

October 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.'

Look before you 'LEP'

LEPs: Will they be a great LEP forward for sustainable economic development or an impotent stumble based on outdated notions of growth? Bids for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are currently being assessed, but it's not clear at all if the assessment criteria being applied are based on sustainability principles.

There appear to be some up front nods to ingredients of sustainable development – most LEPs refer at least to the 'low carbon economy'. Yet to achieve economically, environmentally and socially sound prosperity will require evidence of a completely joined up approach.

A simple 'measure up' using the SustNav sustainability navigation tool (www.SustNav.org.uk) would require a LEP to demonstrate exactly how it would contribute to:

- Increasing sustainability learning and skills – in new and existing businesses (including social enterprises)
- Supporting the well-being of local neighbourhoods – with safe, healthy, green local environments
- Reducing inequalities – supporting those identified as most disadvantaged
- Cutting carbon emissions – and other finite natural resources and waste
- Supporting low carbon economies – prioritising low carbon jobs and developments and increasing local renewable energy generation
- Reducing low carbon travel – supporting local IT hubs; walking, cycling, efficient public transport and mobile and locally based delivery of public services
- Living locally – supporting the use of locally based goods and services, including those produced in neighbouring rural areas and celebrating local distinctiveness to stimulate economic activity
- Reviving life support systems – protecting and enhancing air quality, water supplies, landscapes and biodiversity
- Being inclusive – supporting more informed decision-making involving representation from all those affected
- Thinking long term – taking account of changes ahead, including climate change impacts, to support resilience and greater self reliance

We cannot afford to pursue economic growth in ways that increase social and environmental costs. We can no longer afford to act unsustainably in any way and Local Enterprise Partnerships are no exception to this. Sustainability principles must be applied consistently to both cutting the deficit and investing in the future and consequently should act as the basis for decisions on the Regional Growth Fund.

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ [A healthy nomination for Sustainable Health project](#)
- ◆ [Free resources for your climate change / sustainability event](#)
- ◆ [Look out for the Planting Places Awards – launching this month](#)
- ◆ [Work for a council? Training and support subsidy from SSW](#)

Plus: ◆ [On your Radar?](#) ◆ [Open Consultation](#) ◆ [Up & Coming...](#) events around the region



A healthy nomination for Sustainable Health project

Congratulations to SSW and NHS partnership project Sustainable Health South West which has been shortlisted for a HSJ (Health Service Journal) national award for supporting the region's NHS Trusts. Winners will be announced in November. For more information about the project, visit:

www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk.



Free resources still available for climate change and sustainability events

If you are holding climate change awareness or sustainability events for your staff or members of the public, contact SSW for **free educational resources** including Carbon Calculator worksheets, tips and challenges for low carbon living, exclusive Carbon Cards showing a 'fair share' of carbon for each person every year until 2017 and a short four minute film!

Email freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk with your event and contact details (your event could also feature in Sustainability Now). Visit www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for more ideas and to add your name to the supporters list backing 'fair and safe carbon shares for everyone'.

Look out for the Planting Places Awards – launching this month

SSW's fourth annual Planting Places Awards, recognising greenspaces that are making outstanding contributions to community sustainability, will be launched at the end of October. The free awards scheme celebrates the achievements of greenspaces



in the South West of England and will be open to any public greenspace in the region. The Planting Places initiative supports greenspace champions with a particular focus on community-led activity and also works at a 'strategic' level to promote the benefits of greenspace (and 'green infrastructure') as part of more sustainable ways of living and working. Visit www.plantingplaces.org.uk to find out more and for Awards application information, as soon as released.



Work for a council? Training and support subsidy available from SSW

Sustainability South West (SSW) has been awarded **funding to work with local authorities** in 2010-11. 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 that the forthcoming SR10 announcement will have significant impacts 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 – this is a limited offer and priority will be given to those expressing their interest first.

On Your Radar?

Energy Saving week, 25 – 31 October

The Energy Saving Trust who runs Energy Saving Week will be giving groups, organisations and the general public advice, tools and support needed to take control of managing and reducing energy use – whether it's at home, at work, or travelling. Each day of the week will have a theme: Monday: Launch day, Tuesday: Insulation, Wednesday: Micro-generation, Thursday: Energy Saving Trust Recommended and Friday: Transport. To get involved, contact your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre on 0800 512 012 for an Employee Engagement Pack, which features a quiz and two case studies. See also: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Easy-ways-to-stop-wasting-energy/Support-our-campaigns/Energy-Saving-Week.



South West Public Health Scientific Conference – call for submissions for presentation

The theme of this conference, taking place on 2 February 2011 in Weston-super-Mare, is 'Public Health collaboration: research, policy and practice'. Its aim will be to showcase both service and university based public health research and evaluation from across the South West. Anyone wishing to submit abstracts for oral presentation and/or poster presentation from across the full range of public health and from all disciplines working in public health in the South West is invited to do so – further information on the conference and details of how to submit abstracts is available at: www.soundscommercial.co.uk/swphsc/.



Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy 2011 – open for nominations

These awards are open to public sector organisations with the judges looking for organisations that have enabled the greater use of local sustainable energy or encouraged energy-saving behaviour change. Nominations close on 26 October. To find out more visit: www.ashdenawards.org.

Active Design Guidelines – Promoting Physical Activity and Health in Design

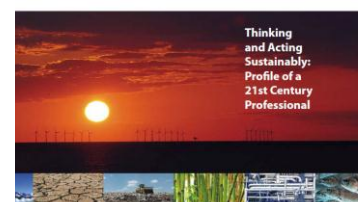
This new publication for architects and urban designers provides a manual of strategies for creating healthier buildings, streets, and urban spaces, based on the latest academic research and best practices in the field. The guidelines have been drawn up by New York City planning authorities in response to the city’s worsening health crisis and provide a toolkit for architects and planners demonstrating how to make everyday urban life a little more calorie-hungry with a determination to put healthy living back at the heart of urban design. The Guidelines include:

- Urban design strategies for creating neighbourhoods, streets, and outdoor spaces that encourage walking, bicycling, and active transportation and recreation.
- Building design strategies for promoting active living where we work and live and play—for example, through the placement and design of stairs, elevators, and indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Discussion of synergies between active design and sustainable design initiatives.

To view the guidelines visit: www.nyc.gov/html/ddc/html/design/active_design.shtml and read more at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-11381101.

Thinking and Acting Sustainably: Profile of a 21st Century Professional

A training manual from PP4SD, aimed at professionals working in the voluntary, public and private sectors, is now available. The course includes everything required for a trainer to deliver a one-day course, including pre-workshop reading materials, slides and handouts. See: www.pp4sd.org.uk/ (scroll to bottom and see right-hand corner).



SAVING YOUR PLANET
SAVING YOUR MONEY

SOFA Office Now Open!

Bristol-based charity and social enterprise SOFA Project Ltd and award-winning environmental charity Green-Works Ltd have launched a new venture, SOFA Office, offering low cost second-hand office and school furniture in Bristol and the South West, donated by large companies and organisations who want to minimise their impact on the environment. For more information email Phil Parry on: philipparry@sofaproject.org.uk.

Job opportunity: Bristol Green Capital Partnership Manager

Salary: £38,961 – £41,616; Closing date for applications: 5.00pm 22 October

Bristol is a green city aiming to be a Green Capital and the most carbon efficient city in the UK, aiming to exploit the opportunities for business innovation and to improve the quality of life for everyone in the city.

The Green Capital Partnership is part of the Local Strategic Partnership and aims to mobilise the whole city into action to make Bristol a Green Capital. To lead this initiative a new team has been created, led by the Partnership Manager. For more information, including a full job description, email: savita@bnhc.org.uk or phone: 0117 930 4926. For more info about Bristol Green Capital, visit: www.bristolgreencapital.org.

Open Consultation

Consultation open for responses which could impact on sustainability in the region and wider

Inquiry: Embedding sustainable development across Government

Environmental Audit Committee, Open: Now, Close: 13 October 2010

A new inquiry has been launched on how sustainable development can be further embedded in Government policy decision-making and operations, in the light of the Government’s decision to withdraw funding for the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). The Committee is interested in receiving written evidence that looks at the following themes of the inquiry:

- How can mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of Government operations, procurement and policy-making be improved and further embedded and mainstreamed across Government departments?
- How can governance arrangements for sustainable development in Government be improved, and how can sustainability reporting by Government departments be made more transparent and accountable?
- Was the SDC successful in fulfilling its remit? Which aspects of its work have reached a natural end, or are otherwise of less importance, and which remain of particular continuing importance?

- In formulating a future architecture for sustainable development in Government, how can it take on board wider developments and initiatives (eg to develop 'sustainability reporting' in departments' accounts) and the contributions that other bodies might make (eg Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement)?
- How, without the assistance of the SDC, will the Government be able to demonstrate that it is 'the greenest government ever'?

For further information and details of how to submit evidence, visit:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news/new-inquiry-announced---embedding-sustainable-development-across-government/.

Up & Coming...Events around the region

Now until 17 October: Taste – Local Food and Drink Festival, around South Gloucestershire

Enjoy the 'Locavore' lifestyle? Then see what's on offer in South Gloucestershire. Special events include farmers markets, wine tasting, apple pressing, farm and dairy tours, and cookery workshops and demonstrations. Download the programme at: www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0588BE08-9DDF-4852-BD90-D20F487D2ED8/0/PTE100162.pdf.



8 – 9 October: Community Matters Exhibition, M5 corridor and across Somerset

This exhibition promotes sustainable living to local communities. For further info contact: Sam.McIntyre@somerset.ac.uk.

12 October: We Love Biodiversity! Why are we failing to save it? 7.00 – 9.30pm, Wills Memorial Building, Bristol

Even with decades of NGO campaigning and widespread media coverage, public motivation to do something about the loss of biodiversity does not come near to what is needed. Species extinction and habitat destruction accelerate. Global temperatures continue to rise. Why is the message not getting through and what are the solutions? This event will discuss these issues and what should be done to increase activity. Seats are free but you must call to reserve a place: 0117 328 5950.

12 October: Introduction to Community Carbon Footprinting, Bristol

This event will provide a basic understanding of CCF: how to get started, what support is available for communities, and the variety of methodologies that exist to calculate a carbon footprint – whether for communities or individuals. Fee (plus VAT): voluntary organisations £114; local authorities, statutory organisations and other non-voluntary organisations £168. For more info email: etn@btcv.org.uk.

15 October: How business can shrink Britain's carbon footprint, 5.30 – 7.30pm, central Bristol

Sponsored by Sustain and the Schumacher Society, speakers will be: Juliet Davenport, CEO, Good Energy; Peter Harper, Head of Research and Innovation, Centre for Alternative Technology; and Sandy Smith, Director, Sustain. There will be a discussion session focusing on how climate change impacts businesses and how they can respond. The event is aimed at senior managers of businesses and public and voluntary organisations keen to explore what carbon reduction and energy efficiency means for them. To register for a free limited place, please contact Stephanie Franklin: stephanie.franklin@sustain.co.uk.

16 October: Zero Carbon Britain – from Aspiration into Action: Bristol Schumacher Conference, Council House, College Green, Bristol

Presentations at this event include the European Environment Agency, Good Energy and the Centre for Alternative Technology, and workshop discussions involve CAT, University of Bath, WWF and Sustain. For anyone interested in discussing Britain's potential, skills and natural resources to lead the world into carbon reduction. Further info and online booking:



www.zerocarbonbritain.org/index.php/component/content/article/75.



19 and 20 October: Cut Carbon, Not Jobs, Exeter (19) and Plymouth (20 October)

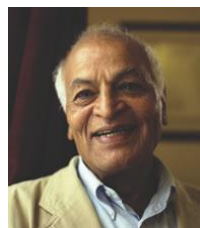
These half-day workshops and presentations will provide information and practical advice on how to cut energy and carbon usage at work via practical projects such as renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. They will include positive examples and case studies on carbon reduction and energy saving. The carbon reduction commitment and the role of green reps in this is also included. For more details email Beth at: bcallinan@tuc.org.uk or phone 0117 947 0521.

20 October: Make Mine an Eco Home - helping to make your home better for you, your pocket and the environment, The X-Centre, Exeter

This interactive seminar is for homeowners, self-builders, landlords and anyone wishing to get ideas and grounding in how to carry out a sustainable refurbishment or building project. It will cover a range of topics including sustainable construction, sustainable refurbishment and designing a sustainable home. For more info, see: www.ecostrust.org.uk/jcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79.

21 October: Green Register: Becoming an eco-refurbisher, Genesis Centre, Somerset College of Arts and Technology, Taunton

This comprehensive training course provides the information construction professionals will need to advise their clients on sustainable refurbishment of their homes. Participants will be registered on The Green Register's website under the 'Accredited Eco-Refurbisher' listing, designed to easily identify them to new clients. Cost: Members £69; Non-members £99. See: www.greenregister.org.uk/events.php.



22 October: IRIS Research Seminar Series: A Fireside Chat with Satish Kumar, 4.00 – 5.15pm, The Park Campus, The University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham

Satish Kumar will chat about how a sustainable life can be a meaningful and joyful one. Satish is editor of *Resurgence* magazine and renowned educator and author. Satish will share experiences including his 8,000 mile peace pilgrimage walking from India to America with no money, his BBC documentary *Earth Pilgrim*, his books and his childhood experience as a Jain monk. To book your place email Seek Pang: spang@glos.ac.uk and

for more info on the IRIS seminars visit: www.glos.ac.uk/iris.

23 October: Friends of Parks and Green Spaces Conference, Exeter City Football Club, Exeter

This free one day conference, organised by GSSW, comprises presentations and workshops will demonstrate good practice and sharing learning in the community management of open spaces. The conference is aimed at new volunteer groups seeking to learn more and hear about good practice, community groups with experience of successfully managing green spaces and employees from the public/charitable sector supporting community groups in the management of open spaces. Places are limited, if you are interested in attending please e-mail Roger Gates: rgates@green-space.org.uk.

26 October: Trees: The Untapped Agricultural Asset, Royal Agricultural College, Bouffour Hall, Cirencester

The event will examine ways of working with new and established trees to optimise economic, social and environmental benefits. Experts will look at practical options for combining trees and food production. Participants can address practicalities of setting up or making better use of trees on farms or in the community. A site visit will take place at the woodland resource planted at Manor Farm, Coates 19 years ago. Booking form at: www.lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk/images/events2010/rac_trees_booking_form.pdf.



Through November: Trade Unions and the Environment Course, Swindon, three Wednesdays from 3 November and Taunton, three Wednesdays from 10 November

A Course for union reps and members – details and application form available from: bcallinan@tuc.org.uk. The course is also available online, see: www.unionlearn.org.uk/education/learn-1912-f0.cfm.

9 – 10 November: South West Forum Annual Conference: 'The health and social care landscape is changing', Thistle Hotel, Exeter

Find out what's happening now and what lies ahead for voluntary and community groups involved in health, social care and welfare. A full, interactive programme will include workshops and project visits. Richard Wilkinson, co-author of *The Spirit Level* and co-founder of the The Equality Trust is a keynote speaker. More info at: www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=ev_fevent_details&event_id=1575.



10 November: Low Carbon Refurbishment – new policies and solutions, The Watershed, Bristol



This conference aims to help policy makers and practitioners develop improvements in the scale, quality and scope of energy efficiency and low carbon renewal of existing buildings. The day will bring together experts involved in low energy, low carbon refurbishment to share their experience and present effective future strategies in addressing the low carbon refurbishment agenda. For further info, visit: www.ecostrust.org.uk/jcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79.

13 November: Seeing Futures: Integrating Scientific Views on Changing Climates, Frenchay Campus, UWE, Bristol

This conference, from the Centre for Psycho-Social Studies in association with the Institute for Sustainability, Health and the Environment, will look at the latest facts on the climate and other systems in which we live and try to understand the factors inhibiting necessary change and find a survival plan for this century and beyond. For more information email SeeingFutures@uwe.ac.uk. Fee: £80.

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: 25 October 2010.**

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



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