

February 2009

SustainabilityNow is a monthly bulletin from Sustainability South West, the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development. SSW is a charity and its Mission is: 'To champion and assist action now to achieve a South West that is genuinely sustainable: healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits.'

The sustainable path to a resilient recovery

Recessions prompt a rethink about how we might improve our future approach. Since prevention is better than cure, investing in a *sustainable* approach to recovery now will reap a more resilient future.

Things have changed. At the start of the 21st Century, the global population is bursting at the seams; we are living way beyond the capacity of the earth's resources to support us and inequality is entrenched. A 20th century approach to recovery is obsolete.

A 21st century approach to recovery must recognise that our future survival depends on investing in 'the common social, economic and environmental good'. If we choose a recovery package that continues to invest in outmoded high carbon goods and services produced and delivered in ways that increase inequalities and depletes our vital natural resources - we are doomed. Pumping money into the production of high CO2 emitting vehicles is a massive lost cause.

So as the South West region begins work on a new single regional strategy – let it be properly fit for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We need a sustainable regional plan which invests in a future which will see us healthy, productive, socially just and living within environmental limits. We are faced with big challenges on climate change and insecurities and price hikes on energy and food. Roll on new training and employment projects which provide local communities and businesses with low carbon connectivity, local safe and secure energy supplies, sustainable land management and more local sourcing of goods and services.

Now is the time to show leadership and support each other to try out more genuinely sustainable ways to develop – if not now when?



This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ **SSW Annual Conference 2 March 2009: An integrated approach to planning the future – yes we can!**
- ◆ **C+ Carbon Positive Awards 2009: Open for applications 8 February 2009**
- ◆ **Health and Sustainability in the South West: NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy launched and New SSW Sustainable Health role beginning this month**
- ◆ **Severn Tidal Power: consultation now open**
- ◆ **Shaping the News: Round-up of 2008**
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SSW 2009 Annual Conference:

An integrated approach to planning the future – yes we can!

Embedding Sustainable Development into the new government processes and strategy for the South West region

Monday 2nd March 2009, 9.45am – 3.30pm, The Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare
FREE event thanks to support from Defra and SWRDA

***Guest speaker confirmed ***

Jonathon Porritt – Chair, Sustainable Development Commission

- **Visit 'open surgeries'** on embedding the region's 10 sustainability principles - facilitated by Sustainability South West Board Members.
- **Share your ideas on some of the BIG questions:**
How can the new Regional Strategy be genuinely sustainable?
Who will provide the independent challenge on delivering sustainability?
How can local authorities and the RDA be better supported to deliver Sustainable Development?
- **Enjoy delicious regionally sourced refreshments!**



The event is **FREE** but **please note**: Spaces are limited and we are aiming to maximise the range of stakeholders represented – multiple applications from the same organisation will be placed on a waiting list.

To register your interest please contact Bryony Morgan at info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or 0117 900 1751. Full programme and booking form available shortly at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

C+ Carbon Positive Awards 2009: Open for applications on 8 February 2009

On Monday 9 February, the South West C+ Carbon Positive Awards opens for applications for its second year! The region wide award scheme is sponsored by the South West Regional Development Agency and supported by Sustainability South West, Business in the Community, Wessex Water, Viridor Waste Management, South West Water and Bristol Green Capital. The C+ Carbon Positive Awards recognise the businesses, organisations and communities taking a proactive and innovative low carbon approach to the ways in which we live and work and builds on the South West's growing reputation for ambition and excellence in achieving sustainable solutions. There are seven award categories (the first three recognising both large and small organisations):



- **Carbon Positive Footprints:** for organisations successfully cutting their carbon emissions
- **Carbon Positive Consumer Choices:** for organisations offering consumers more low carbon choices
- **Carbon Positive Cutting Edge:** for organisations developing innovative carbon cutting solutions
- **Carbon Positive Micro:** for exemplary low carbon businesses with five employees or less
- **Carbon Positive Communities:** for communities that are successfully reducing their carbon footprint
- **Carbon Positive Bristol Green Capital:** for any organisation in, or providing services to, the greater Bristol area that is able to demonstrate how they are working with either suppliers, employees or peers to positively influence and impact on climate change
- **Carbon Positive Pioneer:** the overall award winner – the business, organisation or community that is having the greatest impact on carbon reduction in the South West (*open to winners of the above categories*)

Application forms are available online from 9 February at: www.bitc.org.uk/carbonpositiveawards
Deadline for applications: **31 March** with an awards ceremony and celebration taking place on 1 May.
For more information, visit www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/c+carbon_positive_awards/

Health and Sustainability in the South West

The **NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy for England** was launched on 27 January 2009. It sets an ambition for the NHS to help drive change towards a low carbon society. The strategy shows the scale of reduction in carbon required for the NHS to progress towards the Climate Change Act requirements and recommends key actions for the NHS to become a leading sustainable and low carbon organisation. Download the strategy at www.sdu.nhs.uk/page.php?page_id=94

In the South West, the link between health and sustainability is being strengthened with a new **Strategic Health Authority funded role within SSW**. Lynn Gibbons will commence as 'Sustainable Health SW Manager' on 16 February and will work closely with the region's NHS Trusts to promote and support effective sustainable policy and practice, through the provision and development of guidance; networking and training events. Lynn will also assist with integrating sustainable health priorities into wider policy and delivery across the region. Contact Lynn at SSW on 0117 900 1753.



Severn Tidal Power: consultation now open

A Severn Tidal Power 'Stakeholder event' was held in Bristol at the end of January. At the event it was confirmed that the official feasibility study will now continue into its second phase – a more detailed assessment of a 'shortlist' of five possible schemes. At the same time, funding was promised to allow other 'innovative' ideas put forward more recently to further develop their proposals for consideration. The event also marked the start of a three month consultation which will canvass views on:

- the schemes currently on the shortlist;
- the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that is being carried out;
- the issues being considered by the feasibility study, and how they are being approached.

You can respond to the consultation, or see further information about the Feasibility Study, the options on the shortlist, and other information gathered so far at:

<http://severntidalpowerconsultation.decc.gov.uk>

SSW will be making its own submission to the consultation, guided by the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, the 'Sustainability Shaper' (www.shapersw.net). SSW has already carried out its own high-level appraisal based on the Shaper, and taken part in a live debate on the subject on Radio 4's 'The World Tonight' program.

Shaping the News...Round-up of the year

Sustainable development promoted in 2008?

How did local and global news events 'shape up' to the region's online sustainable development framework – the Sustainability Shaper – in 2008?

www.shapersw.net



Shaping the News?

Sharing learning about how and why to be sustainable?

Pink bag trial to recycle electrical goods run in Bristol. Residents were able to put any unwanted electrical items out for collection along with their regular recycling. www.thisisbristol.co.uk/government/Pink-bag-recycle-electrical-goods/article-580256-detail/article.html

Reducing high carbon travel?

Scientists find bugs that eat waste and excrete petrol GM bugs have been developed that produce a substance that is almost pump-ready!
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4133668.ece

Scheme unveiled to abolish HGV deliveries in Bath Council plans would see city-bound deliveries transferred into small environmentally-friendly vans near the M4, before being brought into Bath.
www.thisisbath.co.uk/environment/Scheme-unveiled-abolish-HGV-deliveries-Bath/article-541596-detail/article.html

Cutting energy and resource use?

Nuclear powered passenger aircraft to transport millions. Non-stop flights from London to Australia or New Zealand will produce no carbon emissions.
www.enn.com/sci-tech/article/38568

Supporting low carbon economies which meet local workforce needs?

Airport expansion good for tourism and local economy Plans to develop Bristol Airport will create up to 4,000 jobs and boost tourism in the region.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/7842887.stm>

Sharing learning about how and why to be sustainable?

Man's destruction of Africa revealed. Deforestation, urbanisation & spread of agriculture have taken their toll.
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4107592.ece

Enhancing local distinctiveness & diversity and biodiversity?

Doomsday vault for world's seeds is opened under Arctic mountain, providing a failsafe against disaster should a seed collection be destroyed in its natural habitat.
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article3441435.ece

Plot to bring organic gardening to Bath. A wholly organic allotments site has been created on the edge of Bath by a project encouraging people to get fit through energetic conservation work.
www.thisisbath.co.uk/environment/Plot-bring-organic-gardening-Bath/article-561413-detail/article.html

Using local and ethical goods and services?

The rise of farm shops Farm shops have become the fastest growing retail sector, with Britons seeking out fresh veg, fruit and meat that have been sourced locally.

Taking a long term, joined up approach to issues like climate change?

"Pay as you throw" plans for refuse collection are being ignored by local authorities in the Westcountry amid fears "bin-wars" could break out.
www.thisiswesternmorningnews.co.uk/news/Rubbish-tax-ignored-amid-bin-wars-fears/article-587396-detail/article.html

Vast iceberg breaks off Wilkin's ice-shelf in Antarctic. Satellite images have revealed that climate change could be causing it to disintegrate much more quickly than predicted.

Improving equality in meeting basic needs?

Beach is refrigerated. A 'luxury' beach in Dubai is to have a network of pipes beneath the sand containing a coolant to absorb heat and cool the surface and giant blowers to waft a gentle breeze over the beach. Currently each person living in Dubai has a carbon footprint of more than 44 tons of CO2 a year.
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article5338099.ece

On your radar?

New climate change adaptation tools for businesses:

A new version of 'A Changing Climate for Business', including the Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool, has been produced by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) providing an overview of climate change impacts and adaptation for business and suggestions for actions.

www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=322&Itemid=9#george

'Adapt your business to the effects of climate change' is an online guide developed by Business Link, covering advice on integrating climate change plans into business strategy, insurance issues, practical steps and a specific focus on agriculture, tourism and construction sectors.

www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1079068363&topicId=1081658406&r.l2=1079363464&r.s=sm

The 2009 Green Gown Awards are now open! How will the South West fare?

The Awards are now in their fifth year, and recognize the exceptional initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. They are a national Awards scheme recognizing sustainability excellence in the education sector. Stage one applications are now being accepted, and the deadline to receive the applications is 12:00 noon on Friday 27 February 2009. For more information visit www.eauc.org.uk

Planting Places Awards Exhibition, 2 March – 5 April, Architecture Centre, Bristol

Watch this space for the winners of the second Planting Places greenspace awards (www.plantingplaces.org.uk) – to be announced later this month - celebrating top examples of greenspaces across the South West and recognizing the input and influence of these spaces in supporting sustainable communities. Winners will be on display in the Architecture Centre, Bristol from 2 March – 5 April as part of their annual Spring Green programme. For more information about Spring Green, visit www.architecturecentre.co.uk/



SW Consultations

Consultations currently 'open' for responses which could impact on sustainability in the region & wider

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System – Planning for 2014 and beyond

DfT, Open: Now, Close: 27/02/09

Consultation setting out the approach the government intends to take to planning the additional measures needed in 2014-19 and beyond. www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/planning/

Definition of Zero Carbon Homes and Non-Domestic Buildings

DCLG, Open: Now, Close: 18/03/09

Respond to the Government's definition of zero carbon new homes (based on high energy efficiency, on or near-site carbon reduction and allowable solutions for residual emissions), as well as their thinking on zero carbon new non-domestic buildings. There will be a consultation event in Bristol in February. Find out more at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/zerocarbondefinition

Consultation on a National Flood Emergency Framework

Defra, Open: Now, Close: 27/03/09

This consultation will help to develop a forward-looking policy framework for flood emergency planning and response. Input will help to focus on aspects of emergency planning that would add most value to the work of local, regional and national flood emergency planners and responders.

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/flood-emergency/index.htm

'All landscapes matter' & 'Future Landscapes' Strategies

Natural England, Open: Now, Close: 13/03/09 & 27/03/09

Two consultations: The first sets out a policy for working with and through England's landscapes as an 'integrating framework for managing change and raising the quality of all landscapes and the benefits they provide, whether they are rural, urban or coastal, ordinary or outstanding'. The second sets out policy on how landscapes should evolve and develop into the future.

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/policy/consultations/default.aspx

Up & coming...

The Animated Exeter festival, 13–21 February

Look out for the special climate change adaptation category, 'If you can't change the climate, then change...?' at this year's Animated Exeter festival. For a festival brochure, visit <http://pub2.exeter.gov.uk/animatedexeter/>

Environmental Constellations Ecopsychology Workshop, 20-21 February, Hillesley Gloucestershire

An experimental workshop exploring our place in nature and our systemic relationship to other living beings, to assist new ways of thinking and finding resolutions to problems we have created: climate change; pollution; accelerating species extinction. Fee: Individuals £120; Organisations £160. For bookings and information contact Zita Cox zita@zitacox.com

'Weathering Storms: Regional Resilience and Future Proofing', Empire Museum Bristol, 11 March

South West Observatory, the region's data and intelligence network, VI Annual Conference. Climate change, demographic change and globalised economic change: How resilient is the region now, and how resilient can it be in the future to the known and unknown? The conference will consider key issues from environmental, economic and social perspectives, demonstrating where there is interdependence and the need to break out of silo thinking and how, although no future is certain, policy and decision making can, and should, be well informed. Speakers include representatives from Forum for the Future, Wessex Water, SWRDA, GOSW and UWE. Price: £150; £75 for Charities/Third Sector. For more info contact Rachel.Hartnell@swo.org.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 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 Tuesday 24 February 2009

Other news from SSW available from: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

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

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

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

Future Footprints – the SW's sustainable tourism visitor campaign www.futurefootprints.org.uk

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

Feedback: As a network of influential individuals your feedback on *Sustainability Now* is very valuable. Send comments to info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk (let us know if colleagues would like to be added to the e-distribution list).

Back issues: at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability_now

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Disclaimer: Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of SSW's membership as a whole.

Sustainability South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EH t. 0117 900 1751 f. 0117 900 1909

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