

August 2009

Sustainability Now is the monthly 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.'

Holiday Reflections

Many of you are likely to be taking time off over the next few weeks. Holidays are not only a time to unwind and refresh but also an all too rare opportunity to reflect.

Several of us are taking our summer breaks with a sense of exasperation about the lack of any big scale progress towards sustainability. We recognise there is some good news around, of course, and we at Sustainability South West try hard to accentuate the positive in our role as an independent Champion Body.

But we are also charged with acting as 'a critical friend' to decision makers (that's actually all of us of course!). Our critical perspective has been that there is a strong mismatch between much of the encouraging public rhetoric about 'green recovery jobs', 'a low carbon economy' and 'the well-being agenda' and actions which appear to be based on clearly unsustainable criteria.

We suspect that you know just what we mean and we would like to hear your best examples to help us illustrate this in our next edition of *Sustainability Now*. Perhaps we just need a holiday to restore our spirits? After a period of reflection we will in September revisit some of these apparent mismatches and we would like to hear from you, our esteemed readers, whether you feel we really are on the path to a sustainable future or not...? Contact the team at info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

Happy holidays!



This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

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New health module live on the region's Sustainability Shaper



A health sustainability checklist is now live on the Sustainability Shaper; the region's Sustainable Development Framework. The checklist, supported by NHS South West and delivered in partnership with Sustainability South West, is a resource for anyone working for an NHS Trust to help them to maximise the wider sustainability benefits of their estate, project, plan or strategy. See:

www.shapersw.net/rsdf.php?ID=81&category=81&stylesheet=style

Are you holding a screening of 'The Age of Stupid' or a climate change event? Contact SSW for free resources!



If you are holding a climate change awareness event 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 4 minute film! Email freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk with your event details. You can also check out www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for more ideas and to add your name to the supporters list for the principle of 'fair and safe carbon shares for everyone'. The next regional screening of The Age of Stupid, featuring SSW's Fair Shares, Fair Choice Carbon Calculator exercise will be 19 August, Southmead Hospital, Bristol for NHS staff.

New 2009 dates available: An introduction to sustainability training course
CPD Certified (Continuing Professional Development)



Dates: Tuesday 22 September, Tuesday 20 October, Thursday 26 November

Time: 10:30am – 2:00pm

Venue: Central Bristol

Cost: £99 for private and public sector organisations and £70 for voluntary sector. Lunch is included.

Trainer: Sustainability South West, awareness raising and advisory charity supporting action on sustainability since 1998. SSW is a charitable partnership; all revenue derived from fee based activities supports its charitable aims.

This new half-day workshop will:

- Demystify sustainability and provide you with a good understanding of the topic.
- Include a hands-on opportunity to undertake a basic sustainability appraisal of a project, strategy or decision-making process relevant to you.
- Provide a relaxed and supportive environment in which to explore sustainability issues and network with peers and sustainability practitioners.



Learning Outcomes:

The training will give participants a basic understanding of sustainability and sustainability principles relevant to all sectors and experience of how to appraise a project plan, strategy or decision-making process against sustainability principles. Follow up on-line support will be available to support participants implement their learning. Quotes from previous participants: *“I came away with a great understanding of principles and measures to assess sustainability”* *“A eureka moment about a project I worked on”* *“I can take this tool and use it in all aspects of my project and development work”* *“Very interesting way of approaching sustainability”*

Participants will receive a Continuing Professional Development ‘certificate of attendance’.

For more information please email clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or call 0117 929 0989.

Jonathon Porritt – end of an era at The Sustainable Development Commission...

SSW President Jonathon’s nine year term as Chair of the Sustainable Development came to an end this week. He was suitably serenaded at his official send off with a unique blues tribute song! See this together with an interview with Jonathon at www.guardian.co.uk/environment. Jonathon also muses on his time at the SDC on his blog at www.jonathonporritt.com. He says “It has been an unbelievable privilege ... to leave things at least a little bit better on quitting the post than they were on arriving.” A truly sustainable approach indeed! We salute his achievements and look forward to him finding more time “to get involved in campaigning again...” Watch this space!

Take a Break with the Sustainable Development Framework Holiday Puzzle!

E	S	H	A	S	K	I	L	L	S
T	G	N	I	E	B	L	L	E	W
H	P	R	E	D	U	C	E	A	E
I	T	L	O	N	G	T	E	R	M
C	L	H	E	S	O	U	T	N	H
A	W	O	E	S	R	E	V	I	D
L	O	W	C	A	R	B	O	N	E
Y	T	I	L	A	U	Q	E	G	S
E	V	I	S	U	L	C	N	I	T

Can you find these ‘Sustainability Shaper’ Principles key words in the wordsearch grid (words can be found in all directions)? When all words have been found, the unused letters will spell out a hidden phrase!

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Diverse | LongTerm |
| Equality | LowCarbon |
| Ethical | Reduce |
| Inclusive | Skills |
| Learning | Wellbeing |
| Local | |

Six of the best holiday sustainability reads

SSW Director, Leslie Watson, offers this selection:

Feeling hot, hot hot... ‘Six Degrees – Our future on a hotter planet’ -Mark Lynas

Old sustainability classic... ‘Small is beautiful’ – E.F.Schumacher

Salutary tale of the sea... ‘The Unnatural history of the sea’ – Professor Callum Roberts

Inspirational journey... ‘No Destination’ Satish Kumar

Sustainability meets capitalism... ‘Capitalism as if the world matters’ – Jonathon Porritt

Chill out!... ‘In Praise of slow’ – Carl Honore

On your radar?

UK Renewable Energy Strategy – what does it mean for you?

The government’s Low Carbon Transition Plan was launched in July. Regen SW have summarised aspects of the plan via the following categories:

The **Renewable Energy Strategy** sets out the government’s plans for ensuring the UK meets its legally-binding target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. By sector, the government estimates this means 30% of electricity, 12% of heat and 10% of transport energy will need to come from renewable sources. This strategy brings with it the hope of big steps forward in sustainable energy in the region. For the Regen SW summary see: http://regensw.co.uk/downloads/RegenSW_315.pdf.

Green energy cashback (feed-in tariffs) - For Regen SW's guide to feed-in tariffs, including tariff structure, levels and eligible projects, see http://regensw.co.uk/downloads/RegenSW_314.pdf. Regen SW is running a high-level event on the feed-in tariffs in Bristol in September. If you're interested in attending, email jreddy@regensw.co.uk.

Marine renewable: South West to lead a global industry - The strategy contains good news for the marine energy sector in the South West, with the region named a 'Low Carbon Economic Area for Marine Energy' and £100 million investment announced in marine renewables. The region is at the forefront of this emerging global industry through projects such as The Wave Hub. For Regen SW's guide and commentary on the region's marine energy opportunity see: http://regensw.co.uk/downloads/RegenSW_311.pdf. The **Low Carbon Industrial Strategy** is available at: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file52002.pdf and full information on the Low Carbon Transition Plan can be accessed on the Department of Energy and Climate Change website, www.decc.gov.uk/.

South West Sustainable Procurement Network (SWSPN), events in September

SWSPN is a two year project funded by South West Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP). The project is headed by Bristol City Council, with the remit to provide information, training and support to South West public sector bodies. Public sector spend through procurement is substantial and can contribute significantly to sustainability performance. Briefings on SWSPN and how it can assist to tackle social, economic and environmental issues within public sector procurement. Remaining dates: Truro, 9 September Swindon, 16 September. Contact Andrew Parsons on 0117 922 2937 or email procurement.support@bristol.gov.uk.

UK Climate Projections training

The new UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) launched this summer. The Projections have been created by some of the UK's leading climate scientists in a project funded by Defra to consider what the future climate of the UK might be like. For details, go to <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk>. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) will run a 'Projections in Practice (PiP)' training programme. South West dates planned for 14 – 18 September. To register your interest visit: www.ukcip.org.uk/training.

Think Nature: How to Give Life to Sustainable Development

The protection of the natural environment is core to sustainable development. A better planet for wildlife will be a better planet for people too. This new RSPB publication proposes a practical framework, based upon 10 core principles, to equip decision-makers to think and act with nature in mind. Adopted as a package, these principles would support the integration of environmental protection into policies and decisions at all levels. Find the report at: www.rspb.org.uk/Images/thinknature_tcm9-218670.pdf.

South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP)'s study on local authority action updated

SWCCIP's study and map showing signatories to climate change declarations has been updated reflecting changes resulting from recent council reforms. 85% of South West authorities have now made a commitment to tackling climate change by signing a declaration. For upper-tier authorities, there is also now information on whether National Performance Indicators relevant to climate change (NI 185, 186 and 188) have been chosen as a designated or local target. Available to view at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/sr-localgov.htm.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Self-Evaluation Tool for local authorities

A new tool, developed by Environment Agency and the Nottingham Declaration Partnership, is available to help local authorities assess their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation and plan for improvements. See: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Performance-Measures/Self-Evaluation.

Launch of the 2009 DEBI Environmental Awards

The annual Devon Environmental Business Initiative (DEBI) Awards have launched for their 17th year. The free awards scheme invites businesses, community groups and schools serving Devon to enter any of the following categories: Environmental Goods and Services; Carbon Reduction; Sustainable Devon; Food and Farming and Environmental Champion. Deadline for entries is 6 October. Details www.debi-online.org.uk/2009awards.php

South West community carbon reduction projects to receive funding

Five grassroots projects in the South West, are set to receive up to £20,000 each under a new partnership between the Department of Energy and Climate Change and NESTA. They include: Transition Together, Totnes: Expansion of the successful scheme to promote low-carbon lifestyles within local communities; Sidmouth Carbon Challenge: a school based project -with students acting as low-carbon leaders in the community; Redcliffe Carbon Challenge, Bristol: a local school will become a low-carbon community hub; Marlborough Climate Pledge: Local householders to take action on climate change and River Power Millers, Mendip: installs micro-hydroelectric turbines in disused water mills, providing clean, local energy. More information at: www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/ffi/404902

Rise of the Greenager

Xtreme Insight Youth UK Special Report looking at the 'Rise of the Greenager' - Eco-aware Teens - and Youth and the Recession. The study found CSR and environmentalism high amongst the concerns of UK teens with 70% of participants stating they will refuse to work for companies that do not behave ethically; three quarters aiming to run a low-carbon household; 46% wanting to own eco-cars and 13% supported a ban on travelling by air for leisure purposes. Full report available at: www.futerra.co.uk/downloads/Green_article.pdf

Bristol recycling campaign

Bristol City Council has launched a campaign to show how easy it is to recycle, hoping to encourage even more households to use their food waste bins and recycling boxes. The 'Line it – Scrape it – Lock it' campaign will run over the summer. Recycling advisers will be out and about giving advice. Whilst Bristol is doing well compared to other UK cities, recycling over a third of all household waste - the highest recycling rate of any major city in the country, there is still a long way to go to meet its ambitious waste target of 50% by the end of 2010.

Renewable energy enthusiasts invited to share their expertise

YouGen is calling on people who have installed renewable energy in their home or made their house more energy efficient to register on their site, www.yougen.co.uk, to help others by sharing their tips and experiences and recommending good installers. As well as the user generated sections, the YouGen site contains independently researched information and has Energy Experts on-hand to answer questions to make it easy for people to see if a technology is suitable for their home. To encourage people to recommend their supplier, YouGen is giving away a wattson (energy meter from DIY Kyoto) every month!

The Green Register (TGR) new web page of Accredited Eco-Refurbishers

Householders looking to refurbish their homes in a sustainable way can now browse TGR's online directory of companies and professionals. Companies are divided into regions and listed alphabetically so it is easy to find the professional nearest to you. Visit www.greenregister.org.uk/accredited-eco-refurb.php. If you are a construction professional interested in becoming an accredited eco-refurbisher visit www.greenregister.org.uk for course info – the next Foundation Course will be held in Bristol on 18 September.

Regional Voices: getting the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) heard where it matters

Decisions about things that affect communities, like skills, employment health and transport, are all made at the regional level. The nine Regional Voluntary Sector Networks in England aim to get the VCS involved in the decision making to get the best results for communities. New web site www.regionalvoices.net has launched to promote the work of the networks and make it easy for anyone to get the latest voluntary sector news from each region.

Zero carbon transport with a smile – the Rickshaw service for Cornwall!

The St Mawes and King Harry Ferry Companies has added a zero carbon option to its fleet - a Rickshaw service for Falmouth, Truro and St Mawes. With no set charges, you just tip what you think it's worth, why not have a go? Book via www.pedicabcornwall.co.uk or call 01872 861917.



Up & coming...

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) summer of family fun, Somerset, Cornwall & East Dartmoor

NNRs represent many of the finest wildlife and geological sites in the country, providing unique environments where lots of England's most extraordinary wild plants and animals flourish. To celebrate these amazing places, and the 60th anniversary of the Act that created them, Natural England has put together a summer events programme. For events at South West NNRs Shapwick Heath, Somerset, Lizard peninsula, Cornwall and East Dartmoor, see: www.wired.gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/0/9D3FF70B93C2E853802575E0005918AA?OpenDocument.

Permaculture holiday, 8 - 23 August, Keveral Farm, East Cornwall

Why not spend your holiday in Cornwall this August learning about Permaculture? Full Permaculture Design course: come away invigorated, motivated and inspired to design your more sustainable life. For more info visit: www.klaudia.co.uk/#/permaculture-design-course/4533094017.

A Sense of Place 2009: sustainable placemaking, 2 - 5 September, Cornwall

With the collapse of many older industries and changes to the way we live that were unimaginable thirty years ago, change is a constant to social structures. Yet communities across the UK still struggle to come to terms with the loss of their primary industries and identities: fishing ports with no boats and mining towns with no mines. When our place of work is now a heritage site, how can we reinvent where and how we live? How can placemaking help build strong, resilient communities? What sort of skills does a community need to adapt to change and take on new opportunities? The conference looks at future thinking with speakers and practical workshops looking at what communities can do now to thrive in the future. See www.sensorytrust.org.uk/events/conferences/index.html.

Save Our Planet Day, 9 September A day to raise awareness and encourage action to combat climate change brought about by increased CO2 emissions (see www.saveourplanetday.co.uk for more info). Participate by hosting a Great Big Coffee Morning, with a 'Game For Life' host pack available free of charge from '999 Planet in Peril', www.999planetinperil.com, an initiative encouraging a series of easy to provide events to reach as many people as possible to help educate about the Copenhagen Talks on climate change. You can play 'Game For Life' individually or in groups up to 20. A number of eco-friendly prizes will be available so register your event to enter!

Organic Fortnight, 5 - 20 September and Organic Food Festival, 12 - 13 September Bristol Harbourside

Organic Fortnight is a nationwide campaign highlighting all things organic. See the Soil Association website www.soilassociation.org/. The centre-piece of Organic Fortnight is the annual **Organic Food Festival**, Europe's largest showcase of all things organic. The festival, now in its ninth year, returns to Bristol on 12-13 September. Info at: www.theorganicfoodfestival.co.uk/2009/.



Over to YOU

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

Deadline for submissions: close of Friday 28 August 2009

Other news from SSW available from:

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

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

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

www.shapersw.net

www.plantingplaces.org.uk

Please note Sustainability South West's new contact details (as of 1st July):

Sustainability South West, 3rd Floor, Bush House, 72 Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4QD t. 0117 929 0989

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk Registered Charity no.1106125 Company Ltd no. 3899945

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