain a wider perspective from *Sustainability Now* and we invite our readers to share their own perspectives on how well sustainability thinking and practice is faring in this new era as the year unfolds.

### **Commonsense and Sustainability**

The coming year will be a time of national challenge. We need to find ways of getting more for less – socially, environmentally and in the public services.

One part of what we need to do is to open things up so that there is less micro-management from the remote bureaucracies and more scope for local innovation, creativity and commonsense.

Another large part of what we need to achieve is enabling people to work together at the local level, so that what is done is based on understanding things in the round – rather than being based on a multitude of individual schemes and projects designed from on high which work in different and sometimes opposing directions.

In the end, these two directions – opening things up by decentralising power and enabling people to work together in a co-ordinated way at local level – are part of the same philosophy. It is only when we give people on the ground the power and responsibility to think through what is needed locally that we can hope for the combination of co-ordinated action, commonsense and innovation which we so desperately need.

The age of the lumbering, centralising, micro-managing, silo-based bureaucracy is over, and we are now entering the age of the open network in which autonomous communities can devise their own solutions for their own problems. That is the route to genuine sustainability and to building the common good for generations to come.

Common sense should deliver the common good.

*Oliver Letwin MP*



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

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## ***Your sustainability Hopes and Fears for the future...***

Readers – do any of these confessions ring true with you?!

### **Some typical fears...**

“The utterly unavoidable economic crisis completely eclipses the bigger picture of the entirely unnecessary environmental crisis in people’s minds.”

“The Government phrase turns out to be the biggest greenwash ever.”

“The Government’s hands off ‘localism’ agenda will delay the creation of the required regional green infrastructure.”

“That Government as mitigator of appetite and instinct will cease to exist, and ill-informed, unrepresentative groups of nimby activists will hijack the environment to their own petty concerns.”

“That the next CAP reform will lead to rural land use dominated by a ‘b\*gger the environment – lets go back to growing food’ regressive productionist logic. Instead of taking the carbon and nature friendly route out of the last century, agriculture will go unifunctional and miss the multifunctional boat.”

“That the traditional thinkers who tend to have very loud voices in senior positions get in the way because they are used to getting their own way and are afraid of change.”

### **Some typical hopes...**

“We can use the crisis to make fabulous, splendid change...”

“We bust through and get solutions – that this Government lives up to its claim of Greenest ever.”

“That Plymouth continues to benefit from its recent commitment to a low carbon economy.”

“That in 2011, with dust settling on public sector cuts, we will see the strong implementation of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century set of place based recovery plans across the South West that properly blend the environment, social welfare and private economic interests, into an exciting people, place and nature world based approach to our development. Instead of wondering where the most sustainable parts of Britain are, all eyes will be on the South West – as it finally gets its act together and steps up for genuine sustainable development.”

“That the Government, and all governments, will prioritise both the concept and the reality of people living sustainably; and that all the ‘champions of sustainability’ like Sustainability South West will continue to be inspirational, motivational and indefatigable!”

“That difficult economic conditions will cause all of us to be less wasteful in the amount of resource we use and where possible seek to re-use and recycle rather than dispose of waste. Maybe the weak economy will create a step change in attitudes!”

***If you want to add your hopes or fears, please get in touch: [info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk).***

## ***Battle for the Forest of Dean***

**Personal report from Sustainability South West Member Nigel Costley on an emerging example of the Big Society approach that is unfolding in the South West:**

The Public Bodies Bill, going through Parliament now, will give direct powers to Ministers to dispose of the national forest estate. We are asked not to focus our attention on this massive transfer of power and instead trust in a White Paper that will set out a range of options for the future of the forests. None of them will adequately safeguard forests, especially the Forest of Dean, as they are now. All of the options signal the end of publicly owned and managed forests.

South West forests under threat include: Haldon Forest near Exeter, Royal Forest of Dean, Westonbirt, Savernake in Wiltshire, Cardinham in Cornwall, Moors Valley Country Park in Dorset, Neroche in Devon.

It will be 50 ways to leave your lover when we haven’t even fallen out! ‘None of the above’ will not be on the list.

The Government’s approach is based upon the premise that public ownership of our woodlands is bad – despite all the evidence to the contrary. It is difficult to calculate how much the Government hopes to raise



from the sale of forests but leaked reports claim that the pressure is on to maximise sell-off returns. Plans to re-plant forests with native trees are to be abandoned to make a sale more lucrative.

The break-up of the national estate will mean that the more profitable forests will be sold leaving the rest even more dependent upon subsidy or even more at risk from measures to cut costs.

Even the Tories realise that talking about privatising the forests is political suicide so the options include a transfer to a community interest body or a 'not-for-profit' business. But these will still have to cover their costs. 'Not-for-profit' is also 'not-for-loss'. The only way to balance the books will be more commercial activities, big hikes in fees and charges alongside cuts in woodland management.

The protest against the sell-off has really kicked-off in the Forest of Dean. It is a unique place where the community lives and works in a forest. It has few statutory protections or even designated public footpaths. Its ancient customs and rights are largely unwritten and protected only by the remit of its public ownership and stewardship of the Forestry Commission.

The people of the Forest of Dean want to keep it that way.

*Nigel Costley is a member of Hands off our Forest (HOOF) a campaign to keep the Forest of Dean out of private hands, for more information visit: [www.handsofourforest.org/](http://www.handsofourforest.org/).*

## **Big Society: is size everything?**

The 'Big Society' is the name for the Government's programme for social renewal with a specific goal of devolving power and responsibility to the most local level possible. Government hopes that the vacuum left by substantial reductions in public spending can be filled by individual and community action and an increased role for charities, enterprises and business. A range of Government initiatives to facilitate this shift are in the pipeline (including the training of 5000 'community organisers' who, from March 2012, will start to support local action across the UK).



Cutting it  
The Big Society and the new society

Many organisations, including SSW, welcome some principles at the heart of the Big Society – for instance the strengthening of local connections and 'resilience' and the focus on unlocking local knowledge, talent and creativity. But there are also major concerns about how Big Society will be realised, particularly given the current economic climate and the downscaling of state support for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Helpfully the New Economics Foundation (NEF) have highlighted some of the Big Society's 'big challenges' in their recent 'Cutting It' report. The challenges are listed below in bold accompanied by our own summary.

**Social justice, equality and cohesion** The degree to which people can access and participate in local action and programmes varies enormously and thus the benefits of the Big Society are likely to be unequally distributed. Arguably those communities most in need may be least equipped to capitalise on the opportunities.

**Economic policy and spending cuts** The 'Big Society' is being presented as a good in itself but also as a response to the austerity of the current economic climate. Yet – whilst some financial packages are being set up to support the shift from state to civil responsibility – the pace and scale of economic cuts risk local neighbourhoods unravelling rather than flourishing.

**Dangers of a shrinking state** With responsibility and power diffused throughout society and divided between communities and the private, voluntary and public sector it is unclear how individual basic rights and services will be guaranteed.

**Impact on community and third-sector organisations** Encouraging everyone to 'muck in' may be at odds with the ethos of volunteering which arguably attracts people on the basis of being spontaneous, enjoyable, life-enhancing and 'optional'. Reduced funding for the voluntary and community sector means it is likely to be less equipped at a time of increased demand for its services.

**The role of business** With the way open for big business to take over state functions there is a danger that profit will be prioritised over the quality and accessibility of services and that smaller/non-profit organisations with greater local knowledge may be squeezed out.

**Where – and how – does the buck stop?** When things go wrong who can be held accountable? With a myriad of organisations involved in providing services and supporting communities, can audit trails and accountability frameworks be established and will they be workable?

NEF's report goes on to provide suggestions of how to 'make the best' of the Big Society and influence proposed policies whilst they are still being fine-tuned (and the funding axe is still swinging). Like the NEF,



SSW is concerned that the Big Society programme does not include any clear goals for achieving *lasting, joined-up* social, economic and environmental well-being – ie sustainability! – and, as a result, risks economic, social and environmental goals pulling in opposite directions (hardly an efficient use of public resources...). This places the onus firmly back on all of us to ensure that we use sustainability principles in navigating the way ahead...and SSW's SustNav tool is here to help you do just that, see: [www.sustnav.org.uk](http://www.sustnav.org.uk).

To download or order a copy of the New Economic Foundation's 'Cutting It' report go to: [www.neweconomics.org/publications/cutting-it](http://www.neweconomics.org/publications/cutting-it).

### **Work for a council? Training and support subsidy available 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](mailto:Leslie.Watson@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk).

**Subsidy must be taken up by 31 March 2011 although work can be arranged to be delivered anytime until 30 September 2011.**

### **Space for Greenspace!**

#### **Reminder - Applications for Planting Places Awards 2011 close on 29 January!**

Applications are now open for the fourth annual Planting Places awards, celebrating top examples of local greenspace across the South West of England. The awards recognise the input of these spaces in supporting healthy, sustainable communities and acknowledge the people who work to make them special. Any public greenspace in the South West of England can be nominated for an award; everything from parks, community gardens and allotments to green routes (ie cycle paths), playing fields and even cemeteries and rooftops. The greenspace can be privately funded, NHS Trust, community, conservation group or council land, but it must be free and accessible to the public, and for public use and enjoyment. This year, up to ten 'top example' winners will be chosen, highlighting how local greenspace can have a positive impact on local communities. Completed application forms must be returned to SSW by 5pm on 29 January 2011. Visit the



Planting Places website, [www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk) (then click on 'awards') for more info and to download the application form or email: [Lynn.Gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:Lynn.Gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk).

#### **Drink in green infrastructure with GINSW...**

The Green Infrastructure Network South West (GINSW) web portal – [www.ginsw.org.uk](http://www.ginsw.org.uk) – is a central pool of knowledge to help you plan for, or manage, Green Infrastructure to support sustainable living. The website contains a wealth of information for green infrastructure managers, planners or just those interested in the benefits that good GI can bring. There is also a strategic activity map and table to provide you with local and regional activity updates, case studies and key contacts. The web portal is a partnership project of Natural England, Sustainability South West and Greenspace South West.

### **On Your Radar?**

#### **New Report: Embedding sustainable development across Government**

The Environmental Audit Committee is calling for the Cabinet Office to take responsibility for driving improvements in sustainability across Government – with greater support from the Treasury and Prime Minister. MPs warn in this new report, published by the cross-party Environmental Audit Committee, that Defra is not best placed to ensure that other Government departments embed sustainability in their operations and policy making.



The inquiry was launched in response to the Government withdrawing funding next year from the Sustainable Development Commission – which currently performs a watchdog and advisory role for Government. The MPs raise concerns that the loss of its experience and resources presents a risk to the Government's green agenda and the sustainability of its policies.

Sustainable development, embedded in the policy-making of all departments, will help tackle long-term environmental, social and economic issues. In addition, saving energy and water, and reducing waste and unnecessary buying, can save the Government millions and help protect the environment. But the MPs warn that the Government is not set up to make the most of these potential benefits.

The report recommends creating a new minister for sustainable development, to 'sustainability proof' decision-making across Government. That minister, based in the Cabinet Office, should hold departments to account when they fail to deliver on soon to be updated green targets, and with the assistance of the Treasury consider financial sanctions for poor sustainability performance.

Joan Walley MP, Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, said: "The sustainability agenda needs to be driven from the centre of Government. Defra has the expertise, but it does not have the influence to get the rest of Government to act more sustainably. The Prime Minister's influence is clear in setting targets for departments to deliver his 10% reductions in carbon emissions. But being the 'greenest government ever' isn't just about reducing carbon emissions from Whitehall. The Government now needs to broaden this ambition and get departments acting more sustainably across the board. And that means getting the Cabinet Office to take the lead, supported much more by the Treasury, and ensuring that government specifies what resources are needed to make this happen."

Download the report at: [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmenvaud/504/504.pdf](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmenvaud/504/504.pdf).

### **Warming to the idea: building resilience to extreme weather and climate change in the South West – updated scoping study**

The newly updated version incorporates the latest climate change projections and includes current understanding of the main issues and adaptation opportunities available to the south west region.

Download at: [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/scopingstudy.htm](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/scopingstudy.htm).

Warming to the idea

Building resilience to extreme weather and climate change in the South West

**Information The Natural Capital Initiative (NCI) seminar reports** - implications of large-scale biodiversity off-setting in the UK - Towards no net loss and beyond are available: <http://naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/46-towards-no-net-loss-and-beyond/>. During 2010 the NCI also examined Ecosystem Services and the Delivery of Health Benefits. A short summary of the one day discussion 'Towards optimised health and environment planning' is available: <http://naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/45-ecosystem-services-and-the-delivery-of-health-benefits/>.

### **Arts and Health South West now free to join**

The regional information, support and advocacy organisation to enhance people's health and wellbeing through the use of creativity and the arts, has scrapped its membership fees. Increasingly, health professionals, artists and third sector organisations want to work together to deliver cost effective, innovative and patient-centred ways of meeting the health needs of individuals and communities. Sign up at: [www.ahsw.org.uk](http://www.ahsw.org.uk).



### **Moving forward: A year of delivering smarter travel choice**

This report, of Sustrans' work in 2009, links increasing levels of walking, cycling and use of public transport to economic prosperity and benefits to the environment and our communities. View at: [www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/rmu/Moving%20forward%20Sustrans%20Monitoring%20Report%20to%20end%202009%20September%202010.pdf](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/rmu/Moving%20forward%20Sustrans%20Monitoring%20Report%20to%20end%202009%20September%202010.pdf).



### **Bristol Green Capital Community Challenge Fund**

The deadline for applications for the third round of this new fund, for community projects to support their work in making Bristol a Green Capital, is 31 January. More information available at: <http://bristolgreencapital.org/news/bristol-green-capital-community-challenge-fund>.

### **Input into development of new ecological courses**

Schumacher College are inviting people to participate in two questionnaires to help their development of a new range of vocational courses on Natural Design and Build: <http://surveys.verticalresponse.com/a/show/167103/3981f77a6c/0> and Sustainable Horticulture: <http://surveys.verticalresponse.com/a/show/167103/dee6757385/0>.

## Winter issue of Low Carbon Technology Journal available

The free quarterly e-journal from Bath Ventures Innovation Centre, University of Bath, is available to download now. Download at:

<http://content.yudu.com/Library/A1qkxm/LowCarbonTechnologyJ/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=http://www.yudu.com/item/details/270707/Low-Carbon-Technology-Journal---Winter-2010-11>.

## Mikron Theatre in your workplace?

Mikron Theatre has linked with the TUC Green Workplaces Project to bring theatre and workshops to the workplace and local venues across the region. The workshops/plays will focus on energy saving at work and will be a fun but informative way of getting the green message across to staff. If you are interested in being involved with organising a show in your workplace in February or March, contact Beth or Keith at: [bcallinan@tuc.org.uk](mailto:bcallinan@tuc.org.uk) / [khatch@tuc.org.uk](mailto:khatch@tuc.org.uk).

## Sussed!



**Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP supports SustNav** "In these difficult times, there is a great need to think about the consequences of decisions and the long term costs and benefits that these decisions will cause. The point of SustNav is not to provide readymade solutions but to enable decision-makers to think clearly about solutions that will be affordable and sustainable in the long run. This is an enormously useful approach – and I hope that it will be adopted". Visit: [www.sustnav.org.uk](http://www.sustnav.org.uk).



**'Best community in Britain' is in Bristol** A little known corner of Bristol, home to around 600 residents, has been crowned the best community in Britain. The Dings is a tiny community north-east of Temple Meads train station has been named best community in Britain in a national competition. Residents from The Dings demonstrated they were the strongest in the country for activities including helping to convert the former Bristol to Bath railway line into a cycle track, petitioning for a children's play area and putting flower baskets on houses to bring colour to the area. The challenge, run by insurance company Axa, to find strong community spirit in towns and villages across the UK, saw hundreds of applications whittled down to nine regional winners from which a panel of judges chose The Dings as the national winner.

## So Last Century...



**Car use is enforced** A report, 'Car Dependency Scorecard' from Campaign for Better Transport suggests car use is enforced rather than a choice for many people, due to the lack of other options. It found that car dependency in English cities varies widely, partly due to whether public transport is available, affordable and attractive and whether cycling and walking are deemed to be safe by the public due to the design and location of housing, employment and essential services. However, this could be corrected: the report makes recommendations for cities to take action through their transport and planning policies. Visit: [www.bettertransport.org.uk/system/files/car-dependency-scorecard\\_1.pdf](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/system/files/car-dependency-scorecard_1.pdf).

The Sust'ometer:

## Up & Coming...Events around the region

### 27 January, Money Down the Drain workshop, Wessex Water, Bath

This is the last water workshop the Green Workplaces Project will be running so be sure to sign up for the free half day event (09:30 – 13:00), in partnership with Wessex Water. Open to all South West organisations the event is designed to help organisations save money and water, as well as improve environmental performance. Booking form and information available at: [www.greenworkplacesouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Registration-Form-Water-Event-Bath.doc](http://www.greenworkplacesouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Registration-Form-Water-Event-Bath.doc).

A FREE  
HALF-DAY  
WORKSHOP

**MONEY DOWN  
THE DRAIN?**



### 28 January, Greening Your Home, Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset

This course is aimed at home owners, builders and landlords wanting to learn more about how to build or refurbish in a sustainable way. Fee: £96. For all enquiries, contact Corina Reay: [corina@ecostrust.org.uk](mailto:corina@ecostrust.org.uk).

### 29 January, Bristol's Green Roots Community Workshop, Bush House, Bristol

Bristol's Green Roots is a Heritage Lottery funded project to document Bristol's history of social and environmental justice. This workshop, hosted by The Schumacher Institute, is for Bristol's community groups to discuss what they think the role of the community has been and is in Bristol's environmental movement. The discussions will be filmed and recorded for the heritage archive (stored with Bristol's museums, available as a research tool for years to come). Contact Emmelie Brownlee at: [emmelie@schumacherinstitute.org.uk](mailto:emmelie@schumacherinstitute.org.uk) to register for the event.

### 1 February, Sustainable Business Breakfast: Bristol, Bordeaux Quay, Bristol

The next SBB meeting (8:00 – 10:00) will consider 'Delivery of a low carbon economy in the UK' with guest speaker Tony Iles, Water & Environment, Atkins. Fee: £13.50. For more information and to book, visit:

[http://sustainablebreakfast.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=4](http://sustainablebreakfast.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=4).



### **7 February, RePowering Our Neighbourhoods, St Werburghs Community Centre, Bristol**

This workshop on community owned renewable energy, will be led by Trevor Houghton, an independent energy and climate change researcher and consultant. Fee: £35 – £55. To request a booking form, email [shiftbristol@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shiftbristol@yahoo.co.uk).

### **8 February, Bristol and 10 February, Swindon, Cut Carbon, Not Jobs (Unison Offices, Vintry House, Bristol; STEAM, The Great Western Railway Museum, Swindon)**

These free half-day events (9:30 to 13:30) will provide information and practical advice on how to cut energy and carbon usage at work via practical projects such as renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. For more information or to register, contact Beth at: [bcallinan@tuc.org.uk](mailto:bcallinan@tuc.org.uk).

### **12 February – 9 April, Taking Time: Craft and the Slow Revolution exhibition and related events, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery**

The free touring exhibition from Craftspace brings together work by 19 international artists, makers and designers whose making practice connects with ideas about living a more sustainable existence and better quality of life; valuing how things are made, where they come from and who produces them.

The Museum is offering a series of events including contemporary craft workshops for adults on 12 February, 12 March and 9 April; lunchtime talks on 1 March and 5 April; and a drop-in 'Women's Weave' event on 11 March. visit [www.plymouthmuseum.gov.uk](http://www.plymouthmuseum.gov.uk).



### **15 February, The Low Carbon Business Breakfast, Bath Innovation Centre, Bath**

This month's breakfast (7:45 – 9:00) includes speakers Andrew Fawcett, UKTI and Kerstin Rath, British Consulate in Berlin on the topic: 'Low Carbon Technologies - Taking them to the World'. Fee: £10. For more details, email: [events@lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk](mailto:events@lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk).

### **17 February, Community-led Planning – the Heart of Localism, Best Western Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton, Devon**

This free event will look at how community-led planning fits with the Government's Localism and Big Society objectives. For further information email: [john.skrine@creatingexcellence.org.uk](mailto:john.skrine@creatingexcellence.org.uk).

### **17 February, Introduction to Resource Efficiency Workshop, Park Lane Press, Corsham, Wiltshire**

Park Lane Press have attained ISO14001 and 1600, it is run by one of the only waterless printing presses in the country and uses vegetable based ink. For further info on this workshop email: [padams@tuc.org.uk](mailto:padams@tuc.org.uk).

### **17 February and 3, 17 and 31 March, Essentials of Community Development short courses, University of Gloucestershire**

Four one-day courses: Making your community sustainable; Projects and Partnerships – designing, managing and evaluating; Collecting and using good quality information and Exploring alternative approaches to developing sustainable communities. Fee: £600 for all four days. For booking information visit:

[www.glos.ac.uk/courses/shortcourses/pages/essentialsofcommunitydevelopment.aspx](http://www.glos.ac.uk/courses/shortcourses/pages/essentialsofcommunitydevelopment.aspx).



### **17 February, West of England Carbon Challenge Network Event: Engaging your people, Bristol**

The next free West of England Carbon Challenge event will focus on staff engagement, featuring one of the leaders in sustainability communications, Ed Gillespe (Co-Founder of Futerra) and great local case studies. For more information and to sign up, visit: [www.eventbrite.com/event/1118362051](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1118362051).

### **18 and 19 February, Greening Campaign Community Adaptation Toolkit training workshops, Build Store, Swindon**

The Community Adaptation Toolkit has been designed by The Greening Campaign to enable communities to understand climate change adaptation' and build a plan that links with Council and Government planning. These workshops are for local authority staff (18 Feb, fee: £100), booking form: [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110218-green-campaign-councils-flyer.doc](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110218-green-campaign-councils-flyer.doc)) and community representatives (19 Feb, fee: £24), booking form: [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110219-green-campaign-community-flyer.doc](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110219-green-campaign-community-flyer.doc).

### **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](http://www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Registration-Form-CR-workshops-St-Austell-Dorch.doc).

## 24 February, South West 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 and £10 to all others. For further enquiries, please call FWAG on 01823 355427, or see event flier: [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110224-FF-FWAG-A5-flyer-web.pdf](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/110224-FF-FWAG-A5-flyer-web.pdf).

### 15 March, Powering Prisons the Green Way, Guy Marsh Prison, North Dorset

Guys Marsh Prison in North Dorset has introduced the prison services first Anaerobic Digester (AD) system and has completed work on a biomass generator. See the energy saving initiatives around the prison – this workshop is open to anyone working in the prison sector, and other industries where the installation of an AD system may be appropriate. Essential to book by 8 February to ensure security clearance. For more information and to register contact Keith on: [khatch@tuc.org.uk](mailto:khatch@tuc.org.uk)

### Green and ethical events in the South West

For more up and coming green and ethical events, visit the Ecojam hub: [www.ecojam.org/interact/events](http://www.ecojam.org/interact/events) and Low Carbon South West 'What's On' area, via: [www.lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk/](http://www.lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk/).

### 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](mailto:Freiny.Miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk). Deadline for submissions: 4 February 2011.**

### Other news from SSW available from:

Follow SSW on Twitter:

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<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](http://www.sustnav.org.uk)
- **Fair Shares, Fair Choice** – campaign for fair, safe carbon shares for all [www.fairsharesfairchoice.com](http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com)
- **Sustainable Health SW** – supporting the region's NHS trusts [www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk](http://www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk)
- **Planting Places** – linking greenspace and sustainability in the South West [www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk)



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