

December 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.'

What's on the cards for Copenhagen?



As climate change negotiations start in Copenhagen this week (COP15), everything depends on leaders agreeing a deal on climate change that is both radical and fair. But what is a fair amount of carbon for UK citizens to be using? Our ongoing climate campaign Fair Shares, Fair Choice (FSFC) has calculated that your 'climate safe' and 'globally fair' personal carbon allowance for next year is 3.8 tonnes – a challenging but not impossible target (visit www.fairsharesfairchoice.com/carbon_calculator.asp to work out your current carbon footprint). To mark COP15, Sustainability South West has exclusively launched 2010 promotional Carbon Cards – which are free to all supporters.



The personal 'Fair Share' gives us a realistic idea of how out of sync some current lifestyle choices and patterns are – from frequent flying and increased reliance on imported goods to planning new car-based developments. It also highlights the changes we all need to make if we are serious about averting the extremes of climate change.

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.

Whatever the outcome of Copenhagen **you** can choose not to blow your carbon budget (as well as your financial one!) over the festive season. Making a New Year's resolution to tighten your carbon belt will help you make a smooth transition to the inevitable low carbon economy – whether the world chooses to be bold and embrace it now or balk at the challenge and face massive upheaval later down the line.

To claim your **free 2010 Carbon Card**, Sign Up as a supporter of the principle of 'fair and safe carbon shares for everyone' at www.fairsharesfairchoice.com and email Freiny Miles with your address: freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

For **free resources** to help you reduce your carbon footprint, visit www.fairsharesfairchoice.com or contact Freiny for resources to use at your own climate change event.

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ [Planting Places awards – applications deadline 25 January](#)
- ◆ [Building a better South West – new website for sustainable construction](#)
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Planting Places awards – applications deadline 25 January

The 3rd Planting Places awards – recognising greenspaces that are making fantastic contributions to the sustainability of their communities – is open for applications until 5pm 25 January 2010. The awards, coordinated by Sustainability South West (SSW), are open to applications from any public greenspace in the South West of England. This includes everything from parks, community gardens and allotments to green routes (ie cycle paths), play spaces and even cemeteries and rooftops. The greenspace can be any size. It can be privately funded, community, conservation group, NHS Trust or council land, but it **MUST** be free and accessible to the public, and for public use and enjoyment. Applications can be submitted by a local community group, local authority, NGO, NHS Trust, private organisation or individual. Completed applications should be returned to lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk. For more information visit the Planting Places website: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/planting_places/planting_places_awards/ or call SSW: 0117 929 0989.



Building a better South West – new website for sustainable construction

New website 'Building a better South West' www.buildsw.org.uk has recently been developed by Constructing Excellence SW (CESW) and Future Foundations to provide a fully comprehensive source for construction improvement in the SW. For use by those working in the sector and homeowners alike, the new website covers a wide range of topics, including a section on adapting to climate change http://buildsw.org.uk/climate_change. Future Foundations was set up in 2001 by Sustainability South West with the support of regional partners with the aim to normalise sustainable construction in the South West. The project has now become a joint initiative with CESW, an organisation which aims to drive change in construction and to improve industry performance in order to produce a better built environment.



South West rewarded

Local and national award schemes have recognised South West businesses over the past month:

SSW Trustee and Board Member Paul Gompertz presented the DEBI 2009 Environmental Awards. This year's winners are: Overall Winner - The Woolly Shepherd; Sustainable Devon award - Otter Brewery; Carbon Reduction award - Bandvulc Tyres; Environmental Goods & Services award - The Woolly Shepherd; Food and Farming award - Churston Traditional Farm Shop; Environmental Champion - John Hayward. For more information see: www.debi-online.org.uk/2009awards.php.

The 7th Annual Cornwall Sustainability Awards have awarded one of Cornwall's oldest businesses, St Austell Brewery, the 'Overall Winner' as well as 'Best Managed Large Business' beating off competition from other category winners including Primrose Valley, Nature Paint, St Columb Minor School, MPAD and Trelowarren Estate. A special award for Longstanding Commitment to Sustainability in Cornwall was also presented to Bedknobs B&B and Learn English in Cornwall in recognition for their consistent and long term work in promoting sustainability throughout the county. Full details at: <http://cornwallsustainabilityawards.org/>.

There's some good eating in Bristol: Sustainable restaurant Bordeaux Quay has been awarded Crackerjack Evening Post Restaurant of the Year as well as winning both the 'Food' and 'Dining Experience' categories and The Thali Café have been awarded 'Best Takeaway' at The Radio 4 Food and Farming Awards, a celebration of Britain's food heroes. The Thali Café was praised for their environmentally positive practices such as sourcing ingredients from nearby farms and their reusable stainless steel Tiffin take away containers.

With hundreds of accredited businesses, the South West of England now has higher coverage with the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) than anywhere else in England. For more Green Places to visit, stay, eat and do in the South West see <http://feelgood.visitsouthwest.co.uk/>.

Sussed!



Digging up the press...

Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton has been creating a stir and attracting local press, all keen to cover the hospital's new on-site allotments. The hospital has received coverage on the BBC Somerset website, an interview on BBC Radio Somerset and an upcoming piece in the Western Daily Press - all highlighting this fantastic story. Twelve plots have been dug out of disused land at the back of the hospital buildings with each plot looked after by teams made up of staff from different departments. Apart from fresh produce, the new project will improve biodiversity in the hospital grounds and will allow staff the chance to relax outside working hours. It is hoped the allotments will be ready for sowing early next year.



Outdoor peeing could activate a composting revolution

Men are being encouraged to follow the example of National Trust property Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire whose gardeners are peeing on their compost when nature calls. Male urine (which is less acidic than female urine) activates the composting process to help to produce a ready supply of organic matter to add back to the garden - also saving the four to nine litres of water used by an average flush of a toilet. Wimpole Hall will have saved up to 30 per cent of its daily water use by not having to flush the loo so many times. You don't have to live near Wimpole Hall to see behind the scenes on how simple, environmentally friendly composting works; National Trust experts share their hints and tips on best composting practice, including a short film at www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

So Last Century...



Brits workplace wasters

A new survey by Tickbox.net/Opinion Matters showed that Brits are happy to recycle and follow green practices at home but leave their environmental conscience at the door when they arrive for work. For instance, just over 40% said they recycled plastics at home but not at work. Other poor workplace practices include unnecessarily printing out emails (21%) and putting recyclables into the non-recycling bin (21%). The impact isn't simply on the environment - Defra figures indicate that UK businesses could save £6.4 billion annually by implementing resource efficiency measures that are of no or very low cost. Simple steps such as turning down thermostats, turning off lights and addressing dripping taps can help businesses to save money and be more environmentally friendly. Furthermore, in today's increasingly environmentally aware society, these steps can have a positive knock on effect on corporate reputation and the way customers value a business.

On your radar?

UN Climate Change Conference – Copenhagen, 7 – 18 December

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) runs between 7-18 December with representatives of over 180 countries attending to work towards agreeing a climate treaty that will act as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol from 2012 onwards. For more information visit <http://en.cop15.dk/>.



New resource for tourism businesses

A new online resource has been developed by South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership, in partnership with South West Tourism, Climate South East and Tourism South East, to help forward-looking businesses prepare for the effects of climate change. The toolkit, 'Preparing for change: climate-proof your tourism business', is structured around the impacts of floods, droughts and heatwaves – extreme weather events that are becoming more frequent as the climate changes. Each section tells how businesses might be affected, suggests practical actions to take, and guides to further information and support. The site also includes case studies, top tips and an interactive checklist, which enables users to create their own personalised action plan. Visit www.climateprepared.com.

Sustainable Cities Index 09



Forum for the Future's annual Sustainable Cities Index tracks progress on sustainability in Britain's 20 largest cities - highlighting their environmental performance, quality of life and their readiness for the challenges of the future. The index encourages healthy competition and is intended to stimulate discussion and give citizens the tools to hold their leaders to account. Bristol takes 1st place in the quality of life table and ranks 3rd on future-proofing. It also has the highest scores for recycling and household waste collections, and comes 2nd on employment and transport. But it is let down by some poorer performances on the environmental table. Plymouth falls from 3rd place last year to 12th this year, as it is the only city in the index to increase its ecological

footprint over the last 12 months. Full report available at www.forumforthefuture.org/projects/sustainable-cities09.

South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership newsletter

The autumn addition of the SWCCIP newsletter is out now, visit www.oursouthwest.com/climate/registry/newsletter-17-Dec09.pdf.

Supporting the health & well-being of children and young people through improved access to green space

A new report is available at www.bne.uwe.ac.uk/who/docs/WHO_oct2009_final.pdf highlighting the key themes and discussions from the recent Healthy Communities Research Forum event 'Green Space for Children'. For the event presentations visit: www.bne.uwe.ac.uk/who/seminars.asp.

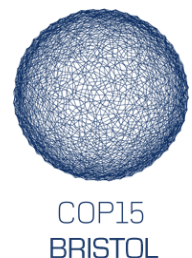
Green Awards winners

The 2009 Green Awards winners for Creativity in Sustainability have been announced - see www.greenawards.co.uk/2009_shortlist/2009_winners.

Up & coming...

The Converging World presents Bristol's very own COP15 – free workshops and events running 7-18 December, 3rd Floor, Bush House, Bristol

Between 7-18 December, to mark the COP15 negotiations in Copenhagen, The Converging World are running a series of free events exploring the successes and the challenges of taking action on climate change, in Bristol and beyond. The events offer a chance to discuss the issues and to start developing plans for bringing change in the region. Topics cover community and technological tools for action, impacts on the natural environment, future food, global citizenship, and carbon offsetting. Guest speakers include The Converging World, Bristol City Council, Forum for the Future, Sustainability South West, World Future Council, Schumacher Society, Eastside Roots, The Schumacher Institute, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Bristol Credit Union and The Omni Group, with more being confirmed every day. Free entry and everyone welcome. For enquiries email contact@climate350.org or phone 0117 9277089. Please check the website for updated information: www.climate350.org/cop15bristol.



Sustainability, Climate Change and Public Health Event, 11 December, Plymouth University

This event aims to provide the current information on the impact of climate change within the SW and how it will impact on public health. The day will explore the need for public/environmental health professionals to respond to both the potential and anticipated impacts of climate change and sustainability on public health. Places are limited - for information or to book please contact Dorothy.templeman@plymouth.nhs.uk or phone 01752 315770.

Building Health - Planning & Designing for Health and Happiness, 22 January 2010, UWE, Frenchay, Bristol

There is growing recognition of the impact that the built environment has on public health. Planning and design can play a pivotal role in tackling today's urgent challenges such as health inequalities, sedentary lifestyles and obesity. Housing growth and regeneration provide opportunities to 'build in' health from the start and to improve existing environments. Building Health brings together high-profile speakers from a range of disciplines. Delegates will hear case studies from the UK and Europe and learn about successful strategies, tools and techniques. The conference includes masterclasses on key topics and is a CPD opportunity (all delegates can register for free access to two distance learning topics on Healthy Urban Planning from the MA in Spatial Planning at UWE). An early bird discount available until 15 December. Visit www.architecturecentre.co.uk/events/buildinghealth.htm for more information and link to online booking.

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 Freiny Miles** at freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

Deadline for submissions: 5 January 2010.

Other news from SSW available from:

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

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

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework www.shapersw.net

Fair Shares, Fair Choice – the SW's growing low carbon movement www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

Sustainable Health SW – supporting the region's NHS trusts www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project www.plantingplaces.org.uk

Please note Sustainability South West's change of contact details (since 1st July 2009):

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

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!